

Washington State Fusion Center
INFOCUS

MONDAY – 11 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
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Events, Opportunities

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HEADLINE	09/11 Expect more hate leaflets on campuses
SOURCE	https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2017/09/11/adl-says-expect-more-white-supremacist-leaflets-campuses
GIST	<p>A swastika was carved into an elevator wall at <u>Georgetown University</u> Tuesday. The next day, two swastikas were painted in an elevator. About 800 miles away, the same day as the first swastika was found at Georgetown, fliers for a white supremacist organization <u>were found at Webster University</u>, just outside St. Louis.</p> <p>Such events could be commonplace this academic year.</p> <p>Although the incidents haven't been connected, the Anti-Defamation League says the white supremacist group Identity Evropa, whose fliers were found in 65 incidents on college campuses last year, is ramping up its "Project Siege" campaign, "targeting campuses just as students arrive for the fall term."</p> <p>The group's fliers have already appeared on a dozen college campuses in the first few weeks the 2017-18 academic year.</p> <p>Identity Evropa is "newly emboldened" after white supremacist violence in Charlottesville, Va., the ADL said in a news release issued today. In Charlottesville, white supremacists -- a few of whom <u>were college students</u> -- gathered for a rally dubbed "Unite the Right." They chanted racist and anti-Semitic slogans, including "You will not replace us," and "Jews will not replace us." The former is associated with Identity Evropa, whose members were present.</p> <p>"Identity Evropa is actively targeting campuses, and their actions are extremely disruptive and unsettling to students," ADL CEO Jonathan A. Greenblatt said in a statement. "The message is explicitly racist and anti-Semitic. They know they're going to get a reaction when they show up on campus. Fortunately their message is near universally rejected by students and faculty. ADL is monitoring these actions and will continue to provide support and resources to campuses and students."</p> <p>The ADL has tracked 188 instances of white supremacist propaganda on 126 college campuses in 39 states since September 2016.</p> <p>Identity Evropa often avoids explicit white supremacist language -- telling white students to "protect your heritage" and "serve your people" -- which the ADL says is part of its strategy to recruit young white college students.</p> <p>"IE's slogan 'You will not replace us' reflects its belief that unless immediate action is taken, the white race is doomed to extinction by an alleged 'rising tide of color' purportedly controlled and manipulated by Jews," the ADL's <u>newly updated report</u> on Identity Evropa says. It said it expects an increase in activity, based on fliers distributed so far in the current school year, new leadership, as well as "outlined plans for a yearlong effort targeting college campuses with racist fliers, posters and stickers."</p>
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HEADLINE	09/11 Nation commemorates 9/11
SOURCE	http://www.nbcnewyork.com/news/local/US-Commemorates-911-Thousands-Expected-Ground-Zero-on-Anniversary-September-11-Terror-Attacks-443657403.html
GIST	<p>While the U.S. contends with the destruction caused by two ferocious hurricanes in three weeks, Americans also are marking the anniversary of one of the nation's most scarring days.</p> <p>Thousands of 9/11 victims' relatives, survivors, rescuers and others are expected to gather Monday at the World Trade Center to remember the deadliest terror attack on American soil. Mayor de Blasio will also be in attendance.</p> <p>Sixteen years later, the quiet rhythms of commemoration have become customs: a recitation of all the names of the dead, moments of silence and tolling bells, and two powerful light beams that shine through the night.</p> <p>Yet each ceremony also takes on personal touches. Over the years, some name-readers have added messages ranging from the universal ("the things we think separate us really don't - we're all part of this one Earth") to the personal ("I love you and miss you. Go Packers!").</p> <p>"Thank you, New York, for continuing to honor the victims of 9/11 and the privilege of reading their names," Judy Bram Murphy added last year. She lost her husband, Brian Joseph Murphy.</p> <p>Nearly 3,000 people died when hijacked planes slammed into the trade center, the Pentagon and a field near Shanksville, Pennsylvania, on Sept. 11, 2001, hurling America into a new consciousness of the threat of global terrorism.</p> <p>Flags on New York state government buildings will be flown at half-staff in remembrance of the terror attacks. Gov. Cuomo says state also is honoring the first responders who were "beacons of light during our darkest day."</p> <p>At 8:46 a.m., the moment American Airlines Flight 11 struck the north tower, NYPD officers throughout all five boroughs who are not responding to calls will form in front of their respective commands to remember the members who were killed in the line of duty that day 16 years ago. It will also be the same time as the first ringing of the bells.</p> <p>There will be a moment of silence at 9:03 a.m., the time United Airlines Flight 175 hit the south tower. Another will follow 34 minutes later to mark the time American Airlines Flight 77 hit the Pentagon. Additional moments of silence will be held to mark the fall of the north and south towers.</p> <p>President Donald Trump, a native New Yorker observing the anniversary for the first time as the nation's leader, is scheduled to observe a moment of silence at about the time the first airplane hit. The White House said he is to be joined by first lady Melania Trump.</p> <p>He also planned to participate in a 9/11 observance at the Pentagon. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis and Gen. Joseph Dunford, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, are hosting a private observance for victims' relatives there at 9:11 a.m. Monday. After the names are read at that ceremony, there's a public observance, with a wreath-laying and remarks.</p> <p>Vice President Mike Pence and U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke are scheduled to deliver remarks at the Flight 93 National Memorial near Shanksville. It's on the rural field where one of the airliners crashed after passengers and crew fought to wrest control away from the terrorists who'd hijacked it and were heading for Washington. A moment of silence will be held at the time that plane crashed.</p> <p>Construction continues at the Shanksville memorial, where ground was broken Sunday for a 93-foot tall Tower of Voices to honor the 33 passengers and seven crew members who died.</p> <p>The ceremony amid the waterfall pools and lines of trees on the National Sept. 11 Memorial plaza strives</p>

	to be apolitical: Politicians can attend, but since 2011, they haven't been allowed to read names or deliver remarks.
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HEADLINE	09/09 Russia: FBI planted compromising material
SOURCE	http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2017/sep/9/russia-accuses-fbi-planting-compromising-materials/
GIST	<p>A top Russian official has accused the FBI of planting incriminating material while conducting a search of its recently shuttered San Francisco consulate.</p> <p><u>Maria Zakharova</u>, the spokeswoman for the Russian Foreign Ministry, made the suggestion during a weekly press briefing Friday in the aftermath of the U.S. State Department seizing the compound last weekend amid a tat-for-tat spat between Washington and <u>Moscow</u>.</p> <p>“What was their goal?” <u>Ms. Zakharova</u> asked, <u>The Moscow Times reported</u>. “Is it not an attempt by the American special services to arrange an anti-Russian provocation and perhaps either to plant compromising materials in the building or to somehow find them later?”</p> <p>“It looks as if the American intelligence agencies are trying to organize an anti-Russian provocation and may even plant compromising material in the building or discover them somehow in the future,” <u>Ms. Zakharova</u> continued, as <u>translated</u> by TASS, a state-owned news wire. “Because we don’t have the foggiest idea of what they are doing now.”</p> <p>The FBI did not immediately respond to the spokeswoman’s claim.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/10 Fire crews battle Eagle Creek Fire
SOURCE	http://komonews.com/news/local/gusts-dry-conditions-return-to-the-gorge-to-test-crews-fighting-eagle-creek-fire
GIST	<p>CASCADE LOCKS, Ore. (KATU) – Fire crews battling the nearly 33,400-acre Eagle Creek Fire are seeing a shift in the weather pattern which is helping to calm the fire’s behavior just over a week after it broke out in the Columbia River Gorge.</p> <p>Fire officials said the wildfire held roughly the same size since Friday. State troopers said they believe it was started last week by someone throwing fireworks from the Eagle Creek Trail.</p> <p>Forecasters are predicting dryer weather and an increase in wind through the Gorge through Tuesday afternoon.</p> <p>The change in weather will put the hard work of the firefighters to the test, Bureau of Land Management spokesperson Jim Whittington said.</p> <p>“That’s actually a good thing for us in some ways,” said Whittington. “It’s been moist enough for us that it’s prevented some of our burnouts from burning clean and even along the fire line.”</p> <p>A recent flyover showed little smoke coming from the part of the fire burning near the Bull Run Watershed, which provides most of the drinking water for the Portland area.</p> <p>The fire has forced hundreds of evacuations and closed Interstate 84 between Troutdale and Hood River. Rich Tyler of the Oregon State Fire Marshal’s Office drove that stretch of road before a press briefing Sunday morning.</p>

	“We’re seeing progress, which to me means <u>we will get back to normal</u> ,” said Tyler. “It’s going to take time. A lot of devastation occurred, but we’re heading in the right direction.”
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HEADLINE	09/09 Jolly Mountain Fire continues to grow
SOURCE	http://www.kiro7.com/news/local/jolly-mountain-fire-continues-to-grow-despite-cooler-weather-conditions/606093951
GIST	<p>The Jolly Mountain Fire is still burning but is now 8% contained.</p> <p>For four weeks since a lightning strike started the fire on Aug. 11, fire crews have been working to protect people, private residences, and roadways.</p> <p>On Saturday, Sept. 2, Gov. Jay Inslee declared a statewide State of Emergency for Washington due to wildfires.</p> <p>The fire has grown to over 26,300 acres, 11 miles northeast of Cle Elum. Winds coming in from the west at an expected 10 to 15 miles per hour could spread the flames to the east. Despite a chance of showers this weekend, the wetter weather is not expected to significantly impact fire activity.</p> <p>This weekend, crews are taking advantage of the cooler temperatures and higher humidity. Haze lifted just enough for helicopters to support firefighting efforts from above.</p> <p>Today, crews will focus on suppressing the fire along Cle Elum Ridge and communities east of Cle Elum Lake with over four miles completed.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/10 Portland PB ends gang designation policy
SOURCE	https://www.upi.com/Top_News/US/2017/09/10/Portland-police-will-no-longer-classify-people-as-gang-members/2551505096603/?utm_source=fp&utm_campaign=ts&utm_medium=1
GIST	<p>Sept. 10 (UPI) -- Police in Portland, Ore. announced Friday that they will no longer designate people as gang members, ending a 20-year practice that has been criticized for disproportionately affecting minorities.</p> <p>The Police Bureau said gang designations have led to "unintended consequences" and hindered people who have tried to turn their life around and get jobs, reported the <u>Oregonian</u>.</p> <p>"It's just another barrier for the reentry components they have to deal with," said Robert Richardson, a former pastor who works with young people associated with gangs, reported <u>KPTV</u>.</p> <p>Capt. Mike Krantz, a proponent of ending the gang designation policy, said the move is not intended to ignore gang activity.</p> <p>"Gang violence isn't going to go away. There are still crimes attributed to known gang sets. There are still criminal gang members. That doesn't go away because we don't have a gang designation," Krantz said. "We're not pretending gang violence doesn't exist. We're just taking this one thing away."</p> <p>The policy will go into effect on Oct. 15. about 300 people will have their names removed from the gang designation database.</p> <p>"It will make a big difference with them being able to put their feet on the ground and move forward with their lives," Richardson said.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/10 Red Flag warnings issued for Montana
SOURCE	https://www.upi.com/Top_News/US/2017/09/10/Red-Flag-Warnings-issued-for-Montana-as-wildfires-burn-across-the-West/5591505063661/?utm_source=fp&utm_campaign=ls&utm_medium=3
GIST	<p>Sept. 10 (UPI) -- Central and north-central Montana were under Red Flag Warnings Sunday until midnight, as dry and windy weather made for unpredictable fire conditions.</p> <p>The National Weather Service said elevation-dependent wind gusts reading 30-45 mph, combined with low humidity and dry thunderstorms, led to <u>Red Flag Warnings being issued</u> for multiple counties, including Cascade, Fergus, Judith Basin, Lewis and Clark, Meagher, Glacier, Liberty, Pondera, Teton and Toole.</p> <p>Firefighters from the Osage Nation in Oklahoma <u>traveled to Montana</u> on Sunday morning to assist with battling the wildfires that have ravaged the state for months. The firefighters were recruited by the Flat Head reservation in Montana, which often sends its own firefighters during the winter months to assist with wildfires in Oklahoma.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/11 Hurricane Irma slams central Florida
SOURCE	https://www.cbsnews.com/news/hurricane-irma-florida-path-track-live-updates-09-11-2017/
GIST	<p>A massive but weakened <u>Hurricane Irma</u> was grinding across central Florida early Monday morning, drenching the Tampa Bay region and lashing buildings with 85 mph winds after hammering the southern half of the state the previous day and causing widespread power outages.</p> <p>Communication was still cut late on Sunday to some of the Florida Keys, where Irma made landfall early in the day, and rough conditions persisted across the peninsula as many held their breath for what daylight might reveal.</p> <p>Irma roared through the Florida Keys on Sunday with punishing winds before pushing its way north, flooding streets, spawning tornadoes, knocking out power to more than 3 million people across the state and snapping massive construction cranes over the Miami skyline.</p> <p>The National Hurricane Center (NHC) said in its <u>2 a.m. advisory</u> that Irma was about 25 miles northeast of the Tampa-St. Petersburg region and would continue moving north over the western Florida peninsula through Monday morning and then into the southeastern United States late Monday and Tuesday.</p> <p>Streets had emptied across the bottom half of the Florida peninsula, and some 127,000 people were huddled in shelters.</p> <p>There were no confirmed deaths blamed on the storm in the U.S. as of early Monday morning, but four people have lost their lives across southern Florida in vehicle accidents which may well be blamed on the storm once police have a chance to investigate. The storm left at least 27 people dead as it tore <u>across the Caribbean</u>.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/11 Fla. eyes cleanup after Irma destruction
SOURCE	https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation-now/2017/09/11/hurricane-irma-continues-path-destruction-florida-eyes-cleanup/652434001/
GIST	TALLAHASSEE — Irma weakened to a Category 1 storm early Monday as the massive hurricane zeroed in on the Tampa Bay region after hammering much of Florida with roof-ripping winds, gushing

floodwaters and widespread power outages.

The hurricane had maximum sustained winds of 85 mph, the National Hurricane Center said. As of 2 a.m. ET, the storm was centered about 25 miles northeast of Tampa.

At least 5 deaths were attributed to Irma, according to ABC News.

The number of deaths and injuries on the Florida Keys in the wake of the storm were unknown early Monday, but two airports looked to be in good enough shape to accept planes stocked with relief supplies for the stricken islands.

Florida Division of Emergency Management Director Bryan Koon said Monroe County officials have not yet been able to travel the length of the island chain to access the storm's toll.

"I don't have any numbers on fatalities at this point," Koon said.

Monroe County crews spent Sunday clearing the airport on Boca Chica Key, and a team planned to check another airport in Marathon by the end of the night. By Monday, large military planes may be capable of ferrying relief supplies, Koon said.

"I am saying that tomorrow as we assess the situation, the appropriate resources will start being put on the island," Koon said. "There will be commodities to help support shelter operations."

A hurricane warning was changed to a tropical storm warning south of Jupiter Inlet around the Florida peninsula to Bonita Beach, as well as for the Florida Keys and Florida Bay. A hurricane warning was still in effect for Martin County, St. Lucie County and Indian River County

The center of Irma will continue to move over the western Florida peninsula through Monday morning and then into the southeastern United States late Monday and Tuesday. Additional weakening is forecast, and Irma is expected to become a tropical storm over far northern Florida or southern Georgia on Monday.

Storm surge will be a concern. Florida's east coast is expected to get 3 to 5 feet of surge brought onshore by Irma's winds. Areas in the lower Keys got 10 feet and Naples has seen several feet, but an exact number hasn't been reported yet, National Hurricane Center acting Director Ed Rappaport said.

Traffic patterns on U.S. 1 estimated about 10,000 people remained on the Florida Keys despite the mandatory evacuation. The storm made landfall Sunday at 9:10 a.m. at Cudjoe Key, between Marathon and Key West.

Koon said first reports from the Keys showed U.S. 1 may be passable. None of the network of bridges linking the islands appears to be damaged, but they will require safety tests by the Florida Department of Transportation. The agency will fly a drone aircraft along the 100-mile stretch of road Monday morning.

Meanwhile, county crews will continue to clear debris from the roadway, and work to shore up washouts. "It's certainly not passable at highway speeds," Koon said. "Definitely not right now."

Wind conditions are expected taper off by Monday evening, making it possible for utility crews to get out and begin repairing the damage Irma is expected to cause to power lines.

Nearly 7 million people were without power, Florida Power & Light officials said Sunday during an emergency operations meeting.

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HEADLINE 09/11 NKorea warns against new sanctions

SOURCE	http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/north-korea-warms-harsh-response-sanctions-imposed-49755776?cid=clicksource_76_4_article%20roll_articleroll_hed
GIST	<p><u>North Korea</u> says it will make the United States pay a heavy price if a proposal Washington is backing to impose the toughest sanctions ever on Pyongyang is approved by the U.N. <u>Security Council</u> this week.</p> <p>The North's Foreign Ministry issued a statement early Monday saying it is watching the United States' moves closely and threatened it is "ready and willing" to respond with measures of its own.</p> <p>The United States has called for a vote Monday, New York time, on new U.N. sanctions against North Korea.</p> <p>Last Tuesday, the U.S. circulated a draft resolution proposing the toughest-ever U.N. sanctions on North Korea, including a ban on all oil and natural gas exports to the country and a freeze on all foreign financial assets of the government and its leader, Kim Jong Un.</p> <p>Security Council diplomats, who weren't authorized to speak publicly because talks have been private, said the U.S. and China were still negotiating the text late Sunday.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/11 More aid, evacuations Caribbean islands
SOURCE	http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/aid-evacuations-caribbean-islands-battered-irma-49758662?cid=clicksource_76_4_article%20roll_articleroll_hed
GIST	<p>With ports mended and <u>weather</u> cleared, officials sent in more aid and arranged stepped-up evacuations Monday in remote Caribbean islands devastated and cut off by Hurricane Irma.</p> <p>Many in the chain of Leeward Islands known as the playground for the rich and famous have criticized governments for failing to respond quickly to the disaster caused by the Category 5 hurricane.</p> <p>The storm stripped the islands' formerly lush green hills to a brown stubble and flattened buildings, then swamped much of Cuba's coastline, including Havana's iconic Malecon seawall.</p> <p>At least 24 people died in Anguilla, Barbuda, the French-Dutch island of St. Martin, St. Barts, the U.S. Virgin Islands and the British Virgin Islands. Among them was a 2-year-old boy swept away when his home filled with water.</p> <p>Residents have reported shortages of food, water and medicine, and many have complained of looting.</p> <p>The U.S. government said it was sending a flight Monday to evacuate its citizens from one of the hardest hit islands, St. Martin. Evacuees were warned to expect long lines and no running water at the airport.</p> <p>A Royal Caribbean Cruise Line ship was expected to dock near St. Martin to help in the aftermath, and a boat was bringing a 5-ton crane capable of unloading large shipping containers filled with aid. A French military ship was scheduled to arrive Tuesday with materials to build temporary housing.</p> <p>Some 70 percent of the beds at the main hospital in the French portion of St. Martin were severely damaged, and more than 100 people in need of urgent medical care have been evacuated. Eight of the territory's 11 pharmacies were destroyed, and Guadeloupe was sending medication.</p> <p>On Tuesday, French President <u>Emmanuel Macron</u> was scheduled to arrive in St. Martin to bring aid and fend off criticism that he didn't do enough to respond to the storm's wrath.</p> <p>Interior Minister Gerard Collomb said the "whole government is mobilized" to help and the pillaging that hit the island in the immediate aftermath of the storm had stopped.</p>

	<p>Also hit hard was Cuba, where central Havana neighborhoods along the coast between the Almendares River and the harbor suffered the brunt of the flooding. Seawater penetrated as much as a half-kilometer (one-third of a mile) inland in places.</p> <p>There were no reported fatalities in Cuba, and government officials credited their disaster preparedness and evacuation of more than 1 million people from flood-prone areas.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/11 Mexico diplomat meets w/Calif. officials
SOURCE	http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/mexicos-top-diplomat-visit-immigrant-friendly-california-49745821
GIST	<p>Mexico's top diplomat will make a two-day visit to immigrant-friendly California amid strained relations between his country and the U.S. over President Donald Trump's border wall and immigration and trade proposals.</p> <p>Mexico's Foreign Relations Secretary Luis Videgaray is expected to meet Monday with Gov. Jerry Brown and state legislative leaders in California's capital. He will later head to Los Angeles to announce support for young immigrants whose protection from deportation is being terminated by Trump and meet with business and community leaders. He also plans a trip to Washington later in the week, officials at the Los Angeles consulate said.</p> <p>The trip comes at a critical time in relations between the two countries. In the last few weeks, Trump has stepped up efforts to build a wall on the U.S.-<u>Mexico</u> border and moved to end the program that let roughly 800,000 immigrants — three-quarters of them Mexican — work in the country even though they lack immigration status.</p> <p>It also comes as negotiations to revise the North American Free Trade Agreement with Mexico and Canada, demanded by Trump, got off to a rocky start.</p> <p>The trip aims to awaken Mexico's so-called natural allies and send a message to Washington that the countries ought to work together, said Rafael Fernandez de Castro, director of the Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies at the University of California, San Diego.</p> <p>"It is complicated to have a strong relationship with the <u>White House</u> because of who is there, so now Mexico is playing the Washington game and the Washington game is very decentralized," he said. "He is coming, I would say, to friendly ground in which his message is going to be well-received."</p>
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HEADLINE	09/11 Bangladesh offers land for Rohingya camp
SOURCE	http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/bangladesh-offers-land-shelter-rohingya-fleeing-myanmar-49759990?cid=clicksource_76_4_article%20roll_articleroll_hed
GIST	<p><u>Bangladesh</u> has agreed to free land for a new camp to shelter some of the hundreds of thousands of Rohingya Muslims who have fled recent violence in <u>Myanmar</u>, an official said Monday.</p> <p>The new camp will help relieve some pressure on existing settlements in the Bangladeshi border district of Cox's Bazar, where nearly 300,000 Rohingya have arrived since Aug. 25.</p> <p>"The two refugees camps we are in are beyond overcrowded," said U.N. refugee agency spokeswoman Vivian Tan.</p> <p>Other new arrivals were being sheltered in schools, or were huddling in makeshift settlements with no toilets along roadsides and in open fields. Basic resources were scarce, including food, clean water and</p>

	<p>medical aid.</p> <p>Still, more refugees were arriving. An Associated Press reporter witnessed hundreds streaming through the border at Shah Puri Dwip on Monday.</p> <p>"Tomorrow we are expecting an airlift of relief supplies for 20,000 people," Tan said.</p> <p>Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina had offered 2 acres (.8 hectares) near the existing camp of Kutupalong "to build temporary shelters for the Rohingya newcomers," according to a Facebook post Monday by Mohammed Shahriar Alam, a junior minister for foreign affairs.</p> <p>He also said the government would begin fingerprinting and registering the new arrivals on Monday. Hasina is scheduled to visit Rohingya refugees on Tuesday.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/10 Hurricane Irma: by the numbers
SOURCE	http://abcnews.go.com/US/hurricane-irma-numbers/story?id=49677062
GIST	<p>Hurricane Irma hit Florida after leaving a path of devastation in the Caribbean.</p> <p>Here is a breakdown of the monster storm by the numbers:</p> <p>At least 30 deaths At least three people have been killed in Florida. A man in Monroe County, which encompasses Key West, was killed after he lost control of a truck he has driving that carried a generator as winds whipped at tropical storm strength, local officials said.</p> <p>Two people, a sheriff's deputy and a corrections officer, died from a two-car crash in the rain in Hardee County, Florida, which is about 60 miles inland from Sarasota, the Florida Highway Patrol said.</p> <p>Meanwhile, the death toll from Irma in the Caribbean is at least 27, including nine in St. Martin and St. Barthelemy, five in the British Virgin Islands and four in the U.S. Virgin Islands.</p> <p>The storm surge could reach 10 to 15 feet in the Naples area on Florida's west coast. An extreme wind warning was in effect Sunday afternoon for the western half of Collier County along Florida's west coast, where 115 mph winds are expected.</p> <p>Millions evacuated About 6.5 million Floridians were under mandatory or voluntary evacuations, the Florida Division of Emergency Management said Sunday. With evacuation orders in South Carolina and Georgia included, the number climbed to nearly 7 million.</p> <p>"If you're in an evacuation zone, you've got to get out. You can't wait," Florida Gov. Rick Scott said in an interview Friday with ABC News' "Good Morning America" co-anchor Robin Roberts.</p> <p>There are more than 530 shelters open across Florida in which over 116,000 people are staying. Over 75 special needs shelters are housing more than 12,700 people, said Scott's office.</p> <p>FEMA administrator Brock Long said at a news conference Friday morning that Irma is "a threat that is going to devastate the United States" and he urged people to listen to local officials and heed their warnings.</p> <p>The governor's office reported that 31 airports are closed across the state, and an additional five have terminated commercial air service. A total of 12,587 flights have been cancelled to or from airports in the Caribbean and Florida from September 1 to September 12.</p>

The ports of 12 cities, including Miami, Palm Beach, Jacksonville and Tampa, are also closed.

Law enforcement and military assistance

The Florida Army and Air National Guard, encompassing 7,000 members was activated by Gov. Scott to assist in response to the storm. The National Guards of at least 14 other states have been deployed or are positioning to respond.

Florida Highway Patrol's 1,700 troopers are working 12-hour shifts to help with emergency response efforts.

As of 9 p.m. ET, nearly 3.5 million customers in Florida were without power. Miami-Dade and Monroe counties were among the hardest hit, with more than 80 percent of customers in each of those counties now in the dark.

Over 63 percent of gas stations in Miami-Fort Lauderdale were without fuel midday Sunday, according to GasBuddy.

Devastation in Barbuda

As Irma tore through the Caribbean islands, it left a terrifying trail of devastation behind.

In Barbuda, over 90 percent of buildings and vehicles were destroyed.

Antigua and Barbuda Prime Minister Gaston Browne told national broadcaster ABS that the island is "barely inhabitable" after Irma.

Browne told ABC News in a phone interview, "When you have an unprecedented storm like this that comes with such significant wind force this is like having a bomb literally thrown on a city. ... It is really the sheer magnitude of the winds that destroyed these properties."

Hurricane Irma made landfall in the Florida Keys on Sunday morning, then moved up the state's west coast where a second landfall around Naples and Fort Myers was expected later in the day.

The monster storm hit Florida after cutting a swath of destruction through the Caribbean. It hit Cuba overnight Friday as a Category 5 hurricane.

It weakened to a Category 3 on Saturday, with 125 mph winds, then strengthened again to a Category 4 before slamming into the Florida Keys.

By Sunday afternoon, Irma weakened to a Category 2 storm. Irma's eye passed over Naples and is now headed toward Fort Myers. Later, the eye is expected to go over Tampa.

By Monday morning, Irma is projected to be near Cedar Key and Tallahassee in the northern part of the state.

Irma is expected to bring destructive storm surges of up to 15 feet high to southwest Florida.

Florida Gov. Rick Scott on Sunday warned residents of storm surges and flooding from rivers.

"Do not think the storm is over when the wind slows down," he said.

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HEADLINE	09/11 Irma weakens to Cat-1; batters Orlando
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SOURCE	http://abcnews.go.com/US/irma-weakens-category-batters-orlando-moves-
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GIST	<p>Hurricane Irma, now a Category 1 storm with top sustained winds of 85 mph, was battering Orlando early Monday morning after lashing southern Florida and moving across the center of the state.</p> <p>The storm's center was located near Lakeland, Florida, as of early Monday morning, moving north of Tampa and Orlando at a fast pace of 14 miles per hour.</p> <p>More than 4 million people were without power in Florida and many towns and cities imposed curfews. Miami-Dade police said early Monday they arrested 28 people for burglary/looting. Fort Lauderdale police also said they arrested several looters.</p> <p>Irma struck south Florida with powerful wind, rain and flooding, swamping parts of Naples and Miami on opposite coasts before moving north over the center of the state. A storm surge of 10 feet was recorded in the Florida Keys and Naples reported a 7-foot storm surge in at least one location, according to the National <u>Weather</u> Service.</p> <p>Irma weakened to a Category 1 hurricane at around 2 a.m Monday as it's center and core moved over land, forecasters said, and it could be downgraded to a tropical storm by late Monday morning.</p> <p>The <u>National Hurricane Center</u> (NHC) said it expected the storm's center to remain inland over Florida and then move into Georgia, Alabama and Tennessee where heavy rain and possible flash floods will be a major concern.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/10 Florida Power: restoration to 'take weeks'
SOURCE	http://abcnews.go.com/US/florida-power-company-restoration-weeks-irma/story?id=49752024&cid=clicksource 4380645 1 takeover 2 column live headlines
GIST	<p>As Hurricane Irma continues to move north through Florida after making landfall on the state's west coast Sunday afternoon, an executive from Florida Power & Light estimated that it could "take weeks" to restore power to some parts of the state.</p> <p>Over 2.7 million homes were without power Sunday as the storm's 100-plus mph winds toppled power lines and sheared structures in the state.</p> <p>"What we think we'll see on the west coast is a wholesale rebuild of our electric grid," Robert Gould, Florida Power & Light's vice president and chief communications officer, told ABC News. "That will take weeks."</p> <p>"This thing is a monster," he added.</p> <p>Gould estimated that FPL positioned "17,000 restoration workers from about 30 states" in anticipation of repair efforts before the storm arrived, but said that flooding from storm surges and traffic congestion as residents return home this week would delay the project.</p> <p>"This is going to be a very, very lengthy restoration, arguably the most lengthy restoration and most complex in U.S. history," he said, asking that customers be patient.</p> <p>On the east coast of the state, which avoided a direct hit from the eye of the storm, Gould expects repairs to last "probably a week or more."</p>
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HEADLINE	09/10 Myanmar rebuffs Rohingya ceasefire
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SOURCE	http://www.reuters.com/article/us-myanmar-rohingya/after-insurgents-truce-myanmar-says-we-dont-negotiate-with-terrorists-idUSKCN1BL0AG?il=0
GIST	<p>YANGON/SHAH PORIR DWIP ISLAND, Bangladesh (Reuters) - Myanmar on Sunday rebuffed a ceasefire declared by Muslim Rohingya insurgents to enable the delivery of aid to thousands of displaced people in the violence-racked state of Rakhine, declaring simply that it did not negotiate with terrorists.</p> <p>Attacks by militants on police posts and an army base on Aug. 25 prompted a military counter-offensive that triggered an exodus of Rohingya to Bangladesh, adding to the hundreds of thousands already there from previous spasms of conflict.</p> <p>According to the latest estimate by U.N. workers in the Cox's Bazar region of southern Bangladesh, about 294,000 - many of them sick or wounded - have arrived in just 15 days, putting huge strain on humanitarian agencies' operations.</p> <p>Thousands of Rohingya remaining in the north-western state of Rakhine have been left without shelter or food, and many are still trying to cross mountains, dense bush and rice fields to reach Bangladesh.</p> <p>The Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) insurgent group declared a month-long unilateral ceasefire, starting on Sunday, so that aid could reach these people.</p> <p>The impact of ARSA's move is unclear, but it does not appear to have been able to put up significant resistance against the military force unleashed in Rakhine state, where thousands of homes have been burned down and dozens of villages destroyed.</p> <p>ARSA's declaration drew no formal response from the military or the government of Buddhist-majority Myanmar. However, the spokesman for Myanmar's leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, said on Twitter: "We have no policy to negotiate with terrorists."</p> <p>Myanmar says its security forces are carrying out clearance operations to defend against ARSA, which the government has declared a terrorist organisation.</p> <p>Human rights monitors and fleeing Rohingya say the army and Rakhine Buddhist vigilantes have mounted a campaign of arson aimed at driving out the Rohingya, whose population is estimated at around 1.1 million.</p> <p>About a dozen Muslim villages were burned down on Friday and Saturday in the ethnically mixed Rathedaung region of Rakhine, two sources monitoring the situation said.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/10 Heavy rains, floods lash Italy
SOURCE	http://www.foxnews.com/world/2017/09/10/heavy-rain-floods-lash-italy-at-least-5-dead-in-tuscany.html
GIST	<p>ROME – Torrential rain in Italy triggered flooding that killed at least five people Sunday in the Tuscan port town of Leghorn, including four family members trapped by rising water in their basement.</p> <p>The Italian news agency ANSA said the bodies of a 4-year-old boy, his parents and grandfather were found in the flooded basement of their two-family home.</p> <p>Some Italian media reports put the death toll at six in Leghorn, also known in Italy as Livorno. But the Tuscany Region civil protection chief, Cristiano Lucchi, said the sixth death was caused by a car accident unrelated to the flooding.</p> <p>Lucchi said two persons were missing.</p>

	<p>Leghorn Mayor Filippo Nogarin said a "a crazy amount of rain" pummeled Leghorn in the space of a few hours and "the city is literally devastated."</p> <p>Train service was interrupted in parts of the Tuscan coastal area along the Tyrrhenian Sea.</p> <p>In Rome, which until recently had suffered through 3½ months of drought, the downpour quickly made streets resemble fast-moving streams and several subway stations were closed.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/10 St. Maarten: 1,200 Americans evacuated
SOURCE	https://www.nbcnews.com/storyline/hurricane-irma/1-200-americans-evacuated-st-maarten-amid-reports-looting-n800096
GIST	<p>The State Department said Sunday 1,200 American citizens have been evacuated from the hurricane-damaged island vacation hot spot of St. Maarten amid reports of looting and violence — but the Dutch government said reports of a prison break were “unfounded.”</p> <p>Relief flights have been suspended because of poor weather from Hurricane Jose, the storm that followed Hurricane Irma, the department said.</p> <p>“We intend to resume efforts to get American citizens out of St. Maarten as soon as it safe to do so,” State Department spokesperson Heather Nauert said in a statement.</p> <p>St. Maarten is the Dutch-controlled side of the island of St. Martin. The other part of the island is a French overseas territory, where looting, gunshots and a lack of clean drinking water were reported.</p> <p>In a statement Sunday, the Dutch foreign ministry said the island had suffered “little inconvenience from wind and rain that can’t be tackled with repair and clean-up operations.”</p> <p>“Patrols appear to be effective in preventing or stopping looting and robbery,” it added. “The prison on St. Maarten is now fully guarded by Dutch soldiers. Earlier rumors about escapes of prisoners are unfounded and not true.”</p>
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HEADLINE	09/10 Florida zoos ‘crisis management plan’
SOURCE	https://www.cbsnews.com/news/hurricane-irma-how-florida-zoos-are-protecting-animals/
GIST	<p>People have taken special care to make sure Florida's animals are evacuated ahead of <u>Hurricane Irma's landfall</u>. The Humane Society evacuated more than 150 animals on a special flight to California.</p> <p>At the 116-acre Central Florida Zoo, keepers with the exotic birds struggled to catch a stubborn caracara. It was all for the bird's own good, reports CBS News correspondent Adriana Diaz.</p> <p>Zoo director Dino Ferri is responsible for keeping about 450 animals safe. He said monkeys are the one of the hardest to coax.</p> <p>"They're a little more skittish," Ferri said.</p> <p>Some animals, like the rhinos and giraffes, will be kept in their normal sleeping quarters. Ferri hopes they'll stay put.</p> <p>"What animal are you most concerned about potentially escaping during the hurricane?" Diaz asked.</p> <p>"It would be probably any of our carnivores. You know, the big cats," Ferri said.</p>

	<p>Down south at Zoo Miami, Diesel the cheetah is safe inside a "hurricane-proof" space. The zoo houses more than 3,000 animals including a flock of pink flamingos who were moved to a concrete bunker ahead of the storm.</p> <p>It's a step up from the '90s when employees were forced to herd the flamingos into bathrooms during Hurricanes Andrew, Georges and Floyd.</p> <p>"It's not my first time. I was in New Orleans during Katrina," Ferri said.</p> <p>"What did you learn from Hurricane Katrina?" Diaz asked.</p> <p>"I never want to be in a hurricane again," Ferri said.</p> <p>The Central Florida Zoo has had hurricane damage in the past, but they've never lost an animal. Zookeepers are closely monitoring their animals and tell me they plan to stay in their quarters until the storm passes.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/10 Mexico earthquake death toll rises
SOURCE	http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/aftershocks-slow-relief-work-quake-damaged-mexican-town-49738606?cid=clicksource_76_4_article%20roll_articleroll_hed
GIST	<p>Government cargo planes flew in supplies and troops began distributing boxes of food to jittery survivors of an <u>earthquake</u> that destroyed a large part of Juchitan and killed at least 37 people here, even as officials on Sunday raised the nationwide death toll to 90.</p> <p>Some people continued to sleep outside, fearful of more collapses, as strong aftershocks continued to rattle the town, including a magnitude 5.2 jolt early Sunday. Some prompted rescue workers to pause in their labor.</p> <p>Local officials said they had counted nearly 800 aftershocks of all sizes since late Thursday's big quake, and the U.S. Geological Survey counted nearly 60 with a magnitude of 4.5 or greater.</p> <p>Teams of soldiers and federal police armed with shovels and sledgehammers fanned out across neighborhoods to help demolish damaged buildings in Juchitan, where dump trucks choked some narrow streets as they began hauling away tons of rubble.</p> <p>President Enrique Pena Nieto said a third of the city's homes were uninhabitable — a problem that extended throughout the region. Both Chiapas and Oaxaca states reported thousands of homes, and hundreds of schools, badly damaged by the magnitude 8.1 quake.</p> <p>Oaxaca Gov. Alejandro Murat said Sunday that the death toll in his state had risen to 71, while officials have reported 19 killed in neighboring states.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/09 Caribbean fears grim tourist season
SOURCE	https://ca.news.yahoo.com/caribbean-islands-fear-grim-tourist-season-irmas-wake-005358707--finance.html
GIST	<p>MEXICO CITY (Reuters) - Hurricane Irma's deadly tear through the Caribbean will hobble the region's multi-billion dollar tourism industry for months, just as hotels, airlines, and cruises were gearing up for the region's peak winter season.</p>

As one of the most powerful Atlantic storms in a century, Irma has killed 21 people, leaving hotels, airports and other buildings damaged or flattened across prime vacation islands such as St. Martin and Barbuda. On Friday, it hurtled north of Cuba toward Florida.

Jack Richards, president of U.S.-based tour operator Pleasant Holidays, said it may be well into next year before the local tourism industry begins to normalize, costing it billions in lost business. The region's busiest travel season runs from mid-December to Easter, when Americans, Canadians and Europeans leave behind snow and cold for the warm, turquoise Caribbean waters.

"Can this be repaired in time? The infrastructure to rebuild these countries simply isn't there," he said. "This is just massive."

Just a few days after Irma razed the first islands, Richards said his bookings have already dropped for the Caribbean, his company's second-most popular destination worldwide for U.S. tourists.

More than 26 million international tourists were expected this year in the Caribbean, the World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC) projected before Irma hit.

In 2016, foreign visitors spent \$31 billion in the Caribbean and were expected to spend an additional 5.3 percent in 2017. The WTTC estimates that in 2016, travel and tourism contributed \$56 billion in gross domestic product.

"Any disruption in the tourism industry is a disruption of our livelihood," Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO) spokesman Hugh Riley said.

Officials across the islands have struggled to gauge the scope of destruction, after Irma knocked out electricity and cell phone service, and forced airports to close.

As of Friday afternoon, the U.S. Virgin Islands Department of Tourism was urging visitors to stay away from St. Thomas, where four people died in the storm and where the airport remains closed to commercial traffic. The St. Croix airport was slated to reopen on Friday.

The 150-room Windward Passage, an upscale hotel overlooking the St. Thomas harbor in the U.S. Virgin Islands, plans to close for six months, it reported to the Department of Tourism.

On the tiny island of Barbuda alone, home to about 1,800 people and reef-lined beaches, preliminary damage estimates top \$100 million, Riley said. Some 95 percent of the island's buildings were destroyed.

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HEADLINE	09/10 Ex-presidents ask for disaster aid
SOURCE	https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2017/09/10/former-presidents-asking-fellow-americans-help-florida-hurricane-irma-lands/651163001/
GIST	<p>WASHINGTON — All five living former presidents are expanding their hurricane relief efforts to help Floridians impacted by Irma.</p> <p>"America is at her best when, against all odds, we come together and life each other up," former President Bill Clinton says in a public service announcement which will air during the National Football League's telecasts Sunday and Monday.</p> <p>The "One America Appeal" launched last week to help Hurricane Harvey victims in Texas.</p> <p><u>As Irma made landfall in Florida Sunday</u>, the organization announced funds are now also being raised for that state's response and recovery efforts.</p>

	<p>All contributions to the Florida Disaster Fund will go towards the response because the fund has no overhead costs, according to the group.</p> <p>A special account has been established through the George H. W. Bush Presidential Library Foundation to collect and quickly distribute donations.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/10 Miami: high rise cranes collapse
SOURCE	https://www.cbsnews.com/news/hurricane-irma-crane-atop-miami-high-rise-collapses/
GIST	<p>MIAMI -- At least two cranes collapsed Sunday in downtown Miami amid strong winds from <u>Hurricane Irma</u> - the first known crashes of the two dozen such heavyweight hazards looming over the city skyline as the monster storm powers across the state.</p> <p>The first crane collapsed and fell into the top of a building under construction, said Miami City Manager Daniel Alfonso. The bayfront area is filled with hotels and high-rise condo and office buildings, near AmericanAirlines Arena.</p> <p>It wasn't immediately clear whether the collapse caused any injuries.</p> <p>Emergency personnel were unable to respond because of high winds, Miami-Dade County Director of Communications Mike Hernandez said.</p> <p>The city has contacted the contractor and has contacted the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, which will lead the investigation, Alfonso said.</p> <p>Later, Alfonso said a second tower crane has collapsed into a building under construction in the city's downtown area. Alfonso told The Associated Press that the crane collapsed in a large development with multiple towers being built by Grand Paraiso.</p> <p>Some two dozen other cranes in the city were still upright, Alfonso said.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/10 Florida Keys: everything under water
SOURCE	https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2017/09/10/hurricane-irma-batters-key-west-florida-keys/651064001/
GIST	<p>PLANTATION, Fla. — <u>Hurricane Irma</u> slammed into the Florida Keys on Sunday morning as a Category 4 storm, uprooting and snapping off trees, filling waterfront streets with surging seawater and knocking out power.</p> <p>Officials worry that Irma, with sustained winds of 130 mph, will devastate the Keys, a series of low-lying sandbar islands trailing off the southern tip of Florida. The National Weather Service reported the storm's eye crossed the chain 20 miles from Key West, over the Big Pine, Summerland and Cudjoe Keys.</p> <p>"Everything is underwater, I mean everything," said Larry Kahn, an editor for the local newspaper <u>The Keynoter</u>. Kahn has been riding out the storm in a shelter that has no power or supplies.</p> <p>As early as 8 a.m., sheets of rain were visible down Key West's legendary Duval Street, with what appeared to be at least several inches of water flowing in the street, videos posted to Twitter showed.</p> <p>Key West is a popular tourist destination, drawing revelers to the Duval Street bars where pianos duel and frozen drinks flow. Americans make up the bulk of Key West's estimated 2.25 million annual visitors, but the city also attracts Canadians, Germans and the British.</p>

	<p>Half of the Keys' economy depends directly on tourism — a \$2.7 billion industry — according to county officials.</p> <p>In the upper Keys, water blocked parts of some northbound lanes of U.S. 1, videos and photos showed. Water levels were 3 feet above normal by 10 a.m., the weather service said. Key West's highest point is just 18 feet above sea level.</p> <p>This is the first year on record that the U.S. has been hit by two storms that were Category 4 upon landfall: Harvey and Irma.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/10 Dogs abandoned as Irma bears down
SOURCE	https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation-now/2017/09/10/dozens-dogs-abandoned-left-unable-escape-irma-bears-down/651030001/
GIST	<p>Authorities in south Florida may pursue felony charges against people who abandoned their animals as Hurricane Irma approached the Florida peninsula.</p> <p>Palm Beach County Animal Care and Control director Dianne Sauve said the agency recovered roughly 40 dogs in the days before Irma made landfall in Florida. Some were tied up, others were in pens or in enclosed yards, unable to escape.</p> <p>She said such abandonment is one of the worst things someone can do to their pet, saying "There is absolutely no excuse for doing that."</p> <p>On Sunday morning, the Florida Department of Public Health reiterated the dangers posed when pets are abandoned during a storm.</p> <p>Sauve said the agency will pursue felony animal cruelty charges if they are able to gather enough evidence and find and identify a pet's owners, which can be difficult.</p> <p>The agency's shelter also took in about 40 other cats and dogs relinquished by their owners. Sauve said that's not unusual, but the number of surrenders is higher than in previous storms.</p> <p>"These are things that are not unexpected during a situation like this," she said, adding there are two pet-friendly shelters in Palm Beach County. "It's always disappointing. Our goal is to keep pets and people together."</p>
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HEADLINE	09/09 Air quality improves; smoke dissipates
SOURCE	http://www.king5.com/weather/blog/air-quality-improves-as-smoke-dissipates/471649315
GIST	<p>Air quality levels were rated as healthy on Saturday as stronger winds moved into Washington and the smoke dissipated.</p> <p>"By Monday we are still forecasting a true blue sunny day," says KING 5 Meteorologist Jordan Steele. "We're beginning to see our air quality improve. It's not a huge improvement since we still have smoke out there, but it's going to get much better within the next 24 hours."</p> <p>Anything from the Cascade crest eastward is trending between moderate and unhealthy for sensitive groups, and unfortunately, even though we might clear our air out, it might take a bit longer for them.</p> <p>"These are the upper-level winds on Saturday, which showcase a good marine push that will help clear out</p>

	all of the smokey air. At the surface, our winds will only be about 5-15 mph, but up above, it looks like we'll get 20-30 mph winds that should be strong enough for that true sunny day on Monday," said Steele.
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HEADLINE	09/10 Warmer, drier conditions test firefighters
SOURCE	http://www.king5.com/news/rescue-effort-underway-for-hikers-trapped-by-eagle-creek-fire/470438093
GIST	<p>TROUTDALE, Ore. -- Warmer and drier conditions Sunday and Monday will test the work crews have done to battle the Eagle Creek Fire over the past week.</p> <p>The wildfire, which has forced hundreds of evacuations, has burned 33,382 acres and is 7 percent contained.</p> <p>Structural crews will help with burnout operations on the west end of the fire Sunday. A structure fire engine and water tender will be at Multnomah Falls. Burnout operations will also take place in Cascade Locks, and crews will work on protecting structures in Hood River.</p> <p>On Saturday, crews were able to take advantage of lower temperatures, higher humidity and lighter winds. Crews focused on establishing fire lines, specifically near Corbett to the west, the Bull Run Watershed to the south, and Hood River to the east.</p> <p>"Our firefighting crews are literally drawing a line in the sand," said Oregon Gov. Kate Brown during a Saturday press conference. She said firefighters took a more offensive approach in preparation for the return of drier and windier conditions.</p> <p>The nearly 1,000 personnel battling the fire are also working on protecting structures along closed Interstate 84 and the Historic Columbia River Highway.</p> <p>The most <u>recent evacuation notices</u> were issued Friday in Hood River County. Homes near Dee were told to get ready for possible evacuation (Level 1), while homes in northeast Cascade Locks were told to be ready to go at a moment's notice.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/10 Seattle Public Utilities seeks rate hike
SOURCE	http://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/politics/rates-must-rise-again-seattle-public-utilities-tells-city-council/
GIST	<p>SPU (Seattle Public Utilities) is asking the City Council to approve a <u>new six-year plan</u> with 5.5 percent average annual increases to its combined rates for water, wastewater, solid waste (billed every other month) and drainage (paid through property taxes).</p> <p>The typical monthly cost for a homeowner would climb from \$180 this year to \$250 in 2023, while the typical cost for an apartment dweller would grow from \$107 to \$151.</p> <p>SPU says it needs the money to replace aging pipes, prevent sewage from spilling into the Lake Washington Ship Canal and keep up with rising employee expenses, among other things.</p> <p>But a watchdog panel says SPU has missed opportunities amid a construction boom to make developers of new buildings pay for adding stress to its systems.</p> <p>The panel also argues SPU's 1.4 million residential and business customers deserve more transparency. Most voters in 2015 weren't aware the \$930 million <u>Move Seattle transportation levy</u> that they approved would put them on the hook for an additional \$201 million in SPU spending.</p>

	<p>While saying the rate increases are necessary, SPU acknowledges they would make life less affordable in a city where rents, property taxes and other costs for ordinary people are escalating. Water rates already are among the steepest in the country.</p> <p>SPU customers are well acquainted with rate hikes, having seen the typical per-month utility cost for a house nearly double from \$80.09 in 2004 to \$156.99 in 2014.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/10 New chief takes reign Snohomish PD
SOURCE	https://www.heraldnet.com/news/new-chief-will-run-snohomish-police-department/
GIST	<p>SNOHOMISH — Come Monday, a new Snohomish County sheriff’s lieutenant is expected to take over running the police department.</p> <p>Keith Rogers was promoted to lieutenant last week and was selected to become the new chief in Snohomish. Rogers has been with the sheriff’s office since 2002. Before that, he was an officer with the Mountlake Terrace Police Department.</p> <p>Rogers will replace John Flood, who recently was promoted to captain and reassigned to oversee the sheriff’s office north and south precincts. Flood has been with the sheriff’s office since 1991.</p> <p>He has been the chief in Snohomish <u>since January 2012</u>, when the city started contracting with the sheriff’s office for police services.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/10 Wildfires pull Snohomish Co. firefighters
SOURCE	https://www.heraldnet.com/news/big-nw-wildfires-pull-snohomish-county-firefighters-resources/
GIST	<p>EVERETT — Almost every summer lately has tested the limits of Washington’s wildfire-fighting resources.</p> <p>This is the worst year in memory, said Eric Andrews, a fire chief in Gold Bar. Andrews leads a team of chiefs from five counties north of Seattle who decide how many crews and <u>brush trucks</u> can be spared when other places are overwhelmed by fire.</p> <p>“We’re pretty much depleted,” Andrews said. “We’ve had to tell Oregon: ‘No, we’re sending all we can.’”</p> <p>For the past month, <u>devastating forest fires have forced Oregon to call for help from around the nation</u> — “very hard, dusty, smoky work,” said Travis Hots, another Snohomish County fire chief who returned Wednesday from the Horse Prairie Fire near Eugene.</p> <p>It’s straining resources even hundreds of miles away, the around Puget Sound region. Out of five strike teams based in the north Sound area, only a fraction of one team hasn’t been deployed. Those crews need to stay, Andrews said, in case things get out of hand closer to home.</p> <p>More than 190,000 acres of Washington have been scorched in a dozen large wildfires that are still burning, <u>according to a federal database</u>. Millions more acres were ablaze in Idaho, Oregon, Montana and British Columbia. Add a breeze, and you’ve got a recipe for the ashy pink-gray smoke <u>that cloaked the entire Pacific Northwest</u> last week.</p> <p>Smoke billowed across three borders into Washington, not to mention from within. For the second time this summer, a cloud veiled the sun for days. Many lifelong Washingtonians hadn’t seen anything like it</p>

since the ash from Mount St. Helens in 1980.

A torrid wildfire season has [started to seem like an annual event in the Pacific Northwest](#). But the season is supposed to be done by September, Andrews said. If not, it can complicate the logistics. The start of the school year, for example, leaves firefighters without school gyms to sleep in, and without the volunteer help of high school students interested in forestry.

And it monopolizes the lives of firefighters.

“I think it’s really hard on families, the wives, the children,” Andrews said. “It’s not a year for war, but it’s pretty disruptive.”

Most of the crews are gone for up to two weeks at a time. Meanwhile at home, their coworkers put in longer hours to keep pace with local 911 calls that don’t stop.

It’s part of a larger trade-off.

“If we’re not willing to send our resources there, nobody’s going to want to send resources to us,” Andrews said. “But as things get drier here, we hold a little bit more back.”

Fears of more dry thunderstorms near the lightning-sparked Jolly Mountain fire near Cle Elum put Andrews on edge last week. That fire has led to evacuations for hundreds of homes. Crews at the scene expect [the flames won’t be extinguished](#) until rain puts them out.

Snohomish has been one of the most generous counties in the state in sharing its wildfire resources, according to a list of how resources are deployed. Late last week, about 30 Snohomish County firefighters were deployed to neighboring states or counties.

“We’ve had major incidents in Snohomish County where people came from far and wide to help us,” he said. “That’s what we do here when someone else needs help. To get the job done we’re going to need to lean on our neighbors.”

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HEADLINE	09/10 Hurricane Irma makes historic landfall
SOURCE	http://www.thedailybeast.com/its-official-irma-is-the-most-intense-hurricane-to-hit-us-since-katrina
GIST	<p>After a nearly week-long rampage through the Caribbean, Hurricane Irma made landfall in the Florida Keys at 9:10 am on Sunday morning as a 130 mph Category 4—beginning a day-long onslaught of the country’s most hurricane-prone state.</p> <p>Winds at the National Weather Service office in Key West frequently approached 100 mph as meteorologists braced themselves inside their fortified office, providing updates on the storm. “THIS IS AS REAL AS IT GETS,” one of them wrote in a tweet. Later in the day, Irma’s core of winds and storm surge will move up the state’s west coast, maintaining at least Category 3 strength until the center is north of Tampa.</p> <p>An impact this strong is rare, even for Florida. Just six hurricanes in U.S. history have made landfall at a greater intensity than Irma, the last being Hurricane Katrina in 2005. Together with last month’s landfall of Hurricane Harvey, Irma marks the first time in U.S. history that two Category 4 hurricanes have made landfall in the same year, let alone back-to-back.</p> <p>Miami-Dade County, where Irma was previously feared to be headed, was rocked by wind gusting up to 100 mph that knocked out power to more than half of its 1.1 million customers. Tornado warnings punctuated the night. The constant howl of wind was interrupted every so often with something slapping into shutters.</p>

	Nearly 7 million people <u>have been asked to flee the path of the storm</u> ; depending on how many have actually left, this could be the largest mass evacuation in U.S. history. The storm is <u>so huge</u> that tropical storm watches extend <u>as far inland as Atlanta</u> . Heavy rain and frequent tornadoes plagued the Miami area overnight, and should continue <u>throughout the day</u> .
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HEADLINE	09/09 Japan, US military conduct joint air drills
SOURCE	http://www.newsmax.com/Newsfront/japan-jet-fighters-drills/2017/09/09/id/812566/
GIST	<p>Japanese F-15 fighter jets on Saturday conducted an air exercise with U.S. B1-B bombers in the skies above the East China Sea, Japan's Air Self Defence Force (ASDF) said.</p> <p>The joint drill comes as South Korea braces for a possible further missile test by North Korea as it marked its founding anniversary, just days after its sixth and largest nuclear test rattled global financial markets and further escalated tensions in the region.</p> <p>The exercise involved two U.S. Air Force B-1B Lancer bombers flying from Andersen Air Force Base on the U.S. Pacific island territory of Guam, which were joined by two Japanese F-15 jet fighters.</p> <p>On Aug. 31, Japanese F-15 fighter jets also conducted an air exercise with U.S. B1-B bombers and F-35 stealth fighters in skies south of the Korean peninsula, two days after North Korea launched a ballistic missile over northern Japan.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/09 Katia dissipates after Mexico landfall
SOURCE	https://www.upi.com/Top_News/World-News/2017/09/08/Katia-dissipates-after-making-landfall-in-Mexico/7951504713154/?utm_source=fp&utm_campaign=lh&utm_medium=5
GIST	<p>Sept. 8 (UPI) -- Katia -- once one of three hurricanes swirling south of the United States -- has dissipated after it made landfall in Mexico, forecasters said early Saturday.</p> <p>In <u>its 11 a.m. advisory</u>, the National Hurricane Center said Katia had dissipated over eastern Mexico. Although the storm has lost strength, forecasters caution that large amounts of rainfall are still occurring.</p> <p>The hurricane was located 150 miles south of Tampico, Mexico, and 125 miles west-northwest of Veracruz, Mexico. It's moving west-southwest at 5 mph with maximum sustained winds of 35 mph.</p> <p>The government of Mexico has discontinued all tropical storm warnings for the storm. No tropical storm watches remain in effect, either.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/09 Utility crews stream into Florida
SOURCE	http://www.reuters.com/article/us-storm-irma-power-workers/utility-crews-stream-into-florida-for-hurricane-payday-adventure-idUSKCN1BK0PP
GIST	<p>ORLANDO, Fla. (Reuters) - Nick Chilelli had been driving his utility truck with a broken air conditioner for about 18 hours, all the way from Cincinnati, when his convoy got trapped behind a car wreck just outside Orlando, Florida, at about 2 a.m. Saturday morning.</p> <p>They were among thousands of line workers racing through the night to stage their trucks and tools for Hurricane Irma, a monstrous storm expected to knock out power to half of the nation's third most-populous state.</p>

They had been told to expect to work at least a month of straight 16-hour days, with no breaks, trying to restore power to millions of homes.

Many of the journeyman linemen, as their union calls them, savored both the financial opportunity and the adventure of racing into a historic hurricane.

"I'll probably make 30 grand this month," said Chilelli, 48. "Everybody out here is killing it. Of course, you're dealing with something that could kill you any minute."

He has good use for the money. As he chased work in the storm, Chilelli left his wife behind with a new foster child, 11-month old Gage.

A far bigger threat to the electric grid than Hurricane Harvey in Texas, Irma threatens to knock out power to more than 4.1 million homes and businesses served by Florida Power & Light, affecting about 9 million people.

"Everyone in Florida will be impacted in some way by this storm," FPL Chief Executive Officer Eric Silagy said on Friday, preparing the utility's customers for a multiweek restoration process.

The NextEra Energy Inc unit is Florida's biggest power company, serving almost half of the state's 20.6 million residents. Utilities handling the rest of the state, including units of Duke Energy Corp, Southern Co and Emera Inc, have not yet estimated potential outages, which are likely to be substantial.

The utility workers whom FPL deployed shared their storm stories as they waited for more than an hour early on Saturday morning for authorities to clear an accident west of Orlando on U.S. Highway 27.

FPL had already amassed about 5,000 trucks in a staging area in Lake City, in northern Florida near Jacksonville, the utility workers said, just the first of legions more trucks and workers needed to restore the grid.

This is one example of the economic jolt from the enormous rebuilding process required after a storm of Irma's magnitude.

"It's a good gig - big bucks - we're all union contractors" with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, said Brian Wilson, 34, who rode in the truck in front of Chilelli in the stalled convoy. "You never want to see a disaster, but it's good for me."

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HEADLINE	09/09 UN appeals for Rohingya aid
SOURCE	http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-41214057
GIST	<p>Aid groups urgently need \$77m (£58m) to help Rohingya Muslims who have fled Myanmar for Bangladesh since violence erupted two weeks ago, the UN says.</p> <p>About 290,000 Rohingya are said to have fled Rakhine state and sought shelter in Bangladesh since 25 August.</p> <p>There is a desperate need for food, water and health services for new arrivals in Cox's Bazaar, <u>the UN added.</u></p> <p>Those fleeing say Myanmar's military are burning their villages - something the military denies.</p> <p>The violence began on 25 August when Rohingya militants attacked police posts in Myanmar's northern Rakhine state.</p>

Rohingya residents - a stateless, mostly Muslim minority in Buddhist-majority Myanmar - say the military and Rakhine Buddhists responded with a brutal campaign against them.

Myanmar rejects this, saying its military is fighting against Rohingya "terrorists".

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HEADLINE	09/09 Texas battles health issues after Harvey
SOURCE	https://www.nbcnews.com/storyline/hurricane-harvey/mosquitoes-medicine-mold-texas-battles-post-harvey-health-issues-n799951
GIST	<p>Dr. Carrie de Moor has a nasty cough, and she's not sure if it's allergies or one of the common respiratory infections that have been spreading since Hurricane Harvey hit southeast Texas late last month.</p> <p>She's been sleeping in a trailer adjacent to her free-standing emergency room and urgent care clinic in Rockport, Texas, which was devastated by Harvey's winds and flood waters. The clinic had only been open for two weeks when Harvey hit.</p> <p>De Moor is home in Dallas now for a few days with her children but will soon head back to the clinic, which is overwhelmed by people crowding in for stitches, tetanus shots, ear infections and skin rashes.</p> <p>"We were seeing numbers outpacing anything we were prepared to take care of," said de Moor, an ER physician who is CEO of Code 3 ER and Urgent Care.</p> <p>Physician volunteers have been cramming into the trailer and sleeping on the clinic floors as they tend to as many as 90 patients a day.</p> <p>Lara Hamilton describes a similar scene at Christ Clinic in Katy, west of Houston.</p> <p>"We typically see about 200 patients a week. In the first week we saw triple that," said Hamilton, a registered nurse who is executive director for the clinic. Volunteer doctors from as far afield as Vermont, Minnesota and Oregon have brought cots and are camped out in the clinic and at other nearby facilities, offering their services as needed.</p> <p>"They're showering at the YMCA," Hamilton said.</p> <p>No one single entity has authority over health matters in Texas, which has a history of turning away federal funding and oversight and which has a limited Medicaid program. County health authorities like the one in Harris County take care of issues like mosquitoes, clean water, inspecting restaurants and some vaccinations, but free and charity clinics like Christ Clinic and for-profit operations like Code 3 struggle in the best of times to fill in the gaps.</p> <p>Now, post-Harvey, they are overwhelmed.</p> <p>So far, there's no big epidemic to cope with. The Harris County Health Department had to squelch rumors that plague was being spread by flood waters. Plague is carried by fleas, not in water.</p> <p>But there are plenty of other messes left behind by Hurricane Harvey's floodwaters.</p> <p>They include masses of mosquitoes, respiratory infections and a dramatic worsening of the day-to-day ills that people could cope with in normal times, but that get out of control in a crisis.</p> <p>"We are seeing people who have just been eaten up by mosquito bites," Hamilton said. "Typically, people won't go to the doctor for mosquito bites." But the combination of standing water, a lack of electricity and the need to work outside means a lot of exposure.</p>

	<p>"As the floodwaters recede, mosquito numbers are going to start going up," said Dr. Peter Hotez, dean for the National School of Tropical Medicine at Houston's Baylor College of Medicine.</p> <p>"There's just debris everywhere. It's like Aedes aegypti heaven."</p> <p>Aedes aegypti are the mosquitoes that carry viruses such as dengue and Zika virus. Stagnating water in ditches, bayous and flooded fields will breed other mosquitoes that spread West Nile virus.</p> <p>No one's sure how much worse things will get, but Dr. Umair Shah, who heads the Harris County health department, is sure it will get bad.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/08 UN: some member states aid NKorea
SOURCE	https://www.cbsnews.com/news/united-nations-report-says-member-states-help-north-korea-evade-sanctions/
GIST	<p>One month after the U.N. Security Council passed biting sanctions against <u>North Korea</u> in response to the country's latest nuclear test, a <u>U.N. report</u> says that "lax enforcement" has allowed the rogue nation to earn \$270 million since February alone.</p> <p>CBS News obtained a copy of the report on Thursday ahead of its publication Saturday.</p> <p>In the time since the U.N. released its <u>last report</u> in March, North Korea has created a web of "evolving evasion techniques" involving dozens of member states that "are undermining the goals of the resolutions."</p> <p>The 111-page midterm report by the U.N.'s "<u>Panel of Experts</u>" details new ways that North Korea skirts the latest round of sanctions, including violations of the arms embargo, "particularly in Africa and the Middle East." It also says the panel is investigating the leasing of North Korean "embassy property for commercial purposes in several countries including Bulgaria, Germany, Poland and Romania."</p> <p>"If sanctions are not enforced - and there is recognition of that by entities doing business with North Korea - the intended sanctions pressure will not materialize," Hal Eren, who was senior sanctions adviser at the U.S. Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC), told CBS News.</p> <p>"A problem with all sanctions efforts is that they're never air-tight, and North Korea and its supporters are adept and well-practiced at circumventing them. Simply adding new sanctions without tougher enforcement won't do much," said Matthew Waxman, faculty chair of the program on Law and National Security at Columbia Law School.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/09 Hamas chief heads to Egypt
SOURCE	http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/hamas-chief-heads-egypt-sign-gazas-improving-ties-49722269?cid=clicksource_76_4_article%20roll_articleroll_hed
GIST	<p>The <u>Hamas</u> militant group says its top leader is heading to Cairo to discuss renewed cooperation with Egyptian authorities.</p> <p>Saturday marks the first time <u>Egypt</u> has allowed Ismail Haniyeh to leave the Gaza Strip since he was elected the Palestinian group's chief in May.</p> <p>A Hamas statement said Haniyeh and other leaders will discuss "boosting" recent easing of the blockade <u>Egypt</u> imposes on Gaza along with Israel.</p>

	<p>Egypt has long accused Hamas of aiding Islamic insurgency in the neighboring Sinai Peninsula.</p> <p>In recent months, Egypt has sent fuel to help reduce Gaza's power crisis and promised to open the Rafah crossing, Gaza's main gateway to the outside world.</p> <p>Hamas has signaled its willingness by building a buffer zone along the Gaza-Sinai border to prevent movement of extremist militants and weapons.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/09 Desperation spreads in Rohingya camps
SOURCE	http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/desperation-spreads-rohingya-camps-food-stocks-dwindle-49720422?cid=clicksource_76_4_article%20roll_articleroll_hed
GIST	<p>With Rohingya refugees still flooding across the border from <u>Myanmar</u>, those packed into camps and makeshift settlements in <u>Bangladesh</u> were becoming desperate Saturday for scant basic resources as hunger and illness soared.</p> <p>Fights were erupting over food and water. Women and children were tapping on car windows or tugging at the clothes of passing reporters while rubbing their bellies and begging for food. Health experts warned of the potential for outbreaks of disease.</p> <p>The U.N. said Saturday that an estimated 290,000 Rohingya Muslims have arrived in the border district of Cox's Bazar in just the last two weeks, joining at least 100,000 who were already there after fleeing earlier riots or persecution in Buddhist-majority Myanmar. The number was expected to swell further, with thousands crossing the border each day.</p> <p>"More and more people are coming," said UNHCR spokeswoman Vivian Tan. With camps already "more than full," the new arrivals were setting up spontaneous settlements along roadsides or on any available patches of land.</p> <p>Within the camps "we are trying our best, but it is very difficult because every day we are seeing new arrivals" with nowhere to go.</p> <p>The exodus began Aug. 25 after Rohingya insurgents attacked police posts in Myanmar's northern Rakhine state. The military responded with what it called "clearance operations" to root out any fighters it said might be hiding in villages. The Myanmar government says nearly 400 people have been killed in fighting it blames on insurgents, though Rohingya say Myanmar troops and Buddhist mobs attacked them and destroyed their villages.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/08 Thousands Texas cattle died in Harvey?
SOURCE	http://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory/thousands-texas-cattle-died-wake-harvey-49701486?cid=clicksource_4380645_6_heads_posts_headlines_hed
GIST	<p><u>Texas</u> agricultural officials fear thousands of cattle may have died in the aftermath of Harvey, resulting in losses to ranchers of tens of millions of dollars.</p> <p>The counties that sustained damage when Harvey first came ashore Aug. 25 were home to 1.2 million head of cattle, representing 1-in-4 of all beef cows in Texas, the nation's largest producer.</p> <p>Sales of beef cattle and calves in the state averaged \$10.7 billion annually between 2011 and 2014, according to the Texas A&M Agri-Life Extension Service and Agri-Life Research.</p> <p>Most ranchers don't insure their herds because of the cost, so a rancher could be out hundreds of thousands</p>

of dollars if an entire herd drowned, the Houston Chronicle reported. The Oklahoma National Stockyards, branded as one of the world's largest stocker and feeder cattle markets, sold beef cows for an average of \$1,500 in May.

Officials are still in the process of tallying the damages.

"We're finding cattle in waist-deep water," said Sid Miller, Texas Agriculture commissioner. "But when we try to drive them to dry ground, many of them just collapse they're so exhausted."

Cattle standing in water will have weakened skin and hooves that are susceptible to infection, said Dr. Dan Posey, a veterinarian and clinical professor at Texas A&M. Prolonged standing, lack of food and lack of drinkable water could make the cattle susceptible to respiratory disease, he said.

"Not all of them will recover even though they were rescued," Posey said.

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HEADLINE	09/09 Houston struggles with loss of cars
SOURCE	http://abcnews.go.com/Business/wireStory/car-centric-houston-struggles-loss-countless-autos-49722860?cid=clicksource_4380645_6_heads_posts_headlines_hed
GIST	<p>Bryan Harvey is frequently reminded that he shares a name with the storm that dumped 50 inches of rain on metropolitan Houston and unleashed the floods that have him working 14-hour days towing water-logged cars.</p> <p>More than a week after Harvey slammed Houston, wreckers like Bryan Harvey are still hauling cars and trucks from flooded neighborhoods to dealerships or to vast fields where insurance adjusters can assess the damage. Harvey killed at least 70 people, destroyed or damaged 200,000 homes — and inflicted an automotive catastrophe on one of America's most car-dependent cities.</p> <p>The Houston area has lost hundreds of thousands of cars, says Michael Hartmann, general manager of Don McGill Toyota of Katy, a city of 17,000 about 30 miles west of Houston. "We have a shortage of rental cars and people not sure how to go about handling claims and just what to do with their lives."</p> <p>The wreckage has forced Houstonians to scramble to try to rent or borrow cars or to work from home — if they can. Some have it worse: They can't return to work until they resolve the transportation problems, depriving many of them of income and slowing the city's return to business as usual.</p> <p>Few American cities depend on cars as much as Houston. More than 94 percent of the city's households have cars, second only to Dallas, the Cox Automotive consultancy says. Houston is even less amenable to walking, bicycle-riding and mass transit than freeway-mad Los Angeles, according to Walk Score, which promotes walkable communities.</p> <p>Fourteen-lane highways link downtown Houston to its sprawling suburbs. Off-ramps are stacked five-high at some interchanges, inducing vertigo for motorists unschooled in driving Houston-style. Outside the city center, isolated islands of office towers are connected only by concrete and asphalt.</p> <p>Cars are "everything here," Hartmann says. "Cars are part of a person's lifestyle. Most people in our area work 25, 30 miles from home."</p> <p>Houston is used to flooding. But it had never seen anything like Harvey, which dropped a year's worth of rain onto the metro area. Flooded roads and neighborhoods left cars submerged and, in most cases, impossible to salvage.</p> <p>"Almost every square inch of your vehicle has wires in it," says Rebecca Lindland, executive analyst at Cox Automotive. "The materials are often flame-retardant, but they are not waterproof."</p>

	<p>Cox estimates that up to 500,000 cars and trucks were damaged or destroyed, amounting to nearly \$5 billion in damage. Auto insurance claims have reached 160,000, according to the Insurance Council of Texas. Cars are being taken by the hundreds to a make-shift lot at the 500-acre Royal Purple Raceway in Baytown, about 35 miles east of town. Most of the time, the insurance adjusters shake their heads at the damage Harvey has wrought and declare the cars a total loss.</p> <p>"Put yourself in the shoes of the adjuster," says Mark Hanna, a spokesman for the Texas insurance council. "He's just seen, say, a 2015 Toyota Camry. He knows this vehicle has been underwater for six days. They can look at it, but they know water is all throughout that vehicle. They know it is totaled ... He's going to see the same vehicle many times."</p> <p>Many insurers are reluctant even to try to repair cars that risk further problems and repairs later.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/09 Denmark suspends refugee resettlement
SOURCE	https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2017-09-09/denmark-suspends-refugee-resettlement-under-un-program
GIST	<p>Denmark won't allow any refugees into the country this year under a United Nations program and will seek flexibility in determining how many may resettle in the future instead of a set quota, the Ministry of Immigration and Integration said.</p> <p>Since 1989, Denmark has pledged to take 500 refugees a year selected by the UN for resettlement. The program is separate from European Union efforts to distribute migrants among member states, which has encountered fierce <u>opposition</u> from countries including Hungary.</p> <p>"It's hard to predict how many refugees and migrants will show up at the border to seek asylum, and we know it may be hard to integrate those who arrive here," Danish Minister of Immigration and Integration Inger Stojberg said in a <u>statement</u> on the UN program on Saturday.</p> <p>"Hence, I would like to see a more flexible quota regime, so that we are prepared, but not obliged, to take a certain number of refugees for resettlement every year."</p>
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HEADLINE	09/09 Wildfires harbinger of things to come?
SOURCE	http://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/environment/pacific-northwest-forests-west-of-the-cascades-will-see-more-fires-bigger-fires-with-climate-change/
GIST	<p>BEACON ROCK STATE PARK, Skamania County — As night fell last Monday in the Columbia River Gorge, the Oregon slopes burned as if carpet-bombed from above. Winds acted like bellows in a hearth to supercharge the flames spread by embers flying from ridge to ridge. Stands of trees that matured over decades — sometimes centuries — were engulfed within minutes.</p> <p>This <u>Eagle Creek blaze</u> is a dramatic reminder that the forests of Western Oregon and Washington, so often cloaked in snow or drenched by rain, have a cycle of fire and renewal. When conditions are right, they can burn in spectacular fashion just like the more arid landscapes east of the Cascades.</p> <p>The fires are less frequent than in drier forests, but the burn cycles are not etched in stone. They reflect a climate that scientists forecast to undergo big changes in the decades ahead as global combustion of fossil fuels warms the Earth. In the Pacific Northwest, climate models indicate that average summer temperatures will warm later in this century by 4.7 degrees to 6.5 degrees compared with the last half of the 20th century.</p>

This warming is likely to shorten the burn cycles in the Puget Sound region as well as other parts of Western Washington and Western Oregon.

“We expect to see more fires and bigger fires,” said Amy Snover, director of the [Climate Impacts Group](#) at the University of Washington. “People are just beginning to wake up to this, but public lands managers do think about this and the potential risks.”

Those risks likely will include more smoke hanging around Western Washington and Oregon, and more fire threats to west-side communities, where many homeowners have yet to consider removing close-by trees and brush to create defensible spaces should flames threaten their land.

This year, the smoke is the result of fires that have burned around the Pacific Northwest, including more than 732,000 acres in Washington and Oregon. Significant fires have flared west of the Cascades, including the Eagle Creek fire that has burned more than 32,000 acres, and threatened small communities outside of Portland.

If the models analyzed by the University of Washington are accurate, this Pacific Northwest summer could be a mild preview for the kind of heat we are likely to routinely experience later in the century. The three months that ended in August ranked as the third-hottest Pacific Northwest summer on record. Yet, they fall on the low end of what is forecast in the last half of this century, according to Snover.

That additional heat would make the forests more vulnerable to fire. Two studies cited by the Climate Impacts Group estimate that the average acreage burned in a year west of the Cascades at the end of this century would be double the average burned during the last half of the 20th century.

Fire ecologists who study the history of our region note earlier periods of intense fire activity in the west-side forests.

The Olympic Peninsula, for example, had a series of mega-fires that burned more than 1 million acres during a 33-year period in the 1700s, according to research that looked at tree rings and fire scars.

More recently, the [September 1902 Yacolt Burn](#) raged across more than 230,000 acres, spreading largely through Western Washington forests north of the Columbia River Gorge. This was a fearsome fire even for residents from Seattle who were hit with what [The Seattle Times reported](#) as “great banks of smoke clouds” that drifted over the city, blotted out the sun and “floated through the streets of the city like an awful quiet harbinger of approaching doom.”

Prolonged summer heat is a key ingredient for such big fire seasons, and the Climate Impacts Group forecasts that predict the 21st-century warming are based on an analysis of more than three dozen climate models with different projections.

Researchers then develop an average annual temperature based on a scenario that assumes aggressive efforts to reduce fossil-fuel emissions. They also include scenarios with the use of petroleum, coal and natural gas continuing roughly at current levels.

The models project that the summer heat will come with less rain, further drying out the forests.

This year a dry, hot August primed west-side forests to burn. Forest Service officials, since 1990, have estimated the moisture content of large dead trees on the ground. By the end of August, those estimates indicated they were potent fuel for fires, according to John Saltenberger, fire weather program manager for the Portland-based Northwest Interagency Coordination Center.

“All across the Northwest, they were either at — or exceeding — the lowest values on record, especially on the west side,” Saltenberger said.

Scientists remind us that such fires help to bring about new life, and remain an essential part of the forest

ecology. Berry plants, for example, will flourish in newly opened areas and provide food for wildlife. Seedlings will emerge.

“Even in the areas of the most intense burn, it is not an end, but a beginning, when you understand the processes that are at work,” said Dominick DellaSala, chief scientist for the Geos Institute, of Ashland, Oregon, and co-author of a book that focuses on the ecological importance of forest fires.

Scientists still are uncertain just how the west-side forests will evolve in a century with more frequent fires.

Some studies predict forests will contain less wood, and thus store less carbon, according to the Climate Impacts Group. That’s largely due to the forecasts that more will burn, as well as greater impacts from disease and insects, according to Snover.

The mix of trees may change. Some species, such as hemlock and cedar, have thin bark and readily succumb to fire. So they may find themselves in retreat. Other species, such as Douglas fir, have thicker bark and are far more resilient to fire and regenerate in direct sunlight. They are likely to fare better.

“I fully expect, with climate change, some shifts in vegetation to occur,” said Jane Kertis, a U.S. Forest Service scientist based in Corvallis, Oregon. “Fire is laying bare the conditions for that to begin.”

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HEADLINE	09/08 Comparing Nisqually, Mexico quakes
SOURCE	http://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/jolting-similarities-between-2001-nisqually-quake-and-8-1-shake-in-mexico/
GIST	<p>The powerful <u>8.1-magnitude quake that struck Mexico</u> this morning occurred near an offshore region called a subduction zone, where a seafloor tectonic plate dives under a continent. A similar subduction zone, called Cascadia, lurks off the coast of the Pacific Northwest.</p> <p>But after analyzing the seismic signals, scientists now say the Mexico quake was not actually on the subduction zone, but below it.</p> <p>In a subduction zone quake, tectonic plates jerk past each other. What happened in Mexico was more akin to the <u>2001 Nisqually earthquake</u> in Washington, where a break occurs within the oceanic plate being forced beneath the continent, said John Vidale, former director of the Pacific Northwest Seismic Network at the University of Washington.</p> <p>These so-called intraslab quakes are generally less powerful than subduction zone quakes, and their destructiveness can be blunted because they occur 30 miles or more below ground. When they strike offshore, intraslab quakes are also less likely than subduction zone quakes to trigger huge tsunamis.</p> <p>In Washington, intraslab quakes are much more common than subduction zone quakes. Before the magnitude 6.8 Nisqually quake, the state was hit with a magnitude 6.5 in 1965 and a magnitude 7.1 in 1949.</p> <p>The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) says there’s a more than 70 percent chance the region will get another one in the next 50 years.</p> <p>The 1,700-mile long Cascadia Subduction Zone itself <u>last ruptured in January 1700</u>, triggering a magnitude 9 earthquake roughly 30 times more powerful than the Mexican quake. The resulting tsunami wiped out Native American villages along the ocean shore and was powerful enough to cross the Pacific Ocean and cause damage in samurai-era villages along the coast of Japan.</p> <p>The U.S. Geological Survey estimates a 12-15 percent chance that the Cascadia fault will rupture again in</p>

the next 50 years, though other researchers put the odds as high as 30 percent.

One earthquake can trigger others on nearby faults, but Vidale said there's little danger a quake off the coast of Mexico would trigger a quake off the Pacific Northwest.

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HEADLINE	09/08 Monitor: SPD not yet in compliance
SOURCE	http://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/crime/despite-progress-seattle-police-not-yet-in-compliance-with-reforms-federal-monitor-says/
GIST	<p>Despite making a “great deal of progress,” Seattle police have yet to comply with some of the key requirements in a <u>2012 federal consent decree</u> to address excessive force and biased policing, the federal monitor overseeing the court-ordered agreement concludes in a report filed Friday.</p> <p>Merrick Bobb’s findings were submitted to U.S. District Judge James Robart in Seattle, leaving it to the court to determine what constitutes “full and effective” compliance.</p> <p>In anticipation of the <u>report</u>, Robart filed an order late Thursday night directing “all interested parties” to file any comments on the report by Sept. 18.</p> <p>The dominant question now is whether the U.S. Justice Department, which sought the consent decree under President Barack Obama’s nationwide police-reform effort, will agree with Bobb or, under President Donald Trump’s administration, will inform Robart that the Police Department has met its obligations.</p> <p>Attorney General Jeff Sessions <u>has taken a dim view of consent decrees</u> reached during the Obama years, ordering a review of such agreements already in place and signaling a retreat from bringing new cases.</p> <p>It also is unclear what stance the city will take.</p> <p>Ultimately, it will be Robart’s decision.</p> <p>Before Bobb filed his report, the Justice Department and U.S. Attorney’s Office in Seattle <u>filed a motion Friday</u> asking that the parties be given later dates in September and October to submit their comments.</p> <p>“These are complex and important questions,” their brief says, noting the Justice Department is a “large, complex organization, with decision-makers on both coasts.”</p> <p>The Justice Department could recommend the city be found in compliance, with a two-year phase in which the Police Department would have to prove the reforms have taken hold.</p> <p>In his report, Bobb notes he has previously found, in 10 earlier assessments of key requirements, that the Police Department has reached major milestones, including <u>dramatic improvements involving use of force and dealing with people in crisis</u>.</p> <p>But important issues remain, including questions surrounding the <u>fatal shooting by two white officers of Charleena Lyles</u>, a 30-year-old African-American mother of four, on June 18, according to Bobb.</p> <p>“The ten assessments, all clearly important, nevertheless do not constitute all the requirements of the Consent Decree,” Bobb writes.</p> <p>“One cannot unscramble an egg or turn a cake back to its original ingredients,” he emphasizes. “Thus, the nub of the question is whether various Consent Decree and court-ordered reforms have been ‘baked in’ and are resulting consistently and predictably in constitutional policing.”</p> <p>The assessments themselves revealed concerns that still require review, Bobb writes, including problems</p>

	<p>in the chain of command in identifying possible misuse of force, and incorporating into training the “lessons learned” from internal reviews by the department’s Force Review Board (FRB).</p> <p>“For FRB to continue to drive change within SPD, the department must take its recommendations seriously, and address them quickly and urgently,” the report says.</p> <p>Bobb also said his team and the court await the department’s analysis of why blacks and Latinos are “stopped disproportionately and frisked disproportionately.”</p>
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HEADLINE	09/08 Charleena Lyles family sues SPD officers
SOURCE	http://mynorthwest.com/746217/family-of-charleena-lyles-woman-killed-by-seattle-police-sues-two-officers/
GIST	<p>Attorneys representing the estate of a pregnant black woman fatally shot by two white Seattle police officers <u>filed a claims form against the city in August.</u></p> <p>It was the first step in the legal process — as they said they prepared to file a civil rights, wrongful death suit against the city of Seattle and its police department in the death of 30-year-old Charleena Lyles.</p> <p>At a conference Friday, attorney Karen Koehler said a lawsuit was filed that morning against two Seattle police officers: Steven McNew and Jason Anderson.</p> <p>The attorneys said they plan to sue the city of Seattle as well, once a mandated waiting period has passed.</p> <p>Charles Lyles, the father of Charleena Lyles, spoke at the conference about his desire to see justice served. “From what I understand, her 1-year-old son and her 4-year-old daughter was crawling over her body while she was laying on the floor dead,” Charles Lyles said. “I just feel sad for my grandkids right now. ... I’m real empty. As far as my insides now, I’m just empty.”</p> <p>The mother of four was killed June 18 by officers McNew and Anderson. Three of Lyles’ children were in her apartment at the time.</p> <p>“There’s an obligation to de-escalate,” an attorney for the Lyles family said Friday. “You have an officer who didn’t plan, who left his Taser home. We, as citizens, rely on the expertise of the officers to avoid unnecessarily dangerous situations.”</p> <p>Police say she threatened the officers with at least one knife after calling 911 to report that someone had broken into her apartment and stolen video-game consoles.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/09 Washington first responders head to Irma
SOURCE	http://mynorthwest.com/746523/washington-first-responders-head-to-irma/
GIST	<p>At the Pierce County Emergency Management warehouse, an 80-member team from Washington State raced for a Friday night flight to face Hurricane Irma and rescue those who need help.</p> <p>Seattle firefighter Ryan Nash leads the hazardous materials team.</p> <p>“Being able to one take care of our personnel as we go down also taking care and making sure we’re able to isolate an area and be able to get as many people out as quickly as we can in a potentially contaminated environment.”</p> <p>Two semitrailers of the task force’s gear was packed and dispatched to Macon, Georgia. The 80 member</p>

	<p>team will stay at an Air Force base there, while they await their assignment to an area damaged by the hurricane.</p> <p>A smaller group of 17 members spent six days conducting water searches in Houston — in the wake of Hurricane Harvey. Ten of the 17 didn't make it all the way home from Harvey, they turned around in Richland, Washington, and are now on the way to face the challenges of Irma.</p> <p>The work is hard and dangerous but emotionally rewarding.</p> <p>Members of the task force don't know when they'll be able to come home. Typically they deploy for about two weeks.</p>
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Cyber Awareness

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HEADLINE	09/11 Online fraud attempts all-time high
SOURCE	https://www.infosecurity-magazine.com/news/uk-fraud-attacks-hit-20-million-in/
GIST	<p>Online fraud attempts have hit an all-time-high in the UK and globally, with 144 million attacks blocked worldwide by ThreatMetrix in the past three months.</p> <p>The anti-fraud service provider monitors over 24 billion online transactions each year, so it's in a good position to observe industry trends.</p> <p>In the UK, attack levels rose 150% since the same period in 2015 to reach 20 million by the end of the second quarter, according to the <i>ThreatMetrix Q2 Cybercrime Report</i>.</p> <p>VP of strategy, Vanita Pandey, told <i>Infosecurity Magazine</i> that the UK's position as a European hub for payments and e-commerce, host to some of the world's largest financial institutions, makes it an attractive target.</p> <p>"Also, one trend we have seen is that the recent breaches that have made identity data available to the fraudsters have impacted developed digital economies more than others. The reason is that the breaches have exposed consumer data primarily for the banked and digital native population who tend to reside in countries like UK," she explained.</p> <p>"Fraudsters not only have access to everyone's personal information, they also have the ability to periodically refresh the information by leveraging new breaches that have become commonplace."</p> <p>Online sectors such as social media, media streaming and ride-sharing have been hit particularly hard over the past quarter, thanks to their popularity and often limited anti-fraud/security features, said ThreatMetrix. There were 2.6m such fraud attempts in the UK digital media sector alone, the firm claimed.</p> <p>Fraudsters are targeting these sites both to test stolen credit card details for eventual use elsewhere, and to sell wholesale account access online, Pandey explained.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/11 Claim: flaws D-Link wireless routers
SOURCE	http://thehackernews.com/2017/09/d-link-router-hacking.html
GIST	<p>A security researcher has discovered not one or two but a total of ten critical zero-day vulnerabilities in routers from Taiwan-based networking equipment manufacturer D-Link which leave users open to cyber attacks.</p>

D-Link DIR 850L wireless AC1200 dual-band gigabit cloud routers are vulnerable to 10 security issues, including "several trivial" cross-site scripting (XSS) flaws, lack of proper firmware protection, backdoor access, and command injection attacks resulting in root access.

If successfully exploited, these vulnerabilities could allow hackers to intercept connection, upload malicious firmware, and get root privileges, enabling them to remotely hijack and control affected routers, as well as network, leaving all connected devices vulnerable to cyber attacks as well.

These zero-day vulnerabilities were discovered by **Pierre Kim**—the same security researcher who last year discovered and reported [multiple severe flaws in D-Link](#) DWR-932B LTE router, but the company ignored the issues.

The same happened in February, when the researcher [reported](#) nine security flaws in D-Link products but disclosed the vulnerabilities citing a "very badly coordinated" disclosure with D-Link.

So, Kim opted to publicly disclose the details of these zero-day flaws this time and published their details without giving the Taiwan-based networking equipment maker the chance to fix them.

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HEADLINE	09/08 Equifax sued for billions after breach
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SOURCE	https://www.hackread.com/equifax-sued-for-billions-after-143-million-data-hack/
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GIST	As reported yesterday, the credit reporting agency Equifax was hacked by unknown attackers . Now, it is being reported that the credit giant has been slapped with a multi-billion-dollar lawsuit over the data breach in which personal details of 143 million consumers was stolen – This is over 40% of the entire population of the United States.
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In a [complaint filed by plaintiffs \(PDF\)](#) Brook Reinhard and Mary McHill (both had their data with Equifax) in the federal court in Portland, Oregon; Equifax has been accused of not implementing proper security measures to protect the consumer data to save money rather than spending on security “Plaintiffs file this complaint as a national class action on behalf of over 140 million consumers across the Country harmed by Equifax’s failure to adequately protect their credit and personal information.

This complaint requests Equifax provide fair compensation in an amount that will ensure every consumer harmed by its data breach will not be out-of-pocket for the costs of independent third-party credit repair and monitoring services,” the complaint reads.

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HEADLINE	09/09 Guilty plea in \$50M hacking scam
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SOURCE	https://www.hackread.com/russian-lawmaker-son-pleads-guilty-to-online-identity-scam/
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GIST	In April 2017 HackRead.com reported how the 32-year Russian hacker Roman Seleznev received the longest ever sentence in the history of US for hacking point-of-sale computers to steal information from 1.7 million credit cards and causing losses of 170million USD. He was sentenced to 27 years in jail on charges of wire fraud, aggravated identity theft and causing intentional damage to the protected computer. Charges against Seleznev were filed in federal courts in Georgia and Nevada while he was sentenced by a federal court in Washington.
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The accused is the son of a Russian member of the parliament Valery Seleznev; he was arrested from Maldives and extradited to the US to face trial. According to US Justice Department Seleznev has pleaded guilty in two criminal cases namely participation in racketeering scheme and conspiring to commit bank fraud. The plea deal for both these cases was confirmed on Thursday.

According to [DOJ’s press release](#), in Nevada and Georgia cases, a credit card fraud ring called Carder.su

was involved. It was a web-based network created by cyber-criminals for trafficking of stolen credit card data. In his guilty plea, the accused admitted that he was part of that ring since January 2009. The network was used for selling compromised credit card data to interested individuals on the network. The account numbers were sold for \$20 per piece, and as per the prosecutors, the thefts caused losses of more than 50 million USD to people the credit cards of whom were stolen.

Furthermore, Seleznev admitted that he served as a Cashier; that is, he worked with fellow hackers to dupe an Atlanta company, which processed credit and debit card transactions, and stole 45.5 million debit card numbers as well as withdrew USD 9.4 million from ATMs across situated in 280 cities in just 12 hours.

The frauds resulted in the filing of charges and arrest of 55 individuals out of which 33 convicted.

The Russian government labeled the arrest of Seleznev as an unlawful kidnapping. According to Igor Litvak, Seleznev's attorney, his client has accepted responsibility for playing a part in two cyber cases that got settled on Thursday, but he is appealing against the conviction in the third separate Washington case.

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HEADLINE	09/08 Equifax hack nightmare gets worse
SOURCE	https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2017-09-08/equifax-s-hacking-nightmare-gets-worse-thanks-to-arbitration-clause
GIST	<p>After Equifax Inc. revealed that sensitive data on two of every five Americans was exposed in a cyberattack, thousands logged onto a company website to see if they were at risk. For many, the site <u>didn't work at first</u>. But for those who got through, a nasty surprise was waiting.</p> <p>If your data had been stolen, Equifax offered a free year of credit monitoring known as "TrustedID Premier." But some fine print may also mean that consumers who agree would be giving up the right to sue over many types of damages related to the massive penetration.</p> <p>The unprecedented breach, which occurred in July but was disclosed on Thursday, is among the largest in U.S. history, affecting <u>143 million</u> people. The hack revealed personal information such as Social Security numbers, addresses, driver's license data, and birth dates, putting millions at risk for identity theft. A proposed <u>multibillion-dollar class action</u> lawsuit was filed Thursday evening. All told, Equifax could be facing as much as <u>\$70 billion</u> in claims, said Ben Meiselas, an attorney for Geragos & Geragos, one of the firms that filed the lawsuit.</p> <p>For already panicked consumers, that fine print—an arbitration clause—has caused further frustration, prompting federal lawmakers and at least one state attorney general to condemn Equifax for appearing to force aggrieved consumers to give up their day in court. Social media was flooded with messages of concern, with some fearing that simply using an Equifax website to check whether their information was compromised bound them to arbitration—a private proceeding which consumer advocates and lawyers consider inherently biased in favor of companies.</p> <p>"We are witnessing uncharted depths of corporate duplicity, as Equifax is now targeting its victims" by using "stealth arbitration agreements," Meiselas said. Hopefully this "conduct will finally spur Congress to protect victims of identity theft by stopping corporations from using poison pill arbitration clauses to deprive victims of their day in court."</p> <p>On Friday, New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman asked the company to remove the clause as he opened an investigation. (Earlier, it was also revealed that three senior Equifax officers had <u>sold off \$1.8 million</u> in holdings after the intrusion was discovered in July. The company's shares fell almost 14 percent Friday.)</p> <p>Equifax responded to the controversy by an addition to its "<u>frequently asked questions</u>" web page. The company wrote that the arbitration mandate applies only to "the free credit file monitoring and identity</p>

theft protection products, and not the cybersecurity incident.” Consumers can opt out of the arbitration provision, but to do so, they have to mail a letter to a post office box in Atlanta, where Equifax is based.

Late Friday, after a day of criticism, the company said consumers wouldn’t have to give up their right to pursue class actions related to damages stemming from the hacking incident. Equifax also said it tripled to more than 2,000 the number of agents on its call center team to handle questions, and that the website allows consumers to quickly assess whether they were affected.

Earlier, consumer advocates and plaintiffs’ lawyers—who have a vested interest in preserving consumer rights to sue—expressed deep concerns about the arbitration clause. Equifax could divert from court lawsuits asserting damages as a result of negligence or invasion of privacy, said Lauren Saunders, associate director of the National Consumer Law Center, and Jim Francis, an attorney at Francis & Mailman P.C. in Philadelphia. Mailman recently won a \$60 million jury trial against TransUnion LLC, another large credit reporting firm.

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HEADLINE 09/08 Fake Facebook ‘like’ networks

SOURCE <https://www.usatoday.com/story/tech/news/2017/09/07/facebook-fake-likes-scammers-collusion-networks/642446001/>

GIST SAN FRANCISCO — A thriving ecosystem of websites that allow users to automatically generate millions of fake "likes" and comments on Facebook has been documented by researchers at the University of Iowa.

Working with a computer scientist at Facebook and one in Lahore, Pakistan, the team found more than 50 sites offering free, fake "likes" for users' posts in exchange for access to their accounts, which were used to falsely "like" other sites in turn.

The scientists found that these “collusion networks” run by spammers have managed to harness the power of one million Facebook accounts, producing as many as 100 million fake "likes" on the systems between 2015 and 2016.

A large number of “likes” can push a posting up in Facebook’s algorithm, making it more likely the post will be seen by more people and also making it seem more legitimate.

Quid-pro-quo sites that give users points for liking a post in exchange for getting their own posts liked have long existed, violating Facebook's terms of service.

The researchers found that this activity has now been turbocharged because scam artists found a loophole to exploit code Facebook uses to allow third-party applications such as iMovie and Spotify to access a user’s Facebook account, automating a process that formerly was manual and involved many fewer likes.

“When you become part of this network, you can say ‘Give me likes on this post and as soon as you request it, you get thousands of likes on a specific post,” said Zubair Shafiq, a professor of computer science at the University of Iowa in Iowa City who documented the automated networks.

Facebook said it had addressed the activity described in the research and was no longer seeing it on its platform. It is also investigating different techniques that could be used to generate inauthentic "likes" in smaller volumes and said it will take the appropriate action to help ensure that connections and activity on its service are authentic.

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HEADLINE 09/08 ‘Crackas with attitude’ member gets 5yrs

SOURCE	http://thehackernews.com/2017/09/crackas-with-attitude-hackers.html
GIST	<p>Remember "Crackas With Attitude"?</p> <p>The hacking group behind a series of embarrassing hacks that targeted personal email accounts of senior officials at the FBI, the CIA, and the White House, among other United States federal agencies in 2015.</p> <p>A member of Crackas With Attitude, who was arrested last year in September, has now been sentenced to five years in federal prison.</p> <p>Justin Liverman, a 25-year-old man from Morehead City, who was known under the online alias "D3F4ULT," was arrested last year along with another member of the group—Andrew Otto Boggs, 23, of North Wilkesboro, who allegedly used the handle "INCURSIO."</p> <p>The duo hacked into multiple government organizations between October 2015 and February 2016. Boggs was sentenced to two years in prison on June 30, 2017, for his role.</p> <p>Liverman pleaded guilty on January 6 this year to conspiracy to hack U.S. government computers and accounts and was sentenced to 5 years in prison on Friday. He will also be forced to pay \$145,000 in restitution.</p> <p>Crackas With Attitude targeted more than ten U.S. government officials including the following and caused more than \$1.5 million in losses to victims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hacked into the AOL email of former CIA director John Brennan and released personal details. • Hacked into the personal emails and phone accounts of the former US spy chief James Clapper. • Broke into the AOL email of the Ex FBI Deputy Director Mark Giuliano. <p>The hacking group also leaked the personal details of 31,000 government agents belonging to almost 20,000 FBI agents, 9,000 Department of Homeland Security officers, and some number of DoJ staffers.</p>
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Terror Conditions

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HEADLINE	09/08 Intel gains valuable insight into ISIS
SOURCE	http://www.latimes.com/world/la-fg-isis-intel-20170908-story.html
GIST	<p>U.S. intelligence analysts have gained valuable insights into Islamic State's planning and personnel from a vast cache of digital data and other material recovered from bombed-out offices, abandoned laptops and the cellphones of dead fighters in recently liberated areas of Iraq and Syria.</p> <p>In the most dramatic gain, U.S. officials over the last two months have added thousands of names of known or suspected Islamic State operatives to an international watch list used at airports and other border crossings. The Interpol database now contains about 19,000 names.</p> <p>The intelligence haul — the largest since U.S. forces entered the war in mid-2014 — threatens to overwhelm already stretched counter-terrorism and law enforcement agencies in Europe, where Islamic State has claimed responsibility for attacks in Paris, London and Stockholm this year.</p> <p>With the extremist group's army and self-declared caliphate fast shrinking, U.S. officials are concerned that foreign-born militants who once flocked to Iraq and Syria will try to escape before the U.S.-led coalition or other military forces can kill them.</p> <p>In recent weeks, U.S.-backed ground forces have sent an estimated 30 terabytes of data — equal to nearly two years of nonstop video footage — to the National Media Exploitation Center in Bethesda, Md., a little-known arm of the Pentagon's Defense Intelligence Agency, according to officials who spoke on</p>

condition of anonymity to discuss the intelligence.

Analysts there are scrutinizing handwritten ledgers, computer spreadsheets, thumb drives, mobile phone memory cards and other materials for clues to terrorist cells or plots in Europe or elsewhere.

"The reason electronic exploitation is so critical is that enemy forces doesn't fake those records," an intelligence official said. "When you interrogate someone they can hide facts, but logs of phone calls and video clips don't lie. That stuff isn't made-up."

The material came from Mosul, the militants' self-declared capital in Iraq, which was recaptured July 9 after an eight-month battle. Other intelligence was found in the Iraqi city of Tal Afar, which was retaken on Aug. 31, and from Raqqah, the group's self-declared capital in Syria, where fighting is still underway.

"We've gotten significant amounts of intelligence as a result of the fall of these places — much is still being analyzed," Defense Secretary James N. Mattis told The Times during a visit to Amman, Jordan, last month. "It has helped us to identify at least some of their aspirations."

U.S. officials said they have gleaned planning ideas and outlines of potential operations rather than ongoing terrorist plots. But they also have gathered details into the group's leadership and the hierarchy of fighters under command.

The biggest windfall came from what officials said were meticulous Islamic State records about the foreign fighters who arrived since convoys of black-flagged militants first stormed out of northern Syria and into Iraq in 2014, capturing large parts of both countries and the world's attention.

The records include their names, aliases, home countries and other personal information.

The data has been shared with a 19-nation task force in Jordan, code-named Operation Gallant Phoenix, that tries to track foreign fighters in an effort to disrupt terrorist cells and networks. The task force is led by the U.S. military's clandestine Joint Special Operations Command.

"If we find information about foreign fighters from a certain country, we go through proper procedures to make sure it's shared," said Brett McGurk, the special presidential envoy for the global coalition to defeat Islamic State. President Obama appointed McGurk in 2015 and President Trump has kept him on.

"So it is a very comprehensive campaign, militarily, on the ground, taking territory back; collecting information; processing it; and then building the database and the system so it can be shared and acted upon," McGurk said in Amman.

With few U.S. troops on the ground, most of the intelligence is gathered by Iraqi security forces and U.S.-backed Syrian militias who have been trained to gather, bag and tag material to be analyzed back in the states.

A phone from the pocket of a dead fighter often includes phone numbers that can assist counter-terrorism investigations far afield. Indeed, intelligence recovered from the battlefield since 2015 has led to arrests or broken up plots in at least 15 countries in Europe, the Middle East, Southeast Asia, Africa, Latin America and Canada, officials said.

Matthew Levitt, a former counter-terrorism official at the FBI and Treasury Department now with the nonpartisan Washington Institute for Near East Policy, said obtaining an alias, driver's license, passport number or biometric data can be crucial to blocking a terrorist plot.

"Time and again, we've found that even the smallest bit of information can prove critical," he said. "It could help us discover a person we never knew about or provide new leads on an underground cell."

U.S. officials say Islamic State has lost 60% of the territory it captured in 2014, and its force has been

halved to about 15,000 fighters. The recent intelligence indicates that they are concentrating forces and shifting their operations base to the Middle Euphrates River Valley, which lies between Iraq and Syria. An estimated 8,000 fighters have moved to the valley, which stretches more than 150 miles from Deir el Zour in eastern Syria down to Rawa in western Iraq. They include most of the group's leaders and their families, as well as key aides for administrative functions.

A U.S. special operations task force tracked and killed three leaders, who allegedly oversaw weapons research and drone operations, in the valley this week, officials said. In all, more than 35 military commanders, weapons production experts, financial facilitators and external attacks plotters have been killed there in the past year.

Islamic State founder Abu Bakr Al Baghdadi is believed to be hiding in the area, said Lt. Gen. Stephen Townsend, who completed his tour this month as top commander of U.S. forces in Iraq and Syria. He predicted the militants would make their "last stand" in the valley.

"That's where they believe their last sanctuary is," he told reporters on Aug. 31.

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HEADLINE	09/10 Iraq holding ISIS foreign wives, kids
SOURCE	http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-iraq-families-exclusiv/exclusive-iraq-holding-1400-foreign-wives-children-of-suspected-isis-fighters-idUSKCN1BL0SF
GIST	<p>SOUTH OF MOSUL, Iraq (Reuters) - Iraqi authorities are holding 1,400 foreign wives and children of suspected Islamic State fighters in a camp after government forces expelled the jihadist group from one of its last remaining strongholds in Iraq, security and aid officials said.</p> <p>Many of them say they are from Russia, Turkey and Central Asia, but there are also some from European countries, the officials said. They have mostly arrived at the camp south of Mosul since Aug 30.</p> <p>An Iraqi intelligence officer said that they were in the process of verifying their nationalities with their home countries, since many of the women no longer had their original documents.</p> <p>It is the largest group of foreigners linked to Islamic State to be held by Iraqi forces since they started expelling the militants from Mosul and other areas in northern Iraq last year, an aid official said. Thousands of foreigners have been fighting for Islamic State in Iraq and Syria.</p> <p>A senior security officer said the authorities were trying to find a safe place to house the families while negotiating with embassies for their return home. They are not allowed to leave the camp.</p> <p>Reuters reporters saw hundreds of the women and children sitting on mattresses crawling with bugs in tents in what aid workers called a "militarized site". Turkish, French and Russian were among the languages spoken.</p> <p>"I want to go back (to France) but don't know how," said a French-speaking veiled woman of Chechen origin who said she had lived in Paris before.</p> <p>She said she did not know what had happened to her husband, who had brought her to Iraq when he joined Islamic State.</p> <p>The security officer said the women and children had mostly surrendered to the Kurdish Peshmerga near the northern city of Tal Afar, along with their husbands. The Kurds handed the women and children over to Iraqi forces, but kept the men - all presumed to be fighters - in their custody.</p> <p>Many of the families had fled to Tal Afar after Iraqi troops pushed Islamic State out of Mosul on Aug 30. Iraqi forces retook Tal Afar, a city of predominantly ethnic Turkmen that has produced some of Islamic</p>

	<p>State's most senior commanders, last month. Most of its pre-war population of 200,000 have fled.</p> <p>Aid workers and the authorities are worried about tensions between Iraqis, who lost their homes and are also living in the camp, and the new arrivals.</p> <p>Many Iraqis want revenge for the harsh treatment they received under the extremists' interpretation of Sunni Islam they imposed in Mosul and the other areas they seized in 2014.</p> <p>"The families are being kept to one side (of the camp) for their own safety," an Iraqi military intelligence officer said.</p> <p>The Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), which is supporting the 541 women and their children, said Iraq "must swiftly move to clarify its future plans for these individuals".</p> <p>Western officials are worried about radicalized fighters and their relatives coming home after the collapse of Islamic State's "caliphate".</p> <p>French officials have indicated a preference for citizens found to be affiliated with IS to be prosecuted in Iraq.</p> <p>"The general philosophy is that adults should go on trial in Iraq," a French diplomatic source told Reuters last month, of those found to have been fighters. "We think children would benefit from judicial and social services in France."</p>
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HEADLINE	09/10 What happens when ISIS leaves
SOURCE	http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/resources/idt-sh/Falluja
GIST	<p>As night falls on Falluja and darkness takes the edge off the blistering summer heat, Anas al-Janabi switches on the lights.</p> <p>A creaky ferris wheel, with saucer-like gondolas in primary colours, starts to turn.</p> <p>Below, customers begin to arrive, attracted by an oasis of coloured lights and booming music. There are dodgems and spinning teacup rides. There's popcorn and a bearded Smurf, shimmying like a bellydancer despite the heat and his bulky yellow costume.</p> <p>Children don party hats and families take selfies - relaxed moments in a city that has been on edge for most of the past 14 years.</p> <p>But there's a tentative air to it all. The children laugh and run but their parents seem wary.</p> <p>Perhaps it's the memories of 2014 when Falluja became the first city to fall to so-called Islamic State.</p> <p>After a year of widespread protests across the Sunni heartland of Anbar province, often put down with violence by Iraq's Shia-dominated government, Falluja fell to an assortment of local tribal fighters and members of IS.</p> <p>The group found themselves in control of, among other things, a newly built funfair. Despite their reputation for brutally enforced austerity, IS were happy to use Falluja's fairground for their own ends.</p> <p>In September 2015 the group released pictures purporting to show the "grand opening". The images were supposed to show happy normality within the self-declared caliphate.</p> <p>"But there was no music," says the owner Anas al-Janabi. "Only slogans."</p>

IS established a media centre and court on the premises, he says. Both were later targeted in airstrikes.

The entrepreneur had spent a year, and \$1.4m (£1.1m), getting his fairground ready in 2013. It was bad timing.

“We barely managed to get the business started when Daesh took over,” he says, using the common Arabic acronym for Islamic State in Iraq and al-Sham/the Levant - Isis or Isil.

Two years later, in 2016, IS were driven out of Falluja by the Iraqi army. Anas could finally return to the city but his precious fairground had not been spared by IS.

“When they left, they burned down the café and the area was completely flattened,” says Anas.

Now, with most of the city’s inhabitants back, Anas says he’s on a mission to cheer up people who have endured terrible suffering. The funfair re-opened in May and families are starting to come back.

“They have forgotten what joy means,” says Anas, surveying his handiwork.

“By the grace of God, happiness will return to Falluja and its decent people.”

But he understands why the crowds are a little thin - why customers keep glancing over their shoulders. A month ago, while the fairground was packed, a bomb exploded nearby. No-one was killed, but the impact on business was immediate. Anas has been offering discounts and prizes in an effort to lure people back.

“We can say that Daesh is finished, but we still feel fear,” says Sahira Karim, visiting the fairground with her husband Raif and her grandson, Mohammed.

When government forces re-entered Falluja in June 2016, they uncovered evidence of the group’s reign of fear. In makeshift prisons, they found tiny metal cages in windowless rooms, where prisoners were kept in cramped, filthy conditions. In some cages, prisoners had been forced to stand, or kneel.

There were signs of torture, and documents which suggested people had been jailed for smoking or violating the self-declared caliphate’s strict dress code.

Accounts of life in Falluja during the IS years are hard to come by. Those who stayed in the city during the group’s two-and-a-half years in charge give guarded accounts, coloured by what they think government officials, or journalists, want to hear.

At first, it seems, the new masters behaved well, told people not to be afraid and said they were there to help. After two years of increasingly bitter relations with the government in Baghdad, many were willing to give the men in masks a chance.

In this conservative, Sunni city, the notion of a state governed along stricter religious lines was not unwelcome to some residents.

In fact, some Fallujis even celebrated the arrival of IS, calling it “the Islamic Conquest”.

But the honeymoon didn’t last long, as the jihadists sought to impose their increasingly medieval vision.

Rules against smoking and Western-style haircuts were rigorously enforced. Women were told to stay at home unless accompanied by a male relative.

Stories emerged of beheadings in the main market. Disloyal clerics and former policemen were particular targets. And as the war with the government in Baghdad intensified, IS introduced conscription.

Huge numbers of people fled, scattering to other Iraqi cities or to camps for internally displaced people (IDPs) on the desert fringes of the Euphrates valley.

The government's titanic struggle against IS, coupled with a long-running budget crisis, have left Iraq's coffers dangerously empty. There's not much to spare for reconstruction, leaving thousands of people like Ahmad and Mahmud to fend for themselves, with a bit of international assistance.

The UN Development Programme says at least 15,000 homes have been damaged in Falluja and estimates it will take another 18 months to repair them. It has put aside \$2,000 for each house, but in a report earlier this month, it said only 78 homes had been rehabilitated so far.

"I feel angry," Ahmad says. "I waited for the government to help, but I got nothing."

Outside the Wahida (Unity) mosque, after Friday prayers, the city's hard-pressed mayor, Issa al-Issawi, is surrounded by frustrated locals, and forced to field a barrage of questions.

"The government should support us. There's no opportunity, no work."

"No-one's compensating us. How can we rebuild our houses?"

"There's no electricity. No water. How can we live?"

In fact, the city's largest water treatment plant, al-Azrakiya, reopened in June. In theory, nearly two-thirds of the city now has access to safe water.

UN experts had to remove unexploded devices from 40,000 sq metres of land.

But a year after the fighting ended, electricity is rationed to 10 hours per day and there are problems with distribution. Falluja hums to the sound of generators.

There are other grievances.

"The army's been occupying my house for the past ten months."

"We are under collective punishment by the government."

"We don't like Baghdad. But let us live here!"

The notion that Falluja is being punished by the central government for the sin of rebellion is a common thread. Time and time again, people talk about feeling trapped by the military checkpoints that still ring the city.

The most notorious, Suqoor, sits astride the main highway just east of the city, blocking the way to Baghdad, which ought to be less than an hour's drive away.

It's a place of gridlock, frayed tempers and occasional danger.

On the Baghdad side, trucks carrying cement, bricks and other building materials line up, waiting for clearance. Most of them will drive on past Falluja to Ramadi, the capital of Anbar, which was much more badly damaged in last year's fighting.

But it's on the Falluja side of Suqoor that the real problems lie. Almost no one from the city is allowed to drive through. Anyone hoping to reach Baghdad must walk to the checkpoint, in searing heat, present papers and hope that the soldiers on duty are in an indulgent mood.

The lingering threat posed by suicide bombers makes the soldiers twitchy and hostile.

For those who've returned to the city in recent months, life in Falluja is hard enough. But out in the desert, beyond the city limits, are thousands of people who still can't go back.

No-one wants them.

On the southern shore of Lake Habbaniya, thousands of people displaced during the war against Islamic State are living in a fly-blown Saddam-era tourist village.

As the battle against IS has moved from city to city – causing some to flee their homes, others to return - so the population of this and other camps has fluctuated.

But one group remains - the families of those accused of working for, or with, IS.

Away from the main camp, there's an area reserved for people from the agricultural village of Saqlawiya, just a few miles north-west of Falluja.

Row upon row of white canvas tents flap in the hot desert wind. Children tussle for handouts. Either side of a wide, dusty avenue, people fill buckets from raised water tanks.

Saqlawiya gained a reputation as an IS stronghold. The fighting there in May and June of last year was particularly intense.

The people living here have watched others going home and wonder when it will be their turn to follow. But since 2003, Falluja has fallen out of government control, twice, when the authorities in Baghdad – first American, then Iraqi – felt they could ignore the interests of Iraq's Sunni minority.

Sunnis felt they were being punished, first for their allegiance to the former dictator, Saddam Hussein, and later for the willingness of some tribal leaders to harbour the violent jihadists of al-Qaida and Islamic State.

Falluja is only 40 miles west of Baghdad, but a gulf of suspicion and resentment has separated the two cities for 14 years. Unless it's bridged, another violent upheaval cannot be ruled out.

Mayor Al-Issawi is candid about the danger.

“There was a gap between the government and the people of Falluja in particular and Anbar in general,” he says. “This is one reason why Falluja fell to Daesh.”

“The gap still hasn't closed completely, but we are making progress to restore trust and achieve security.”

Could his city throw its lot in with another insurgency? He pauses for thought, and when he answers it doesn't sound like a slogan.

“The people of Falluja have learned their lesson, and suffered a lot, so I don't think they'll co-operate with any such insurgency.”

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HEADLINE	09/10 Syria activists: civilians killed in strikes
SOURCE	http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/activists-17-killed-east-syria-airstrikes-49740610?cid=clicksource_76_4_article%20roll_articleroll_hed
GIST	Syrian activists say at least 17 civilians have been killed in a series of airstrikes on a Euphrates River crossing in eastern <u>Syria</u> .

Omar Abou Leila of the monitoring group DeirEzzor 24 says Russian jets struck on Sunday ferries waiting to transport passengers across the river in the Islamic State group-held town of al-Baloul, 27 kilometers (17 miles) east of the contested city of Deir el-Zour.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for [Human Rights](#) puts the toll at 21 civilians killed. It says the Russian air force is responsible. It was not immediately possible to independently confirm the claim.

Russian-backed government forces and U.S.-backed non-government forces are in a race to claim the IS-held river valley, and the surrounding energy resources and nearby crossing to [Iraq](#).

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HEADLINE 09/10 Sunni Arabs despair over future in Iraq

SOURCE http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/shattered-war-sunni-arabs-despair-future-iraq-49737335?cid=clicksource_76_4_article%20roll_articleroll_hed

GIST Fawaz Saleh Ahmed has been secretly sneaking into his own village in [northern Iraq](#) to visit his home.

The last time he went, he wept as he spent several hours going from room to room in the partially destroyed house, he said. When his tears dried, he made his way back to the nearby Khazir camp housing those displaced by war, where he and his family have lived for almost a year.

Frustratingly, tantalizingly, he can see his house from there, but the Kurdish forces controlling his village, called Hassan Shami, won't allow him to return to live.

"That is my house there on the hill, do you see it?" said Ahmed, a member of Iraq's once-dominant Sunni Arab minority. He stretched his arm to point.

The 39-year-old Ahmed's predicament is part of the wider disaster facing Iraq's Sunni Arabs. Three years of war have freed their lands from the rule of the Islamic State group but have also left the community at its lowest state ever. Sunnis are feeling lost, unsure what their place will be in the country's future and worried that the Shiite majority and the Kurds aim to change the demographics of some Sunni areas to impose their own control.

Sunnis have been barred from returning to their homes in numerous villages and towns that the Kurds seized during fighting with Islamic State militants in a belt of territory across the north stretching down to Iraq's eastern border.

Kurdish officials cite security reasons for not allowing residents back, even though IS was driven out of the area late last year. At the same time, the Kurds have repeatedly said they intend to incorporate the captured territory into their own self-rule zone — even as they plan a referendum for outright independence later this month. That raises questions over the future of Sunni Arab villages like Hassan Shami.

Further south, Iranian-backed Shiite militias that captured mainly Sunni territory have also kept Sunnis from returning to strategic areas between Baghdad and the Iranian border or other areas Shiites consider vital.

Sunni Arabs, meanwhile, are faced with the depth and magnitude of their plight. The fear among Iraqi authorities and the Sunnis themselves is that new militant groups could take root unless the community's situation is improved.

Their cities and towns lie in partial ruins from the fight that drove IS out of most of the territories it seized in 2013 and 2014, from northern Iraq through the country's center and across the Sunni heartland of the western [Anbar province](#). Thousands of Sunnis languish in detention for alleged links to the group.

	<p>The community has suffered massive displacement. Currently, 3.2 million people are displaced, the overwhelming majority Sunni Arabs. Another more than 2 million were displaced previously but have since returned home, according to the International Organization of Migration. Together that would be a staggeringly high proportion of the country's entire Sunni Arab population, which is generally estimated to make up 15 to 20 percent of Iraq's 37 million people.</p> <p>Those who have returned — mainly to Anbar — must rebuild homes and communities, so far with little help from the government. Those still displaced either scramble to find housing or jobs or languish in camps. More than 400,000 of those displaced in nearly a year of fighting to liberate Mosul, Iraq's second largest city, are housed in 19 camps around the north.</p> <p>Sunni Arabs have struggled since the 2003 U.S.-led invasion, which brought down <u>Saddam Hussein</u> and opened the door for the Shiite majority to gain power through elections. Sunnis were relegated to second-tier status, igniting an insurgency that brought years of violence and gave rise to al-Qaida and its successor, the Islamic State group. Over those years, divided Sunni politicians were ineffectual, and many Sunni professionals and businessmen left the country.</p> <p>Some Sunnis talk of trying to form their own self-rule region like Kurdistan. But many are wary, knowing the Sunni-majority areas have far fewer resources.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/10 Egypt: suspected militants killed in Cairo
SOURCE	http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/egypt-killed-suspected-militants-cairo-raid-49737437?cid=clicksource_76_4_article%20roll_articleroll_hed
GIST	<p><u>Egypt</u> said police on Sunday killed 10 militants who sneaked into the capital from the northern part of the Sinai Peninsula, epicenter of an insurgency led by an affiliate of the <u>Islamic State</u> group.</p> <p>A statement by the Interior Ministry, which oversees security forces, said the militants were hiding in two apartments in the densely populated Ard el-Liwa neighborhood, where they held organizational meetings and planned a "series of terror attacks" in central provinces, a reference to Cairo and its twin city of Giza.</p> <p>The presence of a cell of as many as 10 militants in a Cairo district not far from the heart of the city points to a determined effort by IS and other militant groups to stage deadly and potentially high-profile attacks in the national capital, which would shatter a fragile but relative sense of security in a city of some 20 million people.</p> <p>The ministry's statement said police simultaneously raided the apartments at dawn. Militants in the first apartment opened fire on the raiding force and one of them tried to throw an explosive device at the police, but it killed him instead, it added. All eight militants in the apartment were killed, it said.</p> <p>Raiding the second apartment, police again came under fire and a four-hour gun battle ensued, ending with the killing of two more militants. The gun battles at both apartments wounded five policemen, including two officers, as well as an officer from the domestic security agency and two criminal investigation personnel, according to the statement.</p> <p>The statement did not say whether the militants belonged to IS. It also appeared to rule out they were members of Hasm, a breakaway faction of the outlawed <u>Muslim Brotherhood</u> group that has targeted police and army officers in Cairo over the past year in a series of brazen attacks.</p> <p>Egyptian security officials had earlier said they were Hasm members.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/10 Officials: Minn. student joined ISIS in 2015
SOURCE	http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/report-minnesota-student-left-join-group-2015-49744954?cid=clicksource_76_4_article%20roll_articleroll_hed
GIST	<p>Authorities say a suburban Minneapolis college student left his family while on vacation in <u>Morocco</u> two years ago and joined the Islamic State group in <u>Syria</u>.</p> <p>The Star Tribune reports that according to newly unsealed court documents it reviewed, Abdelhamid Al-Madioum apparently booked a flight to <u>Turkey</u>, from which many aspiring IS militants cross into Syria. He was 18 years old at the time.</p> <p>Al-Madioum's family told the FBI that he called them shortly after they returned to the U.S. and said he was working in a hospital in Mosul, Iraq, which was then under the IS control. But the paper reports that a member of the FBI's joint terrorism task force wrote that new recruits commonly misinform loved ones about their actual locations and activities so as not to cause distress to loved ones.</p> <p>The FBI and the U.S. Attorney's office in Minneapolis would not comment. A woman and man who answered the phone at the family's new address declined to comment to the newspaper.</p> <p>Nine Minnesota men were sentenced last year for plotting unsuccessfully to join IS.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/08 US pulls back ISIS surveillance
SOURCE	http://thehill.com/policy/defense/349886-us-pulls-back-surveillance-on-isis-convoy-at-request-of-russians
GIST	<p>Surveillance aircraft that were monitoring an Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS) convoy stuck in the desert in eastern Syria have left the area at the request of Russian officials, the U.S.-led coalition said Friday.</p> <p>“To ensure safe de-confliction of efforts to defeat ISIS, coalition surveillance aircraft departed the adjacent airspace at the request of Russian officials during their assault on Dawyr Az Zawyr,” the coalition said in a statement.</p> <p>ISIS fighters and their family members have been stranded on eleven buses in the desert for more than a week.</p> <p>The convoy showdown began last month, when ISIS struck a deal with the Lebanese militant group Hezbollah — a chief ally of the Syrian government — for safe passage from an area near the Syrian border with Lebanon to ISIS-held territory in eastern Syria bordering Iraq. To get there, the original 17-bus convoy planned to travel through Syrian government-controlled territory.</p> <p>The U.S.-led coalition, intent on making sure the convoy did not make it to the Iraqi border and link up with other ISIS fighters, cratered the road and destroyed a bridge with airstrikes. That forced six buses to turn back to Palmyra, a Syrian government-controlled city, and stranded the remaining 11.</p> <p>A U.S. spokesman for the coalition told reporters Thursday that it has been striking ISIS fighters walking away from the convoy or trying to link up with the group, estimating that 85 ISIS fighters have been struck since the start of the standoff.</p> <p>The coalition has not struck the convoy itself and has allowed food and water to get through, citing the women and children in the buses.</p> <p>Col. Ryan Dillon, a spokesman for the coalition, also said Thursday that the United States had used the so-called deconfliction line it uses to communicate with the Russians to try to separate the women and children from the ISIS fighters. But Dillon said that effort had “not gained any traction.”</p>

	Syrian forces broke a three-year ISIS siege on Deir al-Zour in eastern Syria earlier this week. As part of that assault, pro-Syrian regime forces advanced past the ISIS convoy Friday morning, according to the coalition.
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HEADLINE	09/09 Syria army secures key ISIS oil field
SOURCE	https://www.upi.com/Top_News/World-News/2017/09/09/Syrian-army-secures-key-Islamic-State-oil-field/6801504960783/?utm_source=fp&utm_campaign=ts_pi&utm_medium=4
GIST	<p>Sept. 9 (UPI) -- The Syrian Arab Army reclaimed several villages and a key oil field as part of intensive operations against <u>Islamic State</u> hideouts.</p> <p>The Syrian Army struck out of the recently reclaimed city of Ash-Shula to secure the Thayyem oil field from IS forces and continue its advance toward the southwest entrance to the city of Deir Ezzor, <u>Al-Masdar News reported</u>.</p> <p>Following the move, Syrian forces can add additional pressure to IS positions between Deir Ezzor city and the Deir Ezzor military airport.</p> <p>The Syrian army <u>reached the western outskirts</u> of the city on Tuesday after Islamic State defenses collapsed.</p> <p>In addition to securing the oil field, the Syrian Army also took control of several villages in the Homs province -- including Um Sahrij, al-Harsh, Alam Sharqi, Kherbit Jeb Habel and Kherbit al-Haiwaniyeh, the <u>government-run Syrian Arab News Agency said</u>.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/09 Duterte rejects deal w/Islamist rebels
SOURCE	http://www.reuters.com/article/us-philippines-militants-duterte/philippine-leader-says-no-way-hell-do-deal-with-islamist-rebels-idUSKCN1BK0PI?il=0
GIST	<p>MANILA (Reuters) - Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte on Saturday ruled out the possibility of allowing Islamic State-linked militants to flee a southern city in exchange for the release of dozens of hostages.</p> <p>The militants seized large parts of Marawi City on the island of Mindanao in May, and a hardcore of fighters has held out through more than 100 days of air strikes and ground attacks by troops.</p> <p>“No way,” Duterte told reporters when asked about a rumor that one rebel leader, Omarkhayam Maute, had proposed releasing hostages in exchange for the safe exit of the militants.</p> <p>Pockets of fighters remain in the ruins of the heart of a city devastated by artillery and bombings, in an occupation that has alarmed the region about the possibility of Islamic State, on the back foot in Iraq and Syria, making a new home in the southern Philippines.</p> <p>The military has launched its final push to retake Marawi, and is coming under heavy fire from gunmen as troops try to secure buildings and navigate through mines and booby-traps.</p> <p>The military estimates about 20 to 30 hostages are being held, some of whom it says were forced to take up arms against government troops.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/09 Report: Saudi govt. funded 9/11 'dry run'
SOURCE	http://www.foxnews.com/us/2017/09/09/saudi-government-allegedly-funded-dry-run-for-911-report-says.html
GIST	<p>Fresh evidence submitted in a major 9/11 lawsuit moving forward against the Saudi Arabian government reveals its embassy in Washington may have funded a “dry run” for the hijackings carried out by two Saudi employees, further reinforcing the claim employees and agents of the kingdom directed and aided the 9/11 hijackers and plotters.</p> <p>Two years before the airliner attacks, the Saudi Embassy paid for two Saudi nationals, living undercover in the US as students, to fly from Phoenix to Washington “in a dry run for the 9/11 attacks,” alleges the amended complaint filed on behalf of the families of some 1,400 victims who died in the terrorist attacks 16 years ago.</p> <p>The court filing provides new details that paint “a pattern of both financial and operational support” for the 9/11 conspiracy from official Saudi sources, lawyers for the plaintiffs say. In fact, the Saudi government may have been involved in underwriting the attacks from the earliest stages — including testing cockpit security.</p> <p>“We’ve long asserted that there were longstanding and close relationships between al Qaeda and the religious components of the Saudi government,” said Sean Carter, the lead attorney for the 9/11 plaintiffs.</p> <p>“This is further evidence of that.”</p> <p>Lawyers representing Saudi Arabia last month filed a motion to dismiss the lawsuit, which may finally be headed toward trial now that Congress has cleared diplomatic-immunity hurdles. A Manhattan federal judge has asked the 9/11 plaintiffs, represented by lead law firm Cozen O’Connor, to respond to the motion by November.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/09 Syria breaks ISIS siege of key airport
SOURCE	http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/latest-syrian-army-breaks-siege-key-airport-49724278?cid=clicksource_76_4_article%20roll_articleroll_hed
GIST	<p>Syrian state media says government forces have broken the Islamic State group's siege of the airport to the eastern city of Deir el-Zour, relieving government forces trapped inside and laying the ground for further gains against the militants.</p> <p>SANA news agency reported the development Saturday. It said government forces had broken the siege on two Deir el-Zour neighborhoods as well.</p> <p>The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for <u>Human Rights</u> monitoring group said pro-government forces opened an artery to the airport. It has been besieged by IS militants since early this year. Pro-government forces from other parts of the country reached Deir el-Zour, also under IS siege, for the first time since 2014 last week.</p> <p>Civilians and security forces inside the city were supported during the siege by air drops from the U.N. and risky shipments via the airport.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/08 WH: no credible 9/11 anniversary threat
SOURCE	http://abcnews.go.com/Politics/wireStory/wh-credible-threat-leading-911-anniversary-49709204
GIST	<u>White House</u> <u>Homeland Security</u> adviser Tom Bossert says there is no "credible" terrorist threat against the United States leading up to the anniversary of the 9/11 attacks.

Bossert says Friday that there is no "current, credible, actionable threat." He also says "no terrorist should view us as vulnerable right now."

The anniversary of the attacks is Monday. Bossert says President Donald Trump will "receive a comprehensive picture of terrorist threat level and what we're doing to counter it." He says that's a practice that started after 9/11.

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Suspicious, Unusual

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HEADLINE	09/10 Hmong pot growers northern Calif.
SOURCE	http://www.latimes.com/local/california/la-me-hmong-marijuana-siskiyou-20170910-htmstory.html
GIST	<p>The narcotics officer stood on a windswept ridge near the Oregon border and surveyed the fields cut into the hills below, a landscape resembling a lost piece of wine country.</p> <p>The terraces of Siskiyou County, however, were planted in cannabis.</p> <p>More than 1,500 Hmong farmers in the last two years have poured into this remote county, so vast it encompasses two western mountain ranges.</p> <p>By the second growing season in 2016, satellite images showed nearly 1,000 parcels laden with dark green crops. Depending on whose yield estimates and black market prices you rely on, the Hmong's Siskiyou crop had a value as high as \$1 billion.</p> <p>Where it was bound for, the growers would not say.</p> <p>Mouying Lee, a businessman whose name surfaces in every facet of the Siskiyou marijuana story, said with a deadpan delivery that his clansmen came here "for the <i>feng shui</i>" of the mountains. He pointed out that most of the landholders are elderly: Former factory workers and mechanics from Wisconsin. Old aunts and uncles.</p> <p>The abundant crop is grown for personal use, Lee said. For poultices and shower rinses. For broth and tea. County officials don't buy it. They say that Siskiyou is being forced into the nation's \$49-billion black market for marijuana, sparking a modern range war.</p> <p>So much land has changed hands so quickly in cash deals that Sheriff Jon Lopey is convinced he is fighting the hidden hand of organized crime.</p> <p>Land speculators more than a half-century ago carved Siskiyou County's unbuildable high desert and mountain slopes into half a dozen large subdivisions with "vacation" parcels — many of which did not sell and later wound up trading for \$500 an acre on eBay.</p> <p>Mount Shasta Vista rose along the western edge of the valley, a floor of volcanic debris crusted by a thin growth of stunted juniper and bitterbrush. Southerly breezes catch glacier-capped Shasta to the east, and Mount Eddy on the Trinity Range to the west, squeezing through the valley in gusts that commonly reach 70 mph.</p> <p>Satellite images in 2014 of the fallow development, with its 1,641 lots and mostly absentee owners, showed a handful of houses, some rusted junk and two marijuana patches.</p> <p>The Hmong began arriving in earnest in early 2015.</p> <p>A third of the Mount Shasta Vista parcels bore Hmong names by the end of 2016. They sold at five times</p>

their assessed value, and the subdivision's moonscape supported 508 telltale gardens of green.

With them came makeshift fences, trash piles and swimming pools converted into cheap water tanks. The newcomers hauled in soil, erected drying racks from plastic pipe and slept in plywood sheds. If there was power, it came from a generator, and a portable toilet stood sentry at each gate — sometimes along with an American flag.

A similar scene played out in four other developments throughout the county.

California permits marijuana cultivation for personal medical use, but leaves local governments to decide how much — if any — to allow.

It took a single growing season in 2015 for Siskiyou County supervisors to ban outdoor cultivation, punishable by a fine. The crops could also be destroyed if authorities determined they were for commercial sale.

As unease with marijuana grew into complaints and then scrutiny from county supervisors, Lee organized a community collective. Following the first harvest of 2015, the Hmong council handed out frozen turkeys as a gesture of goodwill.

When that didn't calm the waters, Lee retained lawyers from the legal group Pier 5 — champions of controversial clients, such as the Black Panthers and San Francisco Chinatown mobsters.

Public records show Lee and a relative, Vince Wavue Lee, tracked down the absentee owners of more than 50 lots, paid them above-market prices and then transferred the properties as "gifts" to other Hmong.

They were friends and family members who didn't like to conduct business in English, the pair said. Sometimes they fronted the money, trusting they would be paid back. They said they made no profit.

Some Hmong community leaders are distressed to see struggling immigrants again grabbing at what seems like easy cash.

Chat boards carry tales of growers earning \$10,000 a month. Entire family clans are invested in the marijuana operations.

Aunts, cousins and elders put their names on deeds or show up at harvest. One 2015 raid on a Siskiyou County marijuana processing house found 23 people inside, ages 19 to 77.

"It is an open secret," said a Hmong leader in Sacramento, seeking anonymity because his past candor resulted in death threats.

In his eyes, marijuana is the new opium.

He also struggles with the desire to create a new Hmong enclave in the mountains — a drive he believes holds his people back from assimilating. "There is a reason after 40 years we are still on welfare," he said.

California paved the way for the black market in 1996, legalizing medical marijuana in terms so loose that growers can remain on the right side of the law right up until they take their crop to market. By 2010, the state grew enough cannabis that it could provide more than three-quarters of the illegal marijuana supply in the country. That's enough to make marijuana California's largest export commodity, eclipsing almonds, dairy, walnuts, wine and pistachios combined.

Large trespass grows on public lands remain a law enforcement target. But a 2013 federal memo promised to ignore small-scale trade in pot-legal states, and California set no limits on what constitutes personal use. The result: the ubiquitous 99-plant grow, enough marijuana to keep 420 daily smokers supplied for a year, but one plant below the threshold for a five-year federal prison term. There are now hundreds of them in

Siskiyou County.

Spurred by complaints of slat fences, water trucks tearing up roads, fertilizer runoff and trash, Siskiyou County supervisors banned outdoor cultivation in November 2015.

“They treat the Hmong as unwelcome,” Mouying Lee said. “We make the economy grow: Walmart. Tractor Supply. But still they are ignorant about the people.”

The lawyers at Pier 5 peppered officials with letters threatening litigation if Siskiyou County enforced the ban. Lee and his supporters collected signatures to put the marijuana ban to a countywide vote on the June 2016 ballot. They registered Hmong farmers to vote.

County Clerk Colleen Setzer, doubling as the county registrar, said she was alarmed by the voter cards turned in. Scores registered at the same house — 55 at Lee’s address. Nearly 200 listed no home address at all, or the parcel number of a vacant lot.

For six months, Setzer forwarded her suspicions of voter fraud to the state. Investigators from Secretary of State Alex Padilla’s office did not show up until six days before the June vote to question 39 newly registered voters. The investigators sought a sheriff’s escort when they learned they had to go into the marijuana fields.

They could not locate most of the 39 voters. The search was described in press releases issued by Pier 5 lawyers as “county officials armed with assault rifles” who “threatened Hmong citizens ... if they attempted to vote.”

Lori Shellenberger, a voting strategist with the American Civil Liberties Union in San Diego, said: “It was like Mississippi in the 1960s.”

The next morning, Padilla’s office switched directions, sending an emergency request to the U.S. Justice Department seeking election monitors in Siskiyou. It diverted its own poll watchers to the far north county.

The initiative failed to pass, leaving the growing ban in place.

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HEADLINE	09/10 Scotland: mass children's grave
SOURCE	https://www.upi.com/Top_News/World-News/2017/09/10/Up-to-400-children-buried-in-mass-grave-at-Scottish-orphanage/7581505088422/?utm_source=fp&utm_campaign=ts&utm_medium=4
GIST	<p>Sept. 10 (UPI) -- The bodies of at least 400 children are believed to be buried in a mass grave in Scotland after an inquiry into child abuse at an orphanage ran by Catholic nuns.</p> <p>Records indicate that the Smyllum Park orphanage deaths, most of which occurred between 1870 and 1930, appear to be from diseases such as tuberculosis, flu and scarlet fever, reported the <u>Sunday Post</u>. Deaths also occurred from accidents and malnutrition.</p> <p>"It is heartbreaking to discover so many children may have been buried in these unmarked graves. After so many years of silence, we must now know the truth of what happened here," said former First Minister, Jack McConnell.</p> <p>The high infant mortality rate at the orphanage, which closed in 1981 and was operated by the Daughters of Charity of St Vincent de Paul, has raised concerns about conditions there.</p> <p>The Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry is officially investigating the former orphanage on claims of child abuse. In a statement, the Daughters of Charity told the <u>BBC</u> they are "cooperating fully" with the investigation.</p>

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HEADLINE	09/10 Canada: deportations war-torn nations
SOURCE	http://www.reuters.com/article/us-canada-immigration-deportation/canada-deported-hundreds-to-war-torn-countries-government-data-idUSKCN1BL0VB?il=0
GIST	<p>TORONTO (Reuters) - Canada has deported hundreds of people to countries designated too dangerous for civilians, with more than half of those people being sent back to Iraq, according to government data obtained by Reuters.</p> <p>The spike in deportations comes as Canada faces a record number of migrants and is on track to have the most refugee claims in more than a decade. That has left the country scrambling to cope with the influx of asylum seekers, many crossing the U.S. border illegally.</p> <p>Between January 2014 and Sept. 6, 2017, Canada sent 249 people to 11 countries for which the government had suspended or deferred deportations because of dangers to civilians.</p> <p>That includes 134 people to Iraq, 62 to the Democratic Republic of Congo and 43 to Afghanistan, the data shows.</p> <p>The number of Iraq deportations increased from 22 in 2014 to 51 in 2016 and stands at 35 so far this year.</p> <p>“The decision to remove someone from Canada is not taken lightly,” Canada Border Services Agency spokeswoman Patrizia Giolti wrote in an email.</p> <p>“Everyone ordered removed from Canada is entitled to due process before the law, and all removal orders are subject to various levels of appeal.”</p> <p>The Canada Council for Refugees has said existing avenues of appeal are too limited, leaving little recourse for people facing deportation to dangerous countries.</p> <p>Canada can deport anyone who is not a citizen, for reasons including criminality, exhausting attempts to obtain permanent residency and non-compliance with immigration laws.</p> <p>The federal government has suspension or deferral designations for countries or regions deemed dangerous but may still deport people to them because of criminality, security risks or human rights violations.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/10 China limiting tungsten output
SOURCE	https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2017-09-10/china-sends-one-of-the-west-s-most-critical-materials-soaring
GIST	<p>The price of one of the most critical materials for the Western world’s economy and defenses is spiking faster than any major commodity.</p> <p>Tungsten, used to harden steel in ballistic missiles and in drill bits, has surged more than 50 percent in the last two months amid growing concern about supply cutbacks in China, where about 80 percent of the metal comes from. The country is clamping down on polluting mines and enforcing production quotas.</p> <p>“The Chinese have been trying to impose control over the production in tungsten,” said Mark Seddon, senior manager at Argus Consulting (Metals). “They’ve used environmental policy to clamp down on non-quota production.”</p> <p>The price of tungsten in Europe has jumped 52 percent since early July, according to Metal Bulletin Ltd.</p>

	<p>The advance has beaten all 22 major materials in the Bloomberg Commodities Index.</p> <p>The European Union classes tungsten as a “critical” commodity and the British Geological Survey places it at the top of its <u>supply-risk</u> list of materials needed to maintain the U.K.’s economy and lifestyle. In 2012, it became a flash point when then U.S. President Barack Obama filed a complaint to the World Trade Organization against Chinese supply curbs.</p> <p>China limits supply to about 91,300 metric tons a year, but routinely breaks its quota by as much as 50 percent, partly because a lot comes as a byproduct from mines that produce other metals such as molybdenum, Seddon said.</p> <p>It seems that tolerance has gone, at least for now. China’s Ministry of Industry and Information Technology issued an <u>edict</u> on June 6 saying producers should stick to output quotas and that those without quotas, or which exceed the quotas, should halt production. Quotas also shouldn’t be granted to firms that infringe safety or environmental rules.</p> <p>“The government wants to have control,” said Seddon, who has covered the industry for at least 15 years. “Whether this carries on into next year is more difficult to predict.”</p>
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HEADLINE	09/10 Thrill seekers risk lives for selfies
SOURCE	https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/4432866/shocking-moment-people-risk-their-lives-to-take-selfies-as-hurricane-irma-batters-florida/
GIST	<p>DAREDEVILS risked their lives by taking SELFIES as deadly Hurricane Irma smashed into the Florida Keys - where it claimed its first US victims.</p> <p>Thrillseekers were spotted on beaches taking photos despite <u>the 130mph eye of the storm sending seawater gushing through the streets</u>. Foreboding storm clouds could be seen darkening the skies overhead as the dopey locals posed up to get the perfect Hurricane Irma snap.</p> <p>Some daring Floridians were even seen wading into the sea despite forecasters warning of storm surges as high as 15 feet (4.5 meters).</p> <p>Almost the entire state of Florida is now under a hurricane warning with fears of devastating gales, torrents of rain and a life-threatening storm surges.</p> <p>Irma today claimed its first Florida victim when a man was killed in pickup truck crash caused by the appalling weather conditions. The state has since confirmed to more deaths.</p> <p>Pictures taken by terrified locals caught up in the midst of Irma reveal the low-lying Keys being buffeted by winds and heavy rain.</p> <p>Earlier, 6.4 million people had been told to run for their lives as the killer winds approached.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/09 Critics: steer clear of Red Cross
SOURCE	https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/2017/09/09/hurricane-needs-swell-some-suggest-steering-clear-red-cross-why/628818001/
GIST	<p>As Hurricane Irma swirled toward Florida's southern coast, the American Red Cross continued to be dogged on social media by people suggesting that donations intended to help victims of the storm send their money elsewhere.</p>

The American Red Cross, a 136-year-old institution that is usually among the first to swoop in and set up shelters, health clinics and mobile kitchens in times of need, is one of the big and traditional beneficiaries of donations when disasters happen.

Since Hurricane Harvey hit Texas, the Red Cross has collected \$211 million. Recent criticisms of the organization on Twitter and Facebook — sentiments that can be summed up as "donate elsewhere" — recently led American Red Cross CEO Gail McGovern to issue a video statement insisting it does, with 91 cents of every dollar going to Hurricane Harvey relief.

"Americans work hard for their money," she said. "That's why we're committed to being the very best stewards of our donor's dollars. We keep our expenses low."

Her defense of the organization comes as the recent hurricanes have resurfaced stinging critiques. A congressional report and several media investigations have found fault with the Red Cross' management and performance, suggesting the organization spends as much as 25% of donations on administrative, promotional and overhead costs.

A study released last summer by Sen. Charles Grassley, R-Iowa, claimed the Red Cross had spent \$124 million — or a quarter of the money donors gave after the devastating 2010 earthquake in Haiti — on internal expenses.

Since 2014, National Public Radio and ProPublica have teamed up for investigations into Red Cross spending. Those reports argue that the agency, whose main role is as a blood broker, spends just a small fraction of its money on its high-publicity disaster relief programs and has made "dubious claims of success."

The outlets' reports specifically slammed the agency's response to Superstorm Sandy and Hurricane Isaac in 2012. And last year, the Red Cross came under more fire from the outlets, which reported that its response to flooding in Louisiana had drawn significant complaints from relief organizers who often were left without promised assistance.

Red Cross officials say they stand by the organization's work and spending policies.

"All elements of our disaster program, from purchasing supplies to training volunteers to maintaining staff, play a role in directly helping disaster victims," Red Cross vice president of communications Elizabeth Penniman told USA TODAY. "We only use a small amount of every dollar for fundraising, as well as the management and general expenses that are required to conduct the work of the American Red Cross."

In response to questions about its 91 cents claim, Penniman of the Red Cross said that "we say 'every dollar we spend' because we don't apply the 9 cents for our management, general and fundraising expenses until the dollar is spent. We wait until the funds have been distributed, rather than when they are raised."

She pointed out that, according to its website's latest count, the Red Cross post-Harvey has so far has tallied 186,000 overnight stays, served more than 900,000 meals and had more than 3,000 workers distribute some 200,000 relief items ranging from diapers to toothbrushes.

Despite any shortcomings, the Red Cross is a massive first-response organization that remains worthy of donations, says Daniel Borochoff, president and founder of Charity Watch, which rates relief organizations and gives the Red Cross a B+.

"The Red Cross is necessary as a vitally important lead disaster relief agency," he says. "It's wrong and damaging to say don't give your money to them. The message should be, give some to them for emergency short term needs, then give some to groups that are able to address longer term needs."

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HEADLINE	09/10 Issue: no body-cam Bennet incident
SOURCE	http://www.seattlepi.com/sports/football/article/Michael-Bennett-Las-Vegas-Police-Jeffrey-Noble-12177583.php
GIST	<p>It was a chaotic scene: After receiving reports of an active shooter inside The Cromwell casino in the early hours of Aug. 27, a handful of Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department officers rushed past hundreds of people pouring onto city streets already swelled with thousands of extra revelers following a championship prize fight.</p> <p>The potential for a massive tragedy -- perhaps along the lines of the Pulse nightclub shooting in Orlando that left 50 people dead -- must have been in the forefront of each officer's mind. But this is what they train for. They ran in looking to neutralize someone possibly intent on shooting scores of people.</p> <p>It is one of the highest-stress, highest-stakes situations a police officer can face.</p> <p>Except there was no shooter. Sounds originally believed to be gunshots may have been nothing more than a couple of metal objects hitting a tile floor. That no lives were lost doesn't excuse the treatment Seahawks star Michael Bennett says he received at the hands of LVPD officers -- at least not yet. And according to police expert with nearly three decades of experience in law enforcement, the fact that we don't have all the information from the scene means we need to withhold judgement -- of the officers, of Bennett -- for now.</p> <p>Jeffrey Noble, a former deputy chief of the Irvine Police Department in Southern California, now serves as a <u>consultant and expert witness</u> in matters of police use of force. He <u>testified against Minnesota police officer Jeronimo Yanez</u> after Yanez shot and killed Philando Castile during a traffic stop in 2016. (Yanez was eventually found not guilty of manslaughter.)</p> <p>After reviewing Bennett's accusations and the official statements from LVPD (including a five-minute bodycam video from the night in question), Noble said we simply need more time to determine what exactly happened. He also said the department's admission that potentially conclusive footage doesn't exist because an officer failed to activate his camera was "extremely disappointing."</p> <p>In order to make a fair assessment of the situation, however, Noble said it is important to remember what kind of call officers were responding to.</p> <p>"We don't have an easy call to make at this point because we don't know the facts," Noble told SeattlePI. "We know some of the circumstances. We know why the officers were there. We know that they were acting in a consistent belief with why they were there. They believed that there was a shooting going on, which is putting a lot of people at risk of death or bodily injury. So that's where we start."</p> <p>On Wednesday Bennett released a statement on social media <u>accusing LVPD officers of using excessive force</u>. He said after he exited the casino an officer pointed a gun at his head and threatened to kill him. In a press conference later in the day, a visibly shaken Bennett called the incident a "traumatic experience" before becoming too emotional to continue answering questions.</p> <p>Bennett's statement included an accusation of racial profiling, and he has retained a prominent civil-rights attorney to explore his legal options. According to Bennett, officers singled him out as he fled the casino, and after Bennett complied with the officers' request to get on the ground, an LVPD officer put a gun near his head and threatened to "blow my (expletive) head off" if he moved. Another officer then handcuffed him while jamming a knee into Bennett's back, "making it difficult to breathe."</p> <p>"Las Vegas police officers singled me out and pointed their guns at me for doing nothing more than simply being a black man in the wrong place at the wrong time," he wrote.</p> <p>Noble said pointing a gun at someone is "a use of force in and of itself," and may indeed be unethical or even criminal, but he believes it is too early in the investigation of the incident to make a claim of misconduct or racial bias.</p>

"There are times where it's very apparent that race is a factor, and there's other times where it may be a factor," he said. "We just simply don't know at this point.

"Anybody can come up and say, 'Of course that's wrong. Of course this is another example of a police officer pointing a gun at a black man for no reason,'" he continued. "Well, I think we have enough to look at and say this is more than that. We're not sure what happened here. We definitely need to investigate it. We definitely need to look into it."

In a Wednesday press conference, LVPD Undersheriff Kevin McMahill said Bennett's behavior -- hiding behind a gaming machine before running out of the building -- led to him being singled out.

"Due to Bennett's actions and the information the officers had at the time, they believed Bennett may have been involved in the shooting, and they gave chase," McMahill said.

In video of the incident, officers are heard instructing bystanders to take cover during their first sweep of the building. On a second sweep, officers are heard shouting, "Everybody out!" In video footage obtained by TMZ, Bennett tells officers he was following instructions.

"They told us to get out," he said as an officer handcuffed him. "Everybody ran."

Las Vegas police say they have 126 pieces of video footage to comb through in their internal investigation, which began after Bennett released his statement Wednesday. The fact that the incident happened in and around a casino wired with video equipment should provide enough evidence to figure out why police targeted Bennett.

It's possible, Noble said, that Bennett's behavior legitimately raised "reasonable" suspicion in an active-shooter situation, particularly if Bennett ran into a crowded street outside the casino, as LVPD alleges, while other bystanders milled about.

"People in a panic situation sometimes make poor judgements," Noble said. "But (running into the street) certainly would raise the suspicion more than somebody who did something else."

It is also possible that officers made a grave mistake that could have resulted in a tragedy.

"This is one of those situations that is incredibly difficult to assess until all the information's been looked at," Noble said. "Maybe the police did things wrong. I don't know, and I don't think anybody can tell you that (yet)."

Noble expressed dismay at the fact that the officer who detained Bennett didn't turn on his bodycam, which could have yielded conclusive proof of Bennett's claims. He suspects the officer's failure to turn on his camera is a violation of department policy and expects him to face disciplinary action if so.

"That's incredibly disappointing," Noble said. "Those policies are in place for this very circumstance. The absence of a camera when the camera was there and available is problematic."

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HEADLINE	09/10 Fla. sheriff warns: don't shoot at Irma
SOURCE	http://www.seattlepi.com/national/article/Hurricane-Irma-Florida-residents-warned-not-to-12186457.php
GIST	Florida authorities have issued another stern warning about Hurricane Irma: Shooting bullets into the storm won't help keep you safe. The Pasco County Sheriff's Office tweeted late Saturday: "DO NOT shoot weapons @ (hashtag) Irma.

<p>Return to Top</p>	<p>You won't make it turn around (and) it will have very dangerous side effects."</p> <p>The sheriff's office, which is in the Tampa Bay-area, was responding to a Facebook event page created two Florida men inviting people to shoot at Irma.</p> <p><u>The page reads:</u> "YO SO THIS GOOFY ... LETS SHOW IRMA THAT WE SHOOT FIRST ..."</p> <p>The invitation presumably was a joke, but 80,000 people indicated they were "going" or "interested" in the event.</p> <p>In a tweet early Sunday, the Pasco County Sheriff's Office asked the thousands of people who had shared the page to also share their request for volunteers needed at hurricane shelters.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/09 Out of work, taking prescription opioids
SOURCE	https://www.nbcnews.com/storyline/americas-heroin-epidemic/they-re-out-work-taking-prescription-opioid-painkillers-n799871
GIST	<p>Legions of young American men who have dropped out of the labor force have this much in common — they're on prescription painkillers.</p> <p>So says a Princeton University economist who warns the opioid crisis is crippling communities across the country and poses long-term dangers to the U.S. economy.</p> <p>“The opioid crisis and depressed labor-force participation are now intertwined in many part of the U.S.,” Alan Krueger wrote in a <u>study</u> that was released this week by the Brookings Institution.</p> <p>Nearly half of these men “take pain medication of a daily basis, and in nearly two-thirds of these cases they take prescription pain medication,” Krueger wrote. “Labor force participation has fallen more in areas where relatively more opioid pain medication is prescribed.”</p> <p>Asked whether painkillers are the reason they aren't working — or whether these men turn to painkillers as a result of prolonged unemployment — <u>Krueger</u> had an answer at the ready.</p> <p>“It is very likely some of both,” Krueger wrote Friday in an email to NBC News.</p> <p>Krueger, who was the chief economist in the Treasury Department during the Obama Administration, reached his conclusions after doing a survey of 571 men, ages 25 to 54, who were not working.</p> <p>“The results of this survey underscore the role of pain in the lives on nonworking men, and the widespread use of prescription pain medication,” he wrote. “Fully 47 percent of NLF (not in labor force) prime age men responded that they took pain medication on the previous day.”</p> <p>And nearly two-thirds of those said they were taking prescription meds, he wrote.</p> <p>“Thus, on any given day, 31 percent of NLF prime age men take pain medication, most likely an opioid-based medication,” he wrote. “And these figures likely understate the actual proportion of men taking prescription pain medication given the stigma and legal risk associated with reporting taking narcotics.”</p>
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HEADLINE	09/09 Drones are future of disaster relief?
SOURCE	https://www.nbcnews.com/mach/science/hurricanes-show-why-drones-are-future-disaster-relief-ncna799961

<p>GIST</p>	<p>Having moved on from its path of destruction in the Caribbean, Hurricane Irma is now bearing down on Florida. And as anxious Floridians board up their windows in preparation for the deadly hurricane's projected landfall on Sunday morning, disaster-response teams are readying their drones.</p> <p>Dozens of unmanned aerial vehicles were deployed in Houston in response to Hurricane Harvey, and UAVs are expected to be out in full force across Florida in coming days. Experts say UAVs will likely play an even bigger role in relief efforts when future storms or earthquakes hit.</p> <p>Drones can perform critical tasks as disasters unfold, including spotting people in need of urgent help. Evidence suggests drones may have certain advantages over traditional search-and-rescue efforts — including speed.</p> <p>In preliminary research conducted in Europe last year, drones found isolated people much faster than did traditional ground-based rescue teams. Drones can also deliver rescue ropes and life jackets in areas that are too dangerous for ground-based rescuers to venture into.</p> <p>Drones are also providing help in the aftermath of disasters — for example, to assess damage to buildings, roads and bridges, and power lines. "This is one of the first big disasters where we can show how valuable drones can be," Brandon Stark, director of the University of California's Center of Excellence on Unmanned Aircraft System Safety, told Wired in reference to Hurricane Harvey.</p> <p>Among the groups that put up drones over Houston in Harvey's wake was one led by Dr. Robin Murphy, a professor of computer science at Texas A&M University and director of the university's Center for Robot-Assisted Search and Rescue. Her team flew 119 UAV missions over Houston using a range of drones, from small quadcopters like the ones popular with hobbyists to the military-grade Insitu ScanEagle, an unmanned plane that launches from a catapult.</p> <p>In addition to spotting people in need of help and assessing flood damage, Murphy said her team's drones were used to monitor levees, predict further flooding, and help provide estimates of how long certain areas would be underwater. And Mike Winn, CEO of the San Francisco-based drone mapping and analytics company DroneDeploy, said drones operated by the nonprofit organization Humanitarian Drones had used his company's software to create detailed maps to help emergency-management agencies assess storm damage in Houston. Winn said Humanitarian Drones plans to mount a similar effort in Florida as Irma hits there.</p> <p>Murphy said she was pleased that drones are becoming an integral part of disaster relief efforts — and surprised that it took so long. "If you'd told me in 2005, having seen their clear value after Katrina, that it would be 10 years before they were adopted by all of the emergency management systems, I would have laughed," she said. "I'm really excited that this may be the time where everybody sees that it's time to get them in the hands of emergency managers."</p>
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<p>HEADLINE</p>	<p>09/09 Hurricanes drive addiction issues to open</p>
<p>SOURCE</p>	<p>http://abcnews.go.com/Health/wireStory/hurricanes-drive-addiction-issues-public-square-49722960</p>
<p>GIST</p>	<p>In the whirr of preparations for Hurricane Irma, a needle exchange program in Miami's Overtown neighborhood handed out extra syringes to heroin users. Others trying to break from the drug's grasp picked up advance medication from <u>methadone</u> clinics.</p> <p>Disasters cause stress, and stress can cause relapse for people struggling with addiction, whether their problem is alcohol, tobacco, pills or heroin. Authorities planning for the devastating effects of hurricanes now factor in the heightened danger of relapse and overdose.</p> <p>The problems of alcoholism and addiction become more public in a storm, said researcher Andrew Golub of the National Development and Research Institutes in New York, who studied illicit drug users in New</p>

Orleans after Hurricane Katrina.

"During a storm, it becomes harder to hide and cope with one's addiction in private," Golub said.

Scientists learned from Hurricane Katrina and Superstorm Sandy. Drug users took chances during storms, researchers found, avoiding evacuation to stay near their dealers or sharing needles with strangers putting themselves in danger of HIV and hepatitis. Those in treatment missed doses of medications and went back to street drugs to avoid withdrawal sickness. During Sandy, clinics that lost power measured methadone by candlelight.

"Disasters like this interrupt treatment," said Enrique Pouget, whose team interviewed 300 injection drug users in New York after the 2012 storm.

Methadone programs, highly regulated by the government, are required to have disaster emergency plans. The state of Florida, in cooperation with federal authorities, granted methadone clinics discretion to provide up to five days of medication ahead of Hurricane Irma.

In Texas and Louisiana, some patients took home advance doses of methadone. Others received it in shelters or from alternative facilities.

Florida's first needle exchange program — aimed at preventing overdoses and blood-borne infections — faces its biggest challenge yet with Irma. This past week, Dr. Hansel Tookes and his team gave away a week's supply of clean needles and overdose reversal kits, or Narcan.

"We want to make sure all of our people have Narcan so they can save lives and be first responders in the storm," Tookes said of the 400 drug users who rely on his program. Drug users equipped with Narcan can save others who overdose.

Mark Kinzly, co-founder of the Texas Overdose Naloxone Initiative, said his group distributed around 500 kits to clinics along the Texas coast in the midst of Harvey cleanup. Storms can be disastrous for people with addictions because they interrupt routines and schedules, he said.

"There's people that are going to be without jobs and without homes because of this hurricane," Kinzly said. "They're going to be less stable in their overall lives to begin with. That can be dangerous."

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HEADLINE	09/08 Canada to open 150 govt. pot stores
SOURCE	https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2017-09-08/canada-pot-stocks-rally-as-ontario-to-open-weed-storefronts
GIST	<p>Canadian marijuana producers rose on Friday after Ontario said it will open as many as 150 government-run pot stores and allow online purchases as the country gears up for legalized recreational sales next July.</p> <p>The Liquor Control Board of Ontario will reach the 150-store target by 2020 and manage the sale and distribution of marijuana, Ontario Finance Minister Charles Sousa said Friday. The stores won't be housed inside government-owned liquor stores, and there will be as many as 80 stores operational in the first year, he said.</p> <p>Shares of <u>Canopy Growth Corp.</u>, the first marijuana company with a market value of C\$1 billion (\$825 million), rose as much as 5 percent intraday in Toronto, the most since July 26. <u>MedReleaf Corp.</u> rose as much as 5.1 percent, Aurora Cannabis Inc. gained 1.6 percent and Aphria Inc. increased 2.5 percent.</p> <p>"The LCBO model works," Sousa told reporters in Toronto. "It's proven and we feel strongly it's the right way to go."</p>

	Ontario is the first province to announce how it will <u>regulate</u> and distribute sales of marijuana when Canada moves to legalize recreational sales by next July. The plan also includes online sales and will ensure safe and controlled sales of marijuana and allow the province to shrink illicit sales and shut down illegal dispensaries, Sousa said. Buyers must be at least 19 years old, matching the minimum age for alcohol in Canada's most-populous province.
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HEADLINE	09/08 Western monarch butterfly near extinct
SOURCE	http://komonews.com/news/local/iconic-western-monarch-butterfly-nearing-extinction
GIST	<p>VANCOUVER, Wash. -- The western monarch butterfly is all but gone.</p> <p>WSU researchers say their numbers have declined 97% in the last few decades, driving them dangerously close to extinction. But until now, data on their number has been limited, so the species isn't even listed as "endangered."</p> <p>Biologist Cheryl Schultz says, "if [the numbers] continue going down at the rate we're going down now, we could lose these populations of migratory monarchs in the next few decades."</p> <p>Distinct from the eastern monarch, the species breeds in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Nevada, and Utah then migrates to coastal California for the winter. Schultz suspects the loss of that wintering habitat and a decline in breeding grounds as potential causes, though more research is needed.</p> <p>But she says the western monarch can still be saved. Schultz says a similar species was nearing extinction in Oregon back in the 1990s, but conservation efforts were able to save it.</p> <p>Schultz' research appears in the journal <i>Biological Conservation</i>.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/08 Puyallup police to 'channel' missing girl
SOURCE	http://www.thenewstribune.com/news/local/crime/article171924512.html
GIST	<p>On Sunday, Sept. 17, 25 years after her disappearance, Misty Copsey will speak — in spirit.</p> <p>"My name is Misty Copsey," she will say. "I am missing and I need your help."</p> <p>In a double-barrelled social media push, the Puyallup Police Department will devote its Facebook and Twitter feeds to the 14-year-old who vanished after a visit to the Puyallup Fair in 1992. The twin feeds will be hers and hers alone for the entire day.</p> <p>"As people wake up that morning, Misty will begin talking," Capt. Scott Engle said. "It's her face, her voice, her story."</p> <p>Using memories and photos provided by Misty's family, department leaders have written social media posts in the teen's voice that start with a short portrait of her early life before describing the night of her disappearance.</p> <p>Officials hope the effort will reach beyond the local area and yield tips that might solve one of the department's oldest unsolved cases.</p> <p>"We hope people will hear Misty through our feed, and bring attention to her disappearance," Engle said. "Hopefully, that leads to further information and tips for our case."</p> <p>The idea came to Engle during a recent law enforcement conference in California, he said. Speakers at the</p>

	<p>conference included a law enforcement contingent from Manitoba, where local police were trying to solve the case of a young woman who was abducted and killed.</p> <p>By pushing information out through Twitter and Facebook, investigators gained attention beyond the Canadian province, Engle said. Eventually, the case was solved.</p> <p>While Engle can't say the publicity push was the clincher, it provided useful information. He added that police in Miami recently deployed a similar strategy.</p> <p>Puyallup's attempt would represent only the third effort in North America to "personalize" law enforcement social media feeds using the victim's voice.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/08 Spokane regrets boulders for homeless
SOURCE	http://mynorthwest.com/745459/washington-city-regrets-using-boulders-to-move-homeless/
GIST	<p>SPOKANE, Wash. (AP) — Following blowback against a city in Washington state that voted to place basalt boulders under a highway overpass to deter homeless people from camping there, a city leader is now calling for creating a "tent city" instead.</p> <p>The Spokesman-Review reported Thursday that Spokane City Council President Ben Stuckart's tent city idea came after he heard from "hundreds" of people opposing the boulder plan, with many calling it inhumane.</p> <p>Struckart pushed for the boulder plan and sped it through the council's decision-making process. He then posted an apology on his Facebook pages.</p> <p>Spokane's Community and Neighborhood Services Division director Johnathan Mallahan says city law allows for temporary encampments.</p> <p>Such a camp would need a sponsor agency, a site plan, sanitary facilities and rules of conduct. The city has organized a forum on homelessness set for Sept. 25 at Spokane City Hall.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/08 Seattle to ditch plastic straws
SOURCE	http://mynorthwest.com/745715/seattle-go-straw-free-in-effort-to-curb-plastic-pollution/
GIST	<p>SEATTLE (AP) — Dozens of restaurants and others in Seattle are joining an effort this month to drop plastic straws to curb plastic pollution.</p> <p>The Lonely Whale Foundation says about 500 million plastic straws are used in the United States every day and many of them end up in the ocean, harming marine life.</p> <p>The group says the Seahawks, Mariners, Space Needle and Port of Seattle are among those taking part in the September campaign to dump plastic straws. During this time, they'll use durable paper straws that break down more easily.</p> <p>The Seattle Times says the efforts come ahead of a Seattle ban on plastic straws and utensils that takes effect in July 2018.</p> <p>Seattle Public Utilities says the ban is part of a 2008 ordinance that phases out various plastics products from the city's food industry. Grocery and supply stores are not included.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/10 Shooting at festival on MIT campus
SOURCE	http://www.seattlepi.com/news/education/article/Police-Shooting-reported-near-MIT-suspect-in-12186987.php
GIST	<p>CAMBRIDGE, Mass. (AP) — Police at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology say a shooting has been reported as a parade passed through the school's campus.</p> <p>MIT police say the shooting was reported just before 5 p.m. Sunday at 200 Tech Square. A suspect is in the custody of Cambridge police and a firearm has been recovered.</p> <p>Cambridge police say the shooting took place at the Cambridge Carnival. The event has been shut down.</p> <p>According to the Carnival's website, the event is a "colorful and festival celebration rooted in African traditions." It celebrates diversity and community.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/10 Portland: police arrest 7 protesters
SOURCE	http://mynorthwest.com/747888/the-latest-police-arrest-7-protesters-in-portland/
GIST	<p>PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — The Latest on protests in Portland, Oregon (all times local):</p> <p>4:43 p.m. Police have arrested seven people during protests in downtown Portland.</p> <p>Hundreds of people turned out Sunday to oppose a much smaller demonstration by the right-wing Patriot Prayer group. The Portland Police Bureau said the crowd became "violent and criminal," with anti-fascist protesters throwing smoke devices and other projectiles at officers in a waterfront park.</p> <p>Police responded with pepper spray and warnings that the crowd would be arrested if it didn't disperse. The department said on its Twitter feed that two officers had been injured.</p> <p>The Patriot Prayer group also held a demonstration featuring speakers, including group leader Joey Gibson, in Vancouver, Washington, later Sunday. Officials in Washington and Oregon closed the footpath of the Interstate 5 bridge over the Columbia River between the cities.</p> <p>The Oregonian/OregonLive reported that a protester had also been arrested at the Vancouver event.</p> <p>— 1:58 p.m. Police are making arrests as they clash with anti-fascist protesters in Portland.</p> <p>Hundreds of people turned out Sunday to oppose a much smaller demonstration by the right-wing Patriot Prayer group. The Portland Police Bureau said the crowd became "violent and criminal," with anti-fascist protesters throwing smoke devices and other projectiles at officers in a waterfront park.</p> <p>The department said on its Twitter feed that one officer had been injured and that photographers had also been attacked.</p> <p>The Patriot Prayer group also planned a demonstration in Vancouver, Washington, later Sunday. Officials in Washington and Oregon closed the footpath of the Interstate 5 bridge over the Columbia River between the cities.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/10 Tacoma: man w/gun killed by police
SOURCE	http://mynorthwest.com/747976/man-killed-in-officer-involved-shooting/
GIST	<p>A man is dead and three police officers are on paid administrative leave after an officer-involved shooting in Tacoma on Sunday afternoon.</p> <p>According to the Tacoma News Tribune, officers arrived to the 5600 block of South Lawrence Street around 3:20 p.m. to find a man screaming, acting erratically, and holding a handgun.</p> <p>Police spokesperson Loretta Cool said, “There was an exchange of words, commands, ‘Drop the weapon, drop the weapon,’ and then there was an exchange of gunfire.”</p> <p>Officers fired at the man — in his mid 40s — and he died at the scene.</p> <p>All three officers were unhurt, according to the Tribune. The officers are a 35-year-old man, a 38-year-old man, and a 47-year-old man.</p> <p>Cool told the Tribune two homes in the area were struck by bullets. The neighbors didn’t know the man who was shot.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/11 Florida police warn, arrest looters
SOURCE	http://www.foxnews.com/us/2017/09/11/hurricane-irma-cops-warn-looters-theyre-making-fairly-bad-life-choice.html
GIST	<p>Authorities in Florida warned residents that "going to prison over a pair of sneakers is a fairly bad life choice" following a series of burglary arrests as Hurricane Irma was slamming the state with heavy rains and winds.</p> <p>Police in Fort Lauderdale said nine were arrested in connection to a sportswear store burglary. The group, which was filmed by a local news station, allegedly stole sneakers.</p> <p>Police Chief Rick Maglione warned people in the statement that “Going to prison over a pair of sneakers is a fairly bad life choice” and residents should instead “Stay home and look after your loved ones and be thankful they are all safe.”</p> <p>The Miami-Dade Police Department also said on Twitter that there were 28 arrests for looting.</p> <p>Similar warnings were issued by other police departments across the state. “Any looters who come to Pembroke Pines will be greeted by our officers. Choose wisely and stay home,” wrote the Pembroke Pines Police Department.</p> <p>The Broward County Sheriff’s Office, meanwhile, wrote: “ATTENTION LOOTERS; Every incident will be investigated. Evidence collected will be used to pursue charges after the fact.”</p>
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HEADLINE	09/11 Texas: 8 fatally shot in home
SOURCE	https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/2017/09/10/reports-deadly-shooting-8-plano-texas/652379001/
GIST	<p>Eight people were fatally shot Sunday evening in a home in Plano, Texas, including the suspected gunman, who was killed by police.</p> <p>Two other shooting victims were taken to the hospital for medical treatment, Plano police officer David Tilley told USA TODAY.</p>

	<p>"We're looking into a motive," he said. The relationship between the victims and the shooter was not yet known, and all involved are believed to be adults, he said.</p> <p>The Texas Ranger Division of the Texas Department of Public Safety was also on the scene of the investigation, said Tilley. The officer who shot the suspect was placed on administrative leave pending the investigation, which is protocol, he said.</p> <p>The shooting happened shortly after 8 p.m. CT, Tilley said.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/10 Man w/knife attacks UK church members
SOURCE	http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4870094/Knifeman-arrested-stabbings-Birmingham-church.html
GIST	<p>A 46-year-old man has been arrested after three worshippers were hurt in church by the suspect who wielded a 'kitchen knife' in front of a horrified 150-strong Sunday service congregation.</p> <p>One victim, 33, suffered a neck wound before two other members of the congregation at the New Jerusalem Apostolic Church in Aston, <u>Birmingham</u>, hurt their hands while restraining the attacker.</p> <p>The church has named the victims as Karl George, Adam Brooks and Jorge George.</p> <p>Minister Kevin Hutchinson said about 150 people were taking part in the New Jerusalem Apostolic Church's Sunday service shortly before 11am when 'a man with a knife stormed into our sanctuary'. He said the attacker was challenged at the door by ushers and restrained.</p> <p>Officers at the scene arrested a 46-year-old man on suspicion of attempted murder. A West Midlands Police spokesman said: 'Two people who helped restrain the offender were taken to hospital with minor hand injuries. Early indications suggest that the offender and victim knew each other and that this was a targeted attack. This is not believed to be a terrorism related incident.'</p>
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HEADLINE	09/10 Hurricanes increase sexual assault risk
SOURCE	http://www.newsweek.com/hurricane-irma-shelters-sexual-assault-violence-shelters-662558
GIST	<p>Officials are well aware that incidences of rape and assault become more common in the wake of hurricanes such as Irma and Harvey. When state-wide evacuations for Hurricane Irma began last week, Florida's Polk County sheriff announced that sex offenders would be <u>banned from all shelters</u>.</p> <p>"We cannot and we will not have innocent children in a shelter with sexual offenders & predators. Period," he tweeted.</p> <p>It's still too early to tell if law enforcement and first responders in Florida will be successful in preventing a rise in these crimes of opportunity, especially in the hurricane's aftermath when a sense of lawlessness tends to pervade communities.</p> <p>In 2005, in the wake of Katrina, reports began to emerge about the uptick in incidences of rape and sexual assault. Some were victims who failed to evacuate, while others claimed to have been assaulted at shelters set up for evacuees. In one widely reported incident after Katrina, a perpetrator woke his victim in the shelter's communal sleeping area in the middle of the night. He threatened her with a knife then raped her.</p> <p>"There were some lessons to be learned from Katrina," Chau Nguyen of Houston Area Women's Center told Newsweek. She says improved security and additional training for Harvey's disaster response appear</p>

to have prevented incidents of sexual assault from occurring at shelters in Houston. She has not heard of any problems, at least not yet.

In the days leading up to evacuations, Nguyen helped lay the groundwork to secure shelters with nighttime monitors, and worked with other advocacy groups to get law enforcement on the same page. This hasn't historically been the case.

After Katrina, the National Sexual Violence Resource Center and other organizations developed an anonymous database of self-reported sexual assaults and found rape crisis centers in cities along the Gulf Coast reported receiving an average of more than 100 calls about incidents of assault and rape from Katrina evacuees. Women and girls accounted for 93 percent of the victims. Many more probably occurred but went unreported, since emergency response and law enforcement were stretched thin by countless pressing needs from the public.

Jane Henrici, a senior research affiliate with the Institute for Women's Policy Research says a closer look determined that disaster relief groups were not prepared to sufficiently respond to incidents of sexual violence during Katrina.

Essentially, responding to individual crises such as rape typically isn't part of the standard protocol for on-the-ground aid in natural disasters. First responders trained with the Red Cross, for example, are only instructed to encourage sexual assault victims to report the incident to law enforcement or to call 911. They're not given training to provide appropriate medical care or emotional support.

Henrici says during Katrina, responders were more likely to do nothing at all and even avoid intervening in such incidents. Some of the problem appeared to be bureaucratic. Incidents of sexual assault are always legally complicated and require mountains of paperwork and documentation that invariably detracts from other overwhelming needs like rescuing evacuees.

"There was a perception on a part of women that they were not going to be protected when things occurred," says Henrici. "Women with whom I spoke with heard it was happening or knew it was happening, and they remained traumatized."

In the years that have followed since Katrina, advocates and public health experts have tried to understand what went wrong in an attempt to develop better protocol as destructive hurricanes become more frequent.

These efforts resulted in a planning guide funded by a grant from the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Louisiana Foundation Against Sexual Assault and the National Sexual Violence Resource Center [published the guide online](#) that provides for range of guidelines to ensure safety.

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HEADLINE	09/09 Band members arrested in kidnapping
SOURCE	http://mynorthwest.com/747094/4-metal-band-members-arrested-in-connection-with-kidnapping/
GIST	<p>SPOKANE, Wash. (AP) — Authorities say the four members of a well-known Polish death metal band have been arrested on suspicion of kidnapping a woman after a concert last month in Washington state.</p> <p>Spokane Police Department spokeswoman Cpl. Teresa Fuller says that the members of the band Decapitation were arrested early Saturday in Santa Ana, California, on suspicion of kidnapping a woman after their Aug. 31 concert in Spokane.</p> <p>Fuller says the woman told police just before 2 a.m. on Sept. 1 about the alleged kidnapping by the band members. The band had performed at a concert in downtown Spokane. Fuller says the woman attended the heavy metal concert.</p>

	<p>The spokeswoman says band members were arrested by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Office after their Friday night concert in Santa Ana. They are 27-year-old Michal M. Lysejko, 35-year-old Wacław J. Kieltyka, 31-year-old Rafal T. Piotrowski, and 30-year-old Hubert E. Wiecek. All are Polish citizens.</p> <p>They are being held in the Los Angeles County Jail and will face extradition to Spokane.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/09 Italy police held in US students rapes
SOURCE	http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/italian-police-suspended-alleged-rape-us-students-49726507
GIST	<p>Italy's Carabinieri paramilitary police corps has suspended on a precautionary basis two policemen who allegedly raped two American students in Florence while on duty.</p> <p>The Carabinieri provincial office's command in Florence said the two were notified Saturday of the measure.</p> <p>It stressed the suspension reflects alleged conduct while on duty and is separate from Florence prosecutors' criminal investigation of the alleged rapes. The women told authorities that the police, in uniform, drove them home from a disco early Thursday morning because they couldn't find a taxi, then raped them inside their apartment building.</p> <p>Investigators are awaiting DNA test results to see if they confirm the women's account.</p> <p>Besides the <u>rape</u> allegations, the policemen risk disciplinary charges for driving the women home without informing their superiors.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/09 NYC DNA lab techniques under fire
SOURCE	http://abcnews.go.com/Technology/wireStory/dna-lab-techniques-pioneered-york-now-fire-49724877
GIST	<p>Two techniques for analyzing DNA evidence that were once considered cutting edge are now under fire amid questions about their reliability, and criminal defense attorneys in New York have asked a state agency to investigate the renowned lab that once used both methods.</p> <p>The New York City medical examiner's lab developed one of the techniques and became a leader in sophisticated DNA examinations partly because of its work identifying the remains of 9/11 victims.</p> <p>Both techniques have been phased out in favor of new technology. But the lab says it's used its forensic statistical tool developed in-house in 1,350 cases over the past six years and used what's called low copy number analysis in about 3,450 cases over the past 11 years. Once New York was the only lab in the country that used the latter method.</p> <p>Attorneys for the Legal Aid Society and Federal Defenders of New York asked the New York State inspector general's office to investigate in a Sept. 1 letter.</p> <p>Legal Aid Society attorney Julie Fry said low copy number analysis is "like making a copy of a copy of a copy. Eventually it's going to be faded."</p> <p>"And with FST, it's a computer program. We don't have access to the code — and we can't tell if it's accurate or not. We don't know what's in the black box," she said.</p> <p>The groups say the medical examiner's office recognized there were problems and quietly corrected them</p>

	<p>without notifying anyone of potential wrong matches. The lawyers also say they believe the lab manipulated data while testing the low copy number technique, and made false statements on methodology to the Commission on Forensic Sciences, which oversees labs in the state.</p> <p>"The consequences of dishonest work are severe, innocent people may be wrongly convicted, and people guilty of serious crimes may go free," the attorneys wrote.</p> <p>The letter was first reported by The New York Times and <u>ProPublica</u>.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/08 Shooter reported at Ohio school; arrest
SOURCE	http://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory/shooter-reported-ohio-school-arrested-injured-49701687?cid=clicksource_4380645_6_heads_posts_headlines_hed
GIST	<p>Authorities responding to a report of a shooter at an <u>Ohio</u> high school say they arrested a student and took a gun, and no one was hurt.</p> <p>Police say Adan Abdullahi was charged with improperly discharging a firearm in a school safety zone following Friday's incident.</p> <p>Authorities say additional charges could be filed later. The 18-year-old Abdullahi didn't appear in online court records and it was unclear if an attorney had been appointed yet to represent him.</p> <p>The school is several miles south of downtown Columbus and describes itself as designed to serve "emotionally disturbed" students in grades six to 12.</p> <p>Police Chief Kim Jacobs says initial information indicated a school employee talked with and helped calm the armed male, later identified as Abdullahi.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/08 More charges massive poaching ring
SOURCE	http://www.kiro7.com/news/local/nearly-2-dozen-in-washington-oregon-could-be-charged-in-massive-poaching-case/605674781
GIST	<p>Nearly two dozen people could be charged in a massive poaching case filed in Washington and Oregon. And investigators say much of the evidence against them came from the suspects themselves.</p> <p>Videos taken by suspected poachers documented what Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife officers say was the ruthless slaughter of animals. Investigators combed through hours of footage shot on cellphones, and with cameras, showing wildlife tracked, cornered and gunned down. One hundred animals or more were killed simply for the thrill of it.</p> <p>"They were serial killers of another kind," said WDFW Deputy Chief Mike Cenci. "I mean I don't understand the psychology of these people, I never will. But I can tell you they didn't care about wildlife resources. They certainly didn't care about the law."</p> <p>According to investigators with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife as many as 23 people took part in the poaching ring breaking virtually every hunting law and regulation in Washington and Oregon.</p> <p>Their alleged killing sprees focused on areas in and near Skamania County and near the Dalles in Oregon. They're accused of killing animals out of season and in areas closed to hunting, using illegal methods, including using spotlights at night that blinded the animals before they were shot.</p>

	Charges against four of the suspected poachers were filed in Skamania County this week. More charges are expected in both Oregon and Washington state.
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HEADLINE	09/08 'Ding-dong ditch' stabbing Snohomish
SOURCE	http://komonews.com/news/local/2-teens-arrested-after-snohomish-man-is-stabbed-outside-his-home
GIST	<p>SNOHOMISH, Wash. - Two 14-year-old boys are under arrest, accused of assaulting and stabbing a 47-year-old man Thursday night outside his home after a juvenile prank called "ding-dong ditch" went terribly awry.</p> <p>The incident unfolded just before 11 p.m. when the man heard a knock at the door of his home but did not see anyone outside, said Shari Ireton of the Snohomish County Sheriff's Office.</p> <p>The man stayed near the door, watching through the peephole, when he saw a figure approaching the door. The man opened the door and confronted a teenage boy in a grey hoodie on his property.</p> <p>The boy, one of the 14-year-old suspects, was holding a knife. An altercation followed between the man and the teen, and the man was stabbed twice - in his leg and in his chest.</p> <p>Meanwhile, the other 14-year-old boy approached and threw a bicycle at the man, who had grabbed the knife-wielding teen in the scuffle, Ireton said.</p> <p>The two teens then fled.</p> <p>The man's wife called 911 and Snohomish County deputies responded to the home. K-9 police dogs were brought to the scene, and they tracked down the two teen suspects nearby. Both were booked into the Denny Juvenile Justice Center for investigation of second-degree assault.</p> <p>The injured man told deputies that local teens have been doing something called "ding-dong ditch," in which they ring the doorbell and then run off.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/08 Shooting at Kent hookah bar
SOURCE	http://komonews.com/news/local/police-investigating-shooting-at-kent-hookah-bar
GIST	<p>KENT, Wash. - Police are investigating a shooting at a hookah bar in Kent Friday night.</p> <p>It happened just after 9 p.m. at the hookah lounge located on 104th Ave. SE, near S. 240th St.</p> <p>Police have not released many details and are still trying to locate a possible victim.</p> <p>Witnesses told KOMO News they heard shots, then saw a group of people slowly walk out of the hookah bar, get into cars, then leave.</p> <p>This is the same hookah lounge where a <u>19-year-old man was shot in early June</u>.</p> <p>Friday's incident marks the second shooting at a hookah bar this week.</p> <p>Two people were sent to the hospital after <u>shots were fired at a hookah lounge</u> in Renton early Monday morning.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/08 Man gets 8yrs for stray bullet killing
SOURCE	http://q13fox.com/2017/09/08/bonney-lake-man-sentenced-after-stray-bullet-killed-neighbor/
GIST	<p>TACOMA, Wash. – A Bonney Lake man will spend nearly a decade behind bars after prosecutors said he took the law into his own hands.</p> <p>Investigators said Tobin Panton was trying to shoot a fleeing car thief when one of his stray bullets flew through a neighbor's home and struck her in the head, killing 62-year-old Linda Green.</p> <p>Panton pleaded guilty to a charge of second-degree manslaughter in July. His attorney hoped to convince the court to be lenient in sentencing, but on Friday the judge threw the book at him, sentencing Panton to the maximum limit.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/08 Oregon releases manifesto in shooting
SOURCE	http://www.seattlepi.com/news/education/article/Oregon-authorities-release-manifesto-from-mass-12183455.php
GIST	<p>PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — When the mother of mass shooter Christopher Harper Mercer got an automated voicemail from her son's college in Oregon about shots fired on campus, she first called the hospital. Then, she called the jail.</p> <p>Finally, she checked his bedroom to see if any of his many guns were missing.</p> <p>"I had thought too, well, just play a long shot and I'm just gonna like go check his inventory, his guns," Laurel Harper told police after the shooting.</p> <p>That long shot turned into a parent's nightmare. By the time she left her son's bedroom, authorities were unraveling police tape around her home.</p> <p>They confirmed her suspicions: Her son was the shooter who had just killed nine people and wounded eight more at Umpqua Community College in Roseburg.</p> <p>Douglas County authorities on Friday released a detailed report on the Oct. 1, 2015, mass shooting that includes a six-page, typewritten "manifesto" in which Harper Mercer critiqued the methods of other mass killers and said he was a follower of the occult.</p> <p>It also includes a lengthy transcript from an interview with his mother, as well as transcripts and summaries of interviews with surviving victims and witnesses.</p> <p>Randy Scroggins, the father of a then-18-year-old girl injured in the attack, said his family didn't attend a meeting for victims and their relatives Thursday night to hear what would be in the report.</p> <p>He said he's curious to see it, however, and isn't opposed to authorities releasing the information publicly. The family is healing, he said.</p> <p>"We're doing very well. She is doing very well. She is not completely over it yet," Scroggins, a pastor, said in a phone interview. "At 18 years old, I'm not sure how anybody can get completely over that, but we're moving on. We're moving forward."</p> <p>In a brief printed statement, Umpqua Community College President Debra Thatcher called the report a step in the community's healing process. She praised the depth of the investigation and asked for space as residents and students process the newly revealed details.</p> <p>In his manifesto, the 26-year-old Harper Mercer wrote that he is part of a "demonic Hierarchy" and will become a demon when he dies and return "to kill again and again" after possessing someone else.</p>

	<p>"You will know my work by my sign, the pentagram will fly again," he wrote, referring to a symbol associated with the occult.</p> <p>He makes it clear that he idolizes other mass shooters and says he has studied their methods but faults them for not killing more people or for not killing police officers.</p> <p>He also paints himself as a "loser," with nothing to live for and no successes in life.</p> <p>"My whole life has been one lonely enterprise. One loss after another. And here I am, 26, with no friends, no job, no girlfriend, a virgin," he wrote.</p> <p>"But for people like me there is another world, a darker world that welcomes us. For people like us this (is) all that's left," he wrote. "My success in Hell is assured."</p> <p>The investigative report details how Harper Mercer singled out one student early in the attack and told him it was "his lucky day" because he would be spared if he passed an envelope to police when they arrived.</p> <p>It held the thumb drive containing Harper Mercer's so-called "manifesto," copies of newspaper articles about other high-profile mass shooters and a report on the killing of children at a Sandy Hook, Connecticut, elementary school.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/09 Man sentenced 48yrs in fatal shooting
SOURCE	http://mynorthwest.com/746501/man-sentenced-to-48-years-in-fatal-shooting-of-yakima-woman/
GIST	<p>YAKIMA, Wash. (AP) — A man convicted in the fatal shooting of a Yakima woman last year has been sentenced to 48 years in prison.</p> <p>The Yakima Herald-Republic reports 38-year-old Ricardo Ochoa Dimas was sentenced Friday in the death of 47-year-old Anna Hargett.</p> <p>Authorities say Dimas went to Hargett's house on Jan. 22, 2016 to help friends confront her about selling them bad heroin.</p> <p>Surveillance video showed Dimas pulling a handgun and Hargett raising an ax toward him. She had lowered the ax when Dimas fired a shot that hit her and a woman behind her.</p> <p>Defense lawyer John Crowley argued that his client shot in self-defense after being threatened. Jurors rejected that argument, finding Dimas guilty of second-degree murder and assault.</p>
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