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<p>Crime, Criminals Go to articles</p>	<p>09/17 France: 4 Americans suffer acid attack 09/17 Mexico: deadly clash military, drug gang 09/17 Fighting wildlife crime: follow the money 09/17 China charges 9 for toxic waste dump 09/16 Arrests in deadly Malaysia school fire 09/16 Athens rally turns violent</p>	<p>09/18 More violence marks protests in St Louis 09/17 Arrests mount in Conn. mental hospital 09/17 St Louis: second night violent protests 09/17 Ft Bragg soldiers arrested in killings 09/16 Protests for cop acquittal turn violent 09/16 Jury reaches verdict 'Slender Man' trial 09/15 Trial: cop kicked suspect but not guilty 09/15 Judge denies El Chapo appeal</p>	<p>09/17 Pasco: police return fire; injure man 09/17 Suspect prior suspended for threats 09/16 Guilty plea in Bellevue mosque fire 09/16 Parent's purse stolen in school shooting 09/15 Monroe mosque vandalized by graffiti</p>

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	09/17 Cold front to bring snow to Cascades
SOURCE	http://komonews.com/news/local/cold-front-expected-to-bring-snow-to-the-cascades-09-17-2017
GIST	<p>PORTLAND, Ore. – After a long, hot, dry summer, the Cascades could see some snow in the coming days.</p> <p>The National Weather Service issued a special weather statement Saturday saying snow is expected at elevations above 9,000 feet Sunday. Then, the snow level will drop to around 5,000 to 6,000 feet by Monday.</p> <p>The National Weather Service expects the snow level to remain around the 5,000 to 6,000-foot range through the week.</p> <p>The snow comes as cooler weather enters the area.</p> <p>“A developing low pressure system in the Gulf of Alaska will settle over the Pacific Northwest next week,” the National Weather Service said.</p> <p>Residents in the Pacific Northwest can expect downpours of rain in lower elevations.</p> <p>The rain is expected to begin Sunday afternoon and continue through Tuesday. Scattered showers are likely for the rest of the week.</p> <p>Amounts could be anywhere from a half-inch to over an inch before the end of the coming week.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/17 DOJ halts review of Milwaukee police
SOURCE	http://www.seattlepi.com/news/crime/article/DOJ-halts-review-of-Milwaukee-police-after-12204500.php
GIST	<p>MILWAUKEE (AP) — The U.S. Department of Justice has halted a review of Milwaukee's police department that the police chief requested after a white officer fatally shot a mentally ill black man in a downtown park.</p> <p>The Justice Department said it is changing a program that once focused on improving trust between police and communities. The DOJ initiative will instead focus on helping local law enforcement fight crime.</p> <p>Cities such as Milwaukee that were under review will be moved into the new version of the program, a</p>

	department spokeswoman told the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel on Saturday. As a result, those agencies will not get federal help to boost accountability or to implement reforms.
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HEADLINE	09/18 O'Toole denies interest Garda top job
SOURCE	http://www.irishexaminer.com/breakingnews/ireland/commission-chair-otoole-denies-interest-in-garda-top-job-806360.html
GIST	<p>Policing commission chairwoman Kathleen O'Toole has ruled herself out of consideration for the garda commissioner job, writes Cormac O'Keeffe.</p> <p>In an interview with the Irish Examiner, the US police chief said it was "important" that she publicly did so following reports last week claiming she was the Government's choice for the position.</p> <p>There were also suggestions within the justice system that she might be free to take on the commissioner role based on the belief that her term as Seattle police chief was at a premature end following the sudden resignation last week of Seattle mayor Ed Murray over sex abuse allegations.</p> <p>Though the tenure of police chiefs in the US tend to depend on the sitting mayor, Ms O'Toole said she had an independent contract until the end of the year. However, she said she was now examining her departure schedule.</p> <p>Amid fears in oversight bodies last week that the Government was attempting to get the commission to issue an interim report before the next commissioner was appointed, Ms O'Toole rejected claims that there was such pressure.</p> <p>On whether she was interested in the commissioner's job, Ms O'Toole said: "No, I think it is important to take myself out of that frame so there won't be any distraction to our work in the commission. I think it is important to say this."</p> <p>Asked why she was not interested, she said: "Because I've assumed this role as chair of the commission and made commitments to the Government and fellow commissioners, so my focus is on this. I hope to spend more time in Ireland over the next year."</p>
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HEADLINE	09/17 Rohingya militants vow to fight
SOURCE	https://www.nytimes.com/2017/09/17/world/asia/myanmar-rohingya-militants.html
GIST	<p>BALUKHALI, Bangladesh — Nazir Hossain, the imam of a village in far western Myanmar, gathered the faithful around him after evening prayers last month. In a few hours, more than a dozen Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army fighters from his village would strike a nearby police post with an assortment of handmade weapons.</p> <p>The men needed their cleric's blessing.</p> <p>"As imam, I encouraged them never to step back from their mission," Mr. Hossain recalled of his final words to the ethnic Rohingya militants. "I told them that if they did not fight to the death, the military would come and kill their families, their women and their children."</p> <p>They fought — joining an Aug. 25 assault by thousands of the group's fighters against Myanmar's security forces — and the retaliation came down anyway. Since then, Myanmar's troops and vigilante mobs have unleashed a scorched-earth operation on <u>Rohingya populations</u> in northern Rakhine State in Myanmar, sending hundreds of thousands fleeing their homes in a campaign that the United Nations has called <u>ethnic cleansing</u>.</p>

From its start four years ago as a small-scale effort to organize a Rohingya resistance, ARSA — which is known locally as Harakah al-Yaqin, or the Faith Movement — has managed to stage two deadly attacks on Myanmar’s security forces: one last October and the other last month.

But in lashing out against the government, the militants have also made their own people a target. And they have handed Myanmar’s military an attempt at public justification by saying that it is fighting terrorism, even as it has burned down dozens of villages and killed fleeing women and children.

This radicalization of a new generation of Rohingya, a Muslim minority in a Buddhist-majority country, adds fuel to an already combustible situation in Rakhine, Myanmar’s poorest state.

Increasingly, there is also concern that both the relatively few Rohingya who have taken up arms and the broader population — hundreds of thousands of whom are crowded in camps in neighboring Bangladesh — will be exploited by international terrorism networks, bringing a localized struggle into the slipstream of global politics.

ARSA’s attempt at insurgency politics has been disastrous so far — a cease-fire that they declared this month was rejected by the military, and they are reported to have suffered lopsided casualties compared with the government’s. But the men caught up in the cause insist that resistance is worth the steep cost, even to their families.

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HEADLINE	09/17 FEMA issues relief checks Sandy victims
SOURCE	http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2017/sep/17/fema-issues-relief-checks-to-superstorm-sandy-vict/
GIST	<p>Many victims of the last massive storm to swamp the U.S., 2012’s Superstorm Sandy, are still waiting for their government checks — raising questions about <u>Federal Emergency Management Agency</u>’s ability to dole out financial relief in the oncoming Harvey-Irma onslaught.</p> <p>“I received my check the second week of August so that is the process that will happen to everyone in Houston and everyone in Florida. It was a five-year wait for us to receive our money,” said Claudette D’Arrigo from Highlands, New Jersey, whose home had seven feet of standing water after Sandy.</p> <p>Her check came from <u>FEMA</u>’s flood insurance program, which is a national backstop to provide coverage in areas where the private industry is wary of offering policies, saying the risks are too great.</p> <p>The already-burdened flood program is about to face a slew of new claims in the wake of Hurricane Harvey, which slammed southeastern Texas last month, and Hurricane Irma, which blasted Florida this week.</p> <p>“<u>FEMA</u> is not effectively handling Sandy from five years before — to think how they’re going to effectively handle victims from <u>Harvey</u> and Irma is mind boggling,” said Augie Matteis, managing partner of Weisbrod Matteis & Copley, which handles disaster relief claims.</p> <p>He had 1,200 clients from Sandy, and he said 900 of them are still waiting for checks. Most of his clients initially received low settlement offers in 2012 and 2013, but then <u>FEMA</u> reopened Sandy claims in 2015 after accusations of fraud and underpayments.</p> <p>A spokeswoman from <u>FEMA</u> told The Washington Times they have made improvements over the past few years, and created the Office of the Flood Insurance Advocate, which is an independent office advocating for policyholders and property owners.</p> <p><u>FEMA</u> has also established a toll-free line for policyholders to call if they are frustrated or confused with</p>

<p>Return to Top</p>	<p>their agent or insurance company.</p> <p>Earlier this month, the National Flood Insurance Program also told private insurance partners to provide advance payments to rush recovery money for Texas and Louisiana victims of <u>Harvey</u>.</p> <p>The initial underpayments following Sandy may have been a result of the debt <u>FEMA</u>'s flood program inquired in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina in 2005 after private insurers made fraudulent claims to escape paying out of their own pockets, Mr. Matteis speculated.</p> <p>A Government Accountability Office report released earlier this year revealed <u>FEMA</u>'s flood program owed the U.S. Treasury \$23 billion as of March 2016.</p> <p>"They don't have enough money to deal with <u>Harvey</u>, to deal with Irma," said Mr. Matteis.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/15 DNR: 2017 wildfire season breaks record
SOURCE	http://q13fox.com/2017/09/15/2017-wildfire-season-breaks-state-national-records/
GIST	<p>ARLINGTON, Wash. – This year's fire season has already broken records.</p> <p>Wildfires across our state are still <u>burning</u> and some of them may not be fully extinguished until snow falls. While rain is in this weekend's forecast firefighters warn the wildfire danger is still all around us.</p> <p>Washington's fire season has been long and so far burned more than 300,000 acres, according to DNR. The worst wildfire season on record in our state happened in <u>2015</u>.</p> <p>Firefighting has already cost the U.S. Forest Service more than <u>\$2 billion</u> nation-wide this year – that price tag has broken <u>records</u>.</p> <p>"I know it's getting cooler outside," said Christie Veley with the Marsyville Fire District. "We had some rain last weekend but don't let your guard down just yet."</p> <p>And even though rain is in our forecast firefighters warn it may not be enough to completely eliminate the threat for fires.</p> <p>"Larger brush and trees, those are going to take a long time to get their moisture back and that's why it may take more than one storm for us to get back at safe levels," said Veley.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/17 Chipping away public access to records
SOURCE	http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/U/US_SUNSHINE_YEAR_STATES_OF_DENIAL_CAOL-?SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2017-09-17-03-11-46
GIST	<p>LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP) -- In February, Arkansas lawmakers marked the 50-year anniversary of the Freedom of Information Act with a resolution calling it "a shining example of open government" that had ensured access to vital public records for generations.</p> <p>They spent the following weeks debating and, in many cases approving, new exemptions to the law in what critics called an unprecedented attack on the public's right to know.</p> <p>When they were finished, universities could keep secret all information related to their police forces, including their size and the names and salaries of officers. Public schools could shield a host of facts related to security, including the identities of teachers carrying concealed weapons and emergency response plans. And state Capitol police could withhold anything they believed could be "detrimental to</p>

public safety" if made public.

Lawmakers across the country introduced and debated dozens of bills during this year's legislative sessions that would close or limit public access to a wide range of government records and meetings, according to a review by The Associated Press and numerous state press associations.

Most of those proposals did not become law, but freedom-of-information advocates in some states said they were struck by the number of bills they believed would harm the public interest, and they are bracing for more fights next year.

Nebraska lawmakers debated whether to keep secret the identity of the suppliers of lethal-injection drugs used in executions. The California Legislature rushed through a measure that shielded from the public the emergency action plans required for potentially unsafe dams - an idea that arose after nearly 200,000 people were forced to evacuate following a spillway failure at the state's second-largest reservoir. Texas again considered a plan that would effectively shut down its public records law to any requesters who live outside the nation's second most populous state.

PUSHING BACK AGAINST OPENNESS

In some cases, the bills hit resistance only after reporters caught on and began writing about them.

In Iowa, the House passed a bill to shield the audio of many 911 calls by declaring them confidential "medical records" after the AP used the open-records law to expose a series of gun-related accidents involving minors in one rural county. The plan died in the Senate after it was detailed in news reports, and media and civil rights groups raised objections.

Days later, the potential impact of the bill became clear when a beloved state celebrity, farmer Chris Soules of "The Bachelor" fame, was charged with leaving the scene of a deadly accident. A 911 call that would have remained confidential under the bill painted a far more sympathetic picture of Soules' actions, showing he immediately reported the crash and sought aid for the 66-year-old victim.

Iowa lawmakers succeeded in passing another anti-transparency bill, approving unprecedented secrecy for the state's \$1 billion gambling industry by closing access to the detailed annual financial statements of the state's 19 licensed casinos. Those records had been public for decades. The change came in response to lobbying from casinos, which had objected to a request from an out-of-state competitor for the records by claiming they contained proprietary information.

Florida has some of the nation's strongest open-records and open-meetings laws, but that did not stop lawmakers from trying to tinker with them. This year, they passed 19 new exemptions to the Sunshine Law, the second most in at least two decades. The details of how public universities investigate cyberattacks and prepare for emergencies are now confidential. The identities of people who witness murders, use medical marijuana or get injured or killed at workplaces must also be withheld.

"I think the sheer number of new exemptions that were created was a bit alarming. It was almost a record. That's never good," said Barbara Petersen, president of the First Amendment Foundation in Tallahassee, who has tracked transparency legislation in Florida since the 1990s.

One of the worst for the public's right to know, Petersen said, is a bill requiring records of criminal charges that result in acquittal or dismissal to be automatically sealed. She asked Gov. Rick Scott to veto the measure, arguing it would harm public safety by depriving employers of relevant information about onetime suspects who avoided convictions for any number of reasons. Scott ended up signing the bill, which supporters say will protect the wrongly accused from employment and reputational repercussions.

Still, many other bills that concerned Petersen were defeated, including measures that would have kept secret the names of applicants for top university jobs and allowed members of government boards to have more private meetings.

PUBLIC SAFETY CONCERNS

Lawmakers supporting the limits say other concerns such as security, privacy and business interests can outweigh the public's right to information in specific cases.

They say they proposed the changes after hearing complaints about information sought by specific requesters and general concerns about the cost and time of fulfilling the requests. Criticism of journalists seeking the records or citizens filing repeat requests sometimes came up in debate.

Kansas lawmakers proposed a bill that would keep the state database of fired police officers secret after Wichita television station KWCH exposed how some cities were hiring officers with checkered pasts, including a chief facing a federal investigation after being fired three times. The bill, which was backed by the state's law enforcement training agency, stalled after the station's news director warned lawmakers it would make government "less open, less transparent" around the critical issues of police misconduct and public trust.

In Arkansas, a request for seemingly innocuous information became the catalyst for the sweeping bill passed earlier this year that exempts all "records or other information" held by universities that, if released, could potentially harm public safety.

A photographer filed a request in 2015 for the names of officers assigned to work a security detail for the upcoming Mississippi State-Arkansas football game. The woman, who was shooting the game for AP, wanted to learn whether she might cross paths with an officer she had accused of rape.

University of Arkansas officials were unaware of the motive behind the request and were focused on preventing a terrorist attack at the stadium. The new law they backed specifically shields information related to the number of security personnel on campuses, any personal information about them, and all of their emergency plans, procedures and studies.

The bill also included a similar exemption for public schools. The sponsor, Republican Sen. Gary Stubblefield, said he pushed for that language after a district armed some of its teachers and staff as volunteer security guards, saying he wanted to keep their identities secret for safety reasons.

"I'm not against FOI. I believe strongly in transparency, I really do, but common sense just tells you there are some things that you cannot release especially in the day in which we live," Stubblefield said.

"Because there are actually people out there who are just looking for something, an edge where they can get in and do some damage. And I just don't think we ought to give it to them."

GOING TOO FAR?

Supporters of the exemption for the Arkansas Capitol Police said it was needed because the news media had written in 1998 about secret plans to allow former Gov. Mike Huckabee to escape his office by climbing a ladder into an abandoned elevator shaft.

The disclosure caused the state to delay and modify the escape route, which was completed in 2001 and later shown to reporters by the governor's staff. The new law gives the agency wide authority to keep secret any records related to security at the Capitol and governor's mansion.

By the end of the session, some lawmakers believed the proposed changes were going too far.

The Legislature voted to create a new task force to study the exemptions, including whether any should be deleted or added. The House voted 33-32 to block legislation that would allow the government to declare a public records request "unduly burdensome" and give 15 business days to comply instead of the current three. A measure that would have allowed universities to keep secret wide categories of records related to potential legal action failed.

Tom Larimer, executive director of the Arkansas Press Association, said lawmakers did more damage to freedom of information than in any other session since 2004.

	<p>"We've always had a certain number of legislators who have had no use for the Freedom of Information Act and have no serious concerns about transparency in government," he said. "But it just seemed like there were more of them this time, and they were more willing to side with those who are perpetually on the side of weakening the FOI."</p>
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HEADLINE	09/16 What La Nina winter means for Seattle
SOURCE	http://mynorthwest.com/754612/what-a-la-nina-winter-means-for-seattle/
GIST	<p>Washington state could see snow and higher-than-normal levels of rain this year, especially after Jan. 1, due to a La Niña winter. According to <u>University of Washington climatologist Cliff Mass</u>, Seattle will not have to wait long to feel the change in seasons – he expects clouds and rainy weather as early as Monday.</p> <p>Mass explained the phenomenon, in which easterly trade winds lead to below-average ocean surface temperatures in the eastern and central Pacific. The effect is a cooler and wetter winter in the Northwest, with more snow in the mountains.</p> <p>The La Niña phase is less common than its counterpart, El Niño (where warmer-than-average temperatures are observed). In addition to cooler temperatures in the Northwest, the phase brings <u>warmer-than-average temperatures to the Southeast</u>.</p> <p>One of Seattle’s coldest, snowiest winters (2008-09) was a La Niña winter, as was 2016-17, which didn’t bring as much snow as prior years but was the <u>coldest winter on record in Seattle since 1985</u>.</p> <p>According to Mass, this year’s La Niña will likely be mild. The cooling is expected to intensify later in the season, meaning the coldest temperatures will hit after the New Year.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/17 NYC: 5 disabled behind access lawsuits
SOURCE	http://www.foxnews.com/us/2017/09/17/hell-on-wheels-five-disabled-new-yorkers-file-hundreds-lawsuits.html
GIST	<p>Five New Yorkers in wheelchairs are behind nearly 400 lawsuits brought against small businesses for lacking handicap access.</p> <p>Such legal claims have been criticized as part of a “cottage industry” of “serial plaintiffs” who target mom-and-pop establishments for quick cash settlements. But others see the suits as helping enforce the American with Disabilities Act.</p> <p>Wheelchair ramps and bathroom doors are not the only battleground. Two blind New Yorkers have taken the fight online, filing a combined 23 suits against business Web sites that didn’t have screen-reading software for the visually impaired. And a woman cited seven businesses for not allowing her service dog inside.</p> <p>Zoltan Hirsch, 37, a double amputee from Brooklyn, is hell on wheels for those who fail to make their establishments wheelchair accessible. Since 2010, he has filed suit against 195 businesses ranging from a Soho eyeglass shop to Brooklyn bodegas to a Hell’s Kitchen restaurant.</p> <p>Four other New Yorkers have filed 200 suits over wheelchair access: Luigi Giroto (70 suits), Pedro Fontanes (55), Jerry Cankat (52) and Nauqone Taylor (23).</p> <p>Fontanes, 69, of Queens, has filed 13 suits against businesses along Fifth Avenue in Park Slope between Ninth and Bergen streets. He claims to have suffered “harm” and “injury” at cafes including Le Pain</p>

Quotidien, Pizza Town, Uncle Barry’s, SkyIce Sweet & Savory, Dizzy’s Diner and Konditori Swedish Espresso Bar. At Konditori, he also griped that the bathroom mirror was too high.

Mark Caserta, director of the Park Slope Fifth Avenue Business Improvement District committee, blasted the suits, saying: “This shouldn’t be happening. Small business are already struggling to stay afloat, and these lawsuits could put them over the edge.”

Dennis Kearney, an attorney who defended Uncle Barry’s craft beer bar against Fontanes this year, noted most defendants settle to escape the cost of litigation.

“Why would somebody pay \$100,000 in legal fees to go to trial when they can pay a fraction of that and be done with it?” he said.

Plaintiffs typically ask for modest damages but demand payment of their attorneys’ fees, which can top \$20,000. Kearney believes the plaintiffs and lawyers split the fees.

Commercial Web sites are the newest lucrative legal target.

Blind Brooklyn resident Marion Kiler, 66, sued eight sites throughout the state during May and June. Among them was the Museum of Sex’s online store, where she claimed to have made “numerous” attempts to buy products. The site’s wares range from nipple clamps to penis-shaped pasta.

Cheryl Krist, 62, of Manhattan, has brought seven suits against businesses, including an East Village McDonald’s, for not allowing her service dog, Bocci, inside.

But Kenneth Shiotani, an attorney at the National Disability Rights Network, called private litigation the “most effective enforcement mechanism” to make the city disability friendly.

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HEADLINE	09/17 Ethiopia: ethnic clashes displace 55,000
SOURCE	http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/ethiopia-55000-people-displaced-amid-ethnic-clashes-49909099?cid=clicksource_76_4_article%20roll_articleroll_hed
GIST	<p>The provincial government of Ethiopia's restive Oromia region says 55,000 ethnic Oromos have been displaced by ethnic Somalis in the neighboring Somali region after a week of unrest in which dozens were killed.</p> <p>The statement from Oromia Sunday follows claims by Somali regional officials earlier this week that more than 50 people were killed in an attack against ethnic Somalis in Aweday town.</p> <p>Oromia officials say only 18 people were killed and that Oromos have been moving out of Somali towns and villages in fear of reprisals.</p> <p>Border disputes between the two ethnic groups are common. Though they agreed to reconcile in April, conflict persists in many locations.</p> <p>On Sunday presidents of the two regions met in the capital Addis Ababa and said efforts are underway to resettle the displaced.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/18 Recall: German Sausage Haus meats
SOURCE	http://q13fox.com/2017/09/18/camano-island-based-company-recalls-smoked-meats/
GIST	German Sausage Haus, based on Camano Island, is recalling 1,252 pounds of smoked meat products

because there is a risk of food poisoning.

The USDA reports the meat should not be eaten, because there is a risk that it is contaminated with staphylococcal enterotoxin, which can cause serious illness.

The products are partially cooked, and sold in frozen food sections of stores all across Washington.

- Vacuum packed (1 each) “GERMAN SAUSAGE HAUS Smoked Bacon” with package code “72301” and a package date of “08/18/2017.”
- Vacuum packed (1 each) “GERMAN SAUSAGE HAUS Smoked Shank” with package code “72501” and a package date of “09/07/2017.”
- Vacuum packed (1 each) “GERMAN SAUSAGE HAUS Smoked Fat” with package code “72131” and a package date of “08/01/2017.”
- Vacuum packed (1 each) “GERMAN SAUSAGE HAUS Smoked Pork Lion” with package code “72232” and a package date of “08/11/2017.”
- Vacuum packed (2 each) “GERMAN SAUSAGE HAUS Danube Smoked Sausages” with package code “71951” and a package date of “07/14/2017.”
- Vacuum packed (2 each) “GERMAN SAUSAGE HAUS Pituaros Smoked Sausages” with package code “72051” and a package date of “07/24/2017.”
- Vacuum packed (2 each) “GERMAN SAUSAGE HAUS Cabaj Smoked Sausages” with package code “71651” and a package date of “06/28/2017.”
- Vacuum packed (2 each) “GERMAN SAUSAGE HAUS Backi Petrovac Smoked Sausages” with package code “71652” and a package date of “06/28/2017.”
- Vacuum packed (2 each) “GERMAN SAUSAGE HAUS Devil Dog Smoked Sausages” with package code “71653” and a package date of “06/28/2017.”
- Vacuum packed (2 each) “GERMAN SAUSAGE HAUS Danube Smoked Sausages” with package code “71654” and a package date of “06/28/2017.”
- Vacuum packed (2 each) “GERMAN SAUSAGE HAUS Christmas Smoked Sausages” with package code “71655” and a package date of “06/28/2017.”
- Vacuum packed (2 each) “GERMAN SAUSAGE HAUS Donaueschwaben Smoked Sausages” with package code “71656” and a package date of “06/28/2017.”
- Vacuum packed (1 each) “GERMAN SAUSAGE HAUS Smoked Ribs” with the following package codes and package dates:
 - Package code “72231” and package date “08/11/2017”
 - Package code “72442” and package date “09/01/2017”
 - Package code “72511” and package date “09/08/2017”

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HEADLINE	09/18 US, SKorea, Japan military air drills
SOURCE	http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/A/AS_KOREAS_TENSIONS_ASOL-?SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2017-09-18-05-31-43
GIST	<p>SEOUL, South Korea (AP) -- The U.S. military flew advanced bombers and stealth jets over the Korean Peninsula and near Japan in drills with South Korean and Japanese warplanes on Monday, three days after North Korea fired a missile over Japan.</p> <p>The United States often sends powerful military aircraft in a show of force in times of heightened animosities with North Korea. The North launched its latest missile as it protested against tough new U.N. sanctions over its sixth nuclear test on Sept. 3.</p> <p>Monday's flyovers involved two B-1Bs and four F-35Bs from the U.S. military and four F-15K fighter jets from South Korea, according to the South Korean and U.S. militaries. The U.S. and South Korean planes flew across the Korean Peninsula and practiced attacks by releasing live weapons at a firing range in South Korea, the U.S. Pacific Command said in a statement.</p>

	The U.S. warplanes also conducted formation training with Japanese fighter jets over waters near the southern island of Kyushu, according to the Pacific Command.
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HEADLINE	09/18 Weakening Jose could graze Northeast
SOURCE	https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2017-09-18/weakening-hurricane-jose-could-graze-massachusetts-on-wednesday
GIST	<p>A weakened Hurricane Jose could graze the Northeast as Hurricane Maria tears through the Caribbean, gaining strength and possibly heading toward the U.S. in a week.</p> <p>Jose will probably be downgraded to a tropical storm as it comes close to Massachusetts Wednesday -- threatening shipping and real estate along the East Coast -- before veering farther out into the Atlantic, the U.S. National Hurricane Center said. Storm watches have been posted from Delaware to Massachusetts.</p> <p>The two storms build on a devastating 2017 Atlantic hurricane season, coming just after Hurricanes Harvey and Irma left dozens of people dead and upended energy and agriculture markets. Since Aug. 25, the U.S. has suffered an estimated \$143 billion in damage from Texas flooding caused by Harvey and damage to Florida by Irma, according to Enki Research in Savannah, Georgia.</p> <p>Some models bring Jose "very close to Nantucket and Cape Cod, but it is not going to be a very powerful hurricane at that point," said Bob Henson, a meteorologist with Weather Underground in Boulder, Colorado. "The biggest implication will be multiple days of big surf and probably beach erosion."</p> <p>If the estimates hold, this will be the second most costly year for hurricane damage since 1980 behind 2005, when a record 28 storms formed in the Atlantic and Katrina devastated New Orleans, according to the U.S. National Centers for Environmental Information in Asheville, North Carolina.</p> <p>Not including the hurricanes, the U.S. has suffered nine weather and climate disasters costing \$1 billion or more through the first seven months of 2017, the agency said.</p> <p>Jose's track north could disrupt vessels carrying crude oil, petrochemicals and refined products along the Atlantic seaboard, Shunondo Basu, a Bloomberg New Energy Finance meteorologist and natural gas analyst in New York, said on Friday.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/17 Warm waters lingering effects on salmon
SOURCE	http://abcnews.go.com/Technology/wireStory/warm-waters-off-west-coast-lingering-effects-salmon-49910264
GIST	<p>The mass of warm water known as "the blob" that heated up the North Pacific Ocean has dissipated, but scientists are still seeing the lingering effects of those unusually warm sea surface temperatures on Pacific Northwest salmon and steelhead.</p> <p>Federal research surveys this summer caught among the lowest numbers of juvenile coho and Chinook salmon in 20 years, suggesting that many fish did not survive their first months at sea. Scientists warn that salmon fisheries may face hard times in the next few years.</p> <p>Fisheries managers also worry about below average runs of steelhead returning to the Columbia River now. Returns of adult steelhead that went to sea as juveniles a year ago so far rank among the lowest in 50 years.</p> <p>Scientists believe poor ocean conditions are likely to blame: Cold-water salmon and steelhead are</p>

	<p>confronting an ocean ecosystem that has been shaken up in recent years.</p> <p>"The blob's fairly well dissipated and gone. But all these indirect effects that it facilitated are still there," Brian Burke, a research fisheries biologist with the Northwest Fisheries Science Center.</p> <p>Marine creatures found farther south and in warmer waters have turned up in abundance along the coasts of Washington and <u>Oregon</u>, some for the first time.</p> <p>"That's going to have a really big impact on the dynamics in the ecosystem," Burke said. "They're all these new players that are normally not part of the system."</p>
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HEADLINE	09/18 Hurricane Maria aims at Caribbean
SOURCE	http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/hurricane-maria-heads-battered-carib-islands-49921888?cid=clicksource_76_4_article%20roll_articleroll_hed
GIST	<p>A strengthening Hurricane Maria swirled toward the eastern Caribbean early Monday, with forecasters warning it probably would be a major storm by the time it passed through the already battered Leeward Islands later in the day.</p> <p>Maria grew into a hurricane Sunday, and forecasters said it was expected to become much stronger over the next 48 hours following a path that would take it near many of the islands wrecked by Hurricane Irma and on to <u>Puerto Rico</u>, the <u>Dominican Republic</u> and Haiti.</p> <p>Hurricane warnings were posted for Guadeloupe, Dominica, St. Kitts, Nevis, Montserrat and Martinique. A tropical storm warning was issued for <u>Antigua and Barbuda</u>, Saba, St. Eustatius and St. Lucia. Other islands were warned to stay alert for changes in the storm. Hurricane watches were up in the U.S. and British Virgin Islands, the island shared by French St. Martin and Dutch St. Maarten, St. Barts and Anguilla.</p> <p>The U.S. National Hurricane Center said Maria had maximum sustained winds of 90 mph (145 kph) late Sunday. It was centered about 170 miles (270 kilometers) east-southeast of Dominica and heading west-northwest at 13 mph (20 kph).</p> <p>The hurricane center said hurricane conditions should begin to affect parts of the Leeward Islands by Monday night, with storm surge raising water levels by 4 to 6 feet (1.2 to 1.8 meters) near the storm's center. The storm was predicted to bring 6 to 12 inches (15 to 30 centimeters) of rain across the islands, with more in isolated areas.</p> <p>Maria could make a direct hit on Puerto Rico, which was spared the full brunt of Irma although much of the island had its power knocked out.</p> <p>Gov. Ricardo Rossello said officials had prepared about 450 shelters with a capacity for nearly 68,000 people — or even 125,000 in an emergency. He said schools were cancelled for Monday and government employees would work only a half day.</p> <p>Officials in the Dominican Republic urged people to leave areas prone to flooding and said fishermen should remain in port.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/17 Myanmar general blames Rohingya
SOURCE	http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-41300247
GIST	Myanmar's top general has blamed Rohingya people for the crisis that has led to hundreds of thousands

<p>Return to Top</p>	<p>crossing into Bangladesh.</p> <p>Gen Min Aung Hlaing said the Rohingya "has never been an ethnic group", and accused "extremists" of trying to form a stronghold in northern Rakhine state.</p> <p>His army is accused of targeting civilians in an offensive there, forcing Rohingya to flee. Myanmar denies this, and says it is responding to deadly militant attacks.</p> <p>The UN has warned that offensive against the Rohingya - most of whom are Muslims, while Myanmar is 90% Buddhist - could amount to ethnic cleansing.</p> <p>On Saturday UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres warned that the country's de facto leader Aung San Suu Kyi had "a last chance" to halt the army offensive before the situation becomes "absolutely horrible".</p>
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HEADLINE	09/17 Campus cops fatally shoot student w/knife
SOURCE	https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/georgia-tech-student-activist-shot-dead-campus-police-n802146
GIST	<p>An engineering student who was also an LGBTQ activist was shot and killed by Georgia Tech campus police on Saturday night, officials said Sunday.</p> <p>The school identified the victim as Scout Schultz, 21, a fourth year engineering student from Lilburn, Georgia, who police said was armed with a knife. They made contact with him outside of a campus parking garage after they received a 911 call at 11:17 p.m. on Saturday, according to the Georgia Bureau of Investigation. The original call reported that Schultz was also carrying a gun, officials said.</p> <p>In a video taken by a witness, Schultz can be heard yelling "Shoot me!" at police, as they tell him to drop the knife.</p> <p>"Nobody wants to hurt you," an officer says in the video.</p> <p>But as Schultz continued to ignore the officers commands and stepped forward with the knife, a single shot rang out and Schultz's screams can be heard.</p> <p>The young engineering student was transported to and later died at Grady Memorial Hospital.</p> <p>The Georgia Bureau of Investigation is investigating the shooting. The officer who pulled the trigger was not named and it was unclear if there would be any disciplinary actions taken.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/16 Zombie fest: prepared for an emergency
SOURCE	http://q13fox.com/2017/09/16/zombie-fest-gets-you-prepared-for-any-emergency/
GIST	<p>NORMANDY PARK, Wash. – Much of the Houston area and the state of Florida remains in recovery mode trying to get cleaned up after hurricane damage. That has emergency responders in our area thinking about how you can get ready for whatever may come our way.</p> <p>“If you’re ready and prepared for zombies, you’re prepared for anything,” said Normandy Park Police Chief Dan Yourkoski.</p> <p>Saturday marked the sixth annual Zombie Fest. If zombies were to walk the Earth, would you be ready?</p> <p>“If you wait for after the incident happens, it’s too late to be prepared then,” said Chief Yourkoski.</p>

	<p>It's a gimmicky push to get people thinking about how they would react to an emergency.</p> <p>“We could have earthquakes or power outages things like that,” said Stephanie Habben who attended the Zombie Fest.</p> <p>Strong winds like what we saw with Hurricane Irma toppled power lines and that massive earthquake we keep getting warned about is bound to tear up our area.</p> <p>“It’s just a matter of time before something like that happens here. People need to be prepared for it,” said Yourkoski.</p> <p>So Chief Yourkoski says everyone should have a go bag ready. Fill it with all of your important items and documents. The vendors at the Zombie Fest offered checklists and supplies for go kits. The Zombie Fest organizers did it in a fun, family-friendly way.</p> <p>“The scavenger hunt involves you basically putting your own emergency kit together,” said Yourkoski. Yourkoski says water is the number one thing to have on deck.</p> <p>“We used to say a three day supply, but a three day supply just isn’t realistic. More about a week supply is what they’ve gone to now,” said Yourkoski.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/17 Portland has worst air quality in nation
SOURCE	http://komonews.com/news/local/portland-has-worst-air-quality-in-us-entire-area-measures-unhealthy-09-17-2017
GIST	<p>PORTLAND, Ore. – The <u>Environmental Protection Agency</u> measured Portland's air quality levels to be the worst in the country Saturday at 6 p.m. The top five-worst places for air quality in the country were all Oregon towns.</p> <p>By 6 p.m., the Portland metro area’s air quality measured “unhealthy” according to the Department of Environmental Quality.</p> <p>When the air quality is this bad, everyone could begin to experience health effects, according to the Environmental Protection Agency.</p> <p>Children, the elderly and anyone with health conditions could suffer more than others. The public is asked to avoid exercising outside and to stay inside as much as possible.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/17 Flotilla protests fish farm net pens
SOURCE	http://www.king5.com/news/local/flotilla-protest-calls-for-ending-fish-farm-net-pens/475601946
GIST	<p>Saturday dozens of fish and wildlife activists protested a fish farm net pen near Bainbridge Island.</p> <p>The organizer, Kurt Beardslee of the Wild Fish Conservancy, said the protest was planned before <u>last month’s net pen failure</u> off Cypress Island.</p> <p>An estimated 165,000 Atlantic salmon escaped into Puget Sound, according to the Washington State Department of Natural Resources.</p> <p>“Part of the problem is, it took a spill like this for people to pay attention,” said Beardslee.</p>

	<p>Beardslee said his group has collected more than 8,000 signatures, demanding no more net pens be approved and no more permits reissued.</p> <p>The Wild Fish Conservancy argues the Atlantic salmon threaten the Puget Sound ecosystem, harm native salmon, and bring disease.</p> <p>Washington Gov. Jay Inslee has directed the Department of Ecology to put on hold any new permits for salmon farm net pens after the Atlantic salmon escaped last month.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/16 Coastal growth continues despite history
SOURCE	https://www.newsmax.com/Newsfront/US-Hurricanes-Coastline-Growth/2017/09/16/id/813993/
GIST	<p>Rising sea levels and fierce storms have failed to stop relentless population growth along U.S. coasts in recent years, a new Associated Press analysis shows. The latest punishing hurricanes scored bull's-eyes on two of the country's fastest growing regions: coastal Texas around Houston and resort areas of southwest Florida.</p> <p>Nothing seems to curb America's appetite for life near the sea, especially in the warmer climates of the South. Coastal development destroys natural barriers such as islands and wetlands, promotes erosion and flooding, and positions more buildings and people in the path of future destruction, according to researchers and policy advisers who study hurricanes.</p> <p>"History gives us a lesson, but we don't always learn from it," said Graham Tobin, a disaster researcher at the University of South Florida in Tampa. That city took a glancing hit from Hurricane Irma — one of the most intense U.S. hurricanes in years — but suffered less flooding and damage than some other parts of the state.</p> <p>In 2005, coastal communities took heed of more than 1,800 deaths and \$108 billion in damages from Hurricane Katrina, one of the worst disasters in U.S. history. Images of New Orleans under water elicited solemn resolutions that such a thing should never happen again — until Superstorm Sandy inundated lower Manhattan in 2012. Last year, Hurricane Matthew spread more deaths, flooding and blackouts across Florida, Georgia and the Carolinas. From 2010-2016, major hurricanes and tropical storms are blamed for more than 280 deaths and \$100 billion in damages, according to data from the federal National Centers for Environmental Information.</p> <p>Harvey, another historically big hurricane, flooded sections of Houston in recent weeks. Four counties around Houston, where growth has been buoyed by the oil business, took the full force of the storm. The population of those counties expanded by 12 percent from 2010 to 2016, to a total of 5.3 million people, the AP analysis shows.</p> <p>During the same years, two of Florida's fastest-growing coastline counties — retirement-friendly Lee and Manatee, both south of Tampa — welcomed 16 percent more people. That area took a second direct hit from Irma after it made first landfall in the Florida Keys, where damage was far more devastating.</p> <p>Overall growth of 10 percent in Texas Gulf counties and 9 percent along Florida's coasts during the same period was surpassed only by South Carolina. Its seaside population, led by the Myrtle Beach area of Horry County, ballooned by more than 13 percent.</p> <p>Nationally, coastline counties grew an average of 5.6 percent since 2010, while inland counties gained just 4 percent. This recent trend tracks with decades of development along U.S. coasts. Between 1960 and 2008, the national coastline population rose by 84 percent, compared with 64 percent inland, according to the Census Bureau.</p> <p>In Horry County, where 19 percent growth has led all of South Carolina coastline counties, Irma caused</p>

only minor coastal flooding. The county's low property taxes are made possible by rapid development and tourism fees, allowing retirees from the North and Midwest to live more cheaply. Ironically, punishing hurricanes farther south in recent years has pushed some Northerners known locally as "half-backers" to return halfway home from Florida and to resettle in coastal South Carolina.

Add the area's moderate weather, appealing golf courses, and long white strands — the county is home to Myrtle Beach — and maybe no one can slow development there. "I don't see how you do it," said Johnny Vaught, vice chairman of the county council. "The only thing you can do is modulate it, so developments are well designed."

Strong building codes with elevation and drainage requirements, careful emergency preparations, and a good network of roads for evacuation help make the area more resilient to big storms, said the council chairman, Mark Lazarus. Such measures give people "a sense of comfort," said Laura Crowther, CEO of the local Coastal Carolina Association of Realtors.

Risk researchers say more is needed. "We're getting better at emergency response," said Tobin at the University of South Florida. "We're not so good at long-term control of urban development in hazardous areas."

The Federal Emergency Management Agency helps recovery efforts with community relief and flood insurance payments. The agency did not immediately respond to a request for comment. It provides community grants for projects aimed at avoiding future losses. Some projects elevate properties, build flood barriers, or strengthen roofs and windows against high winds. Others purchase properties subject to repeated damage and allow owners to move.

But coastline communities face more storm threats in the future.

Global warming from human-generated greenhouse gases is melting polar ice and elevating sea levels at an increasing pace, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. That amplifies storm surges and other flooding. Also, some climate models used by scientists predict stronger, more frequent hurricanes as another effect of global warming in coming decades.

"There will be some real challenges for coastal towns," predicted Jamie Kruse, director of the Center for Natural Hazards Research at East Carolina University in Greenville, North Carolina. "We'll see some of these homes that are part of their tax base becoming unlivable."

Hazard researchers said they see nothing in the near term to reverse the trend toward bigger storm losses. As a stopgap, communities should cease building new high-rises on the oceanfront, said Robert Young, director of the Program for the Study of Developed Shorelines at Western Carolina University in Cullowhee, North Carolina.

He said big changes probably will not happen unless multiple giant storms overwhelm federal and state budgets.

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HEADLINE	09/16 Juggalos gather in D.C.; protest FBI label
SOURCE	https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2017/09/16/hundreds-pro-trump-activists-descend-d-c-mother-all-rallies/673539001/
GIST	WASHINGTON, D.C. — Followers of the hip-hop group Insane Clown Posse — known as Juggalos — <u>held a march Saturday</u> on the National Mall, alleging discrimination after the FBI labeled the group a gang in a 2011 report. “We’re different. We’re not dangerous,” Kevin Gill, who is an announcer for a Juggalo wrestling league, said from the rally stage. “Music is not a crime.”

The band, consisting of the duo Violent J and Shaggy 2 Dope, said the gang accusation "has resulted in hundreds if not thousands of people subjected to various forms of discrimination, harassment, and profiling simply for identifying as a Juggalo." In a video on their website, the hip-hop artists claim their fans have lost jobs, custody of their children and been denied access to the military for their Juggalo affiliation.

Alesia Modglin, a pizza delivery worker from southwest Missouri, said she felt compelled to drive to D.C. to protest the FBI's classification. She said the group draws in young people who grew up in troubled homes.

"It's a family ... Everybody loves each other," said Modglin, who came to the nation's capital with her husband, two toddlers, and several other family members. She said some of the band's songs are "demonic, but there are hidden messages of a peaceful place."

Best of all, she said, there's "no judgment."

Juggalos are known for displaying the band's symbol, a man running with a hatchet, and the signature white-and-black face paint. The FBI placed Juggalos on the 2011 National Gang Threat Assessment following reports of crimes committed by people with Juggalo tattoos and clothing. Federal officials estimate there are more than one million Juggalos in the U.S.

The Juggalo rally began with a series of testimonials from people who said they had their children taken from them or lost their jobs, among other incidents, because they had Juggalo tattoos or attended Juggalo concerts.

"No one will hire me because of the music I listen to," Jessica Bonometti told the crowd. She said she'd been fired from her job as a parole officer in Virginia because of her Juggalo association.

Farris Haddad, a lawyer for the Juggalos, said the group was in D.C. "to clear our name!" He said the FBI would be a laughing stock if they tried to blacklist other music fans like punk rockers or Grateful Dead fans.

"No big deal America, it's only juggalos right?" But "who's next?" Haddad asked.

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HEADLINE	09/17 Iran warns US against 'wrong move'
SOURCE	http://www.reuters.com/article/us-iran-usa-nuclear/iran-leader-khamenei-warns-against-u-s-wrong-move-on-nuclear-deal-idUSKCN1BS0DZ?il=0
GIST	<p>DUBAI (Reuters) - Iran would react strongly to any "wrong move" by the United States on Tehran's nuclear deal, Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said, after President Donald Trump accused Iran of violating the "spirit" of the agreement.</p> <p>"The Iranian nation is standing firm and any wrong move by the domineering regime regarding the (nuclear accord) will face the reaction of the Islamic Republic," state television quoted Ayatollah Khamenei as saying on Sunday.</p> <p>Washington extended some sanctions relief for Iran on Thursday under Tehran's 2015 deal with world powers but said it had yet to decide whether to maintain the agreement.</p> <p>Trump, who must make a decision by mid-October, said Iran was violating "the spirit" of the deal under which it got sanctions relief in return for curbing its nuclear program.</p> <p>"Today, despite all the commitments and discussions in the negotiations, America's attitude toward these</p>

	<p>negotiations and their outcome is completely unjust and amounts to bullying,” Khamenei said.</p> <p>“The Americans should know that the Iranian people will stand firm on their honorable positions and on important issues related to national interests, there will be no retreat by the Islamic Republic,” Khamenei said in a speech to Iranian military academy graduates.</p> <p>Iran said last month it could abandon the nuclear agreement “within hours” if the United States imposes any new penalties, after Washington ordered sanctions over Tehran’s ballistic missile tests.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/16 Calif. approves ‘sanctuary state’ bill
SOURCE	http://abcnews.go.com/Politics/wireStory/ice-director-decries-californias-sanctuary-state-bill-49898994?cid=clicksource_4380645_5_heads_posts_headlines_hed
GIST	<p>California lawmakers approved a "sanctuary state" bill on Saturday that would put new restrictions on interactions between local law enforcement and federal immigration authorities, drawing the ire of federal officials who argued the legislation prioritizes politics over public safety.</p> <p>The bill, known as SB-54, is intended to bolster the state's immigrant protections, which are already among the toughest in the nation.</p> <p>The legislation will now be considered by Gov. <u>Jerry Brown</u>, who announced his support after the top state Senate leader agreed to water down the bill and preserve authority for jail and prison officials to cooperate with immigration officers in many cases.</p> <p>The legislation is the latest effort by Democratic lawmakers in California, home to an estimated 2.3 million immigrants without legal authorization, to create barriers to President Donald Trump's campaign pledge to step up deportation efforts. They've also approved money for legal assistance and college scholarships for people living illegally in the U.S., and made it harder for businesses and government agencies to disclose people's immigration status.</p> <p>California lawmakers are debating the measure as the U.S. Congress considers offering legal status to young immigrants whose parents brought them into the country illegally or overstayed their visas.</p> <p>"This comes as a relief that there are some legislators that are really listening," said Pablo Alvarado, executive director of the National Day Laborer Organizing Network.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/16 Officials warn returning Keys residents
SOURCE	http://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory/irma-shuttered-schools-add-stress-families-49894226
GIST	<p>As the devastated Florida Keys began reopening to residents who fled Hurricane Irma, officials warned the returning islanders to bring enough supplies to sustain them for a while, because no one yet knows when water and power will be fully restored.</p> <p>"The Keys are not what you left several days ago when you evacuated. Electricity, sewer and water are intermittent at best," said Monroe County Mayor George Neugent during a news conference Saturday.</p> <p>Officials opened up U.S. 1 on Saturday all the way south to Marathon for residents, business owners, disaster workers and supply trucks. They also announced plans to let the same groups have access all the way to Key West starting at 7 a.m. Sunday.</p> <p>Recovery efforts are well underway with <u>the Salvation Army</u> planning to serve 5,000 barbecue dinners Saturday night in Marathon and Key West, marking the first hot meals for many since Irma made landfall</p>

	<p>nearly a week ago.</p> <p>Roads were being cleared and recovery centers are being set up in the area to help residents fill out FEMA, insurance and small business relief paperwork. Even Publix was open until 5 p.m. on Friday.</p> <p>Officials had agonized over the decision to reopen the islands, knowing residents were desperate to assess the damage with their own eyes, yet worried about harsh living conditions for those who choose return.</p> <p>Curfews remained in effect and returning residents received a clear message from Keys officials — you must be self-sufficient. They encouraged residents to bring tents, small air conditioning units, food, water and medications.</p> <p>Officials said their detailed hurricane plan didn't account for some unique challenges brought by Irma, which nearly wiped out parts of the middle Keys, while Key West remained in decent shape.</p> <p>Getting Key West residents and businesses owners to the southernmost point remained a challenge as authorities work to keep out tourists, gawkers, looters and others who could hamper recovery efforts.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/17 Rift between West Bank, Gaza over?
SOURCE	http://www.cnn.com/2017/09/17/middleeast/mideast-hamas-gaza-west-bank/index.html
GIST	<p>Jerusalem (CNN) Paving the way for possible reconciliation between the West Bank and Gaza, Hamas said Sunday it would dissolve the Gaza administrative committee, allowing a unity government to work in its place and agree on general elections.</p> <p>The move could potentially end a 10-year rift between the West Bank and Gaza that started when Hamas forced the Fatah-led Palestinian Authority out of the coastal enclave in 2007.</p> <p>Israel and Egypt have since imposed a blockade on Gaza; Egypt intermittently opens its border crossing into Gaza.</p> <p>The announcement followed indirect negotiations between Palestinian groups Fatah and Hamas in Cairo. The Egyptian General Intelligence Services led the negotiations, according to a Hamas statement released early Sunday.</p> <p>The move also comes after a series of Palestinian Authority measures designed to pressure Hamas, including reduction of electricity in Gaza and cutting of salaries.</p> <p>The negotiations were "an expression of Egyptian interest in Palestinian reconciliation and ending the division, and our interest to realize the hopes of the Palestinian people by achieving national unity," Hamas said.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/17 NHC: 3 storms raging in the Atlantic
SOURCE	http://www.cnn.com/2017/09/17/americas/atlantic-storms-jose-lee-maria/index.html
GIST	<p>(CNN)Three storms are spinning in the Atlantic, with one already a hurricane and another one strengthening and forecast to threaten areas battered by Hurricane Irma last week.</p> <p>Tropical Storm Maria formed Saturday in the western Atlantic Ocean and is expected to be a hurricane by late Monday and a major hurricane by Wednesday, the National Hurricane Center says.</p> <p>By Sunday morning, Maria was about 460 miles southeast of the Lesser Antilles. The storm is moving</p>

toward the Caribbean at 15 mph, according to the center.

"Maximum sustained winds have increased to near 65 mph (100 km/h) with higher gusts. Additional strengthening is forecast during the next 48 hours, and Maria will likely become a hurricane later today," it said.

The core of Maria was expected to hit the Leeward Islands in 48 to 72 hours, and then move toward Puerto Rico in four days then on toward eastern Hispaniola (Haiti and the Dominican Republic) in about five days, the NHC said.

That means areas devastated by Irma could again be dealing with hurricane conditions by Tuesday or Wednesday.

Hurricane watches have been issued for Antigua, Barbuda, St. Kitts, Nevis and Montserrat, Guadeloupe, Saba and St. Eustatius, St. Maarten, Dominica and Anguilla. Tropical storm watches are posted for St. Lucia, Martinique, Barbados and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

"Maria is expected to strengthen and affect portions of the Leeward Islands as a hurricane early next week, bringing dangerous wind, storm surge and rainfall hazards," the NHC said. "Maria could also affect the British and US Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico by mid week as a dangerous major hurricane, and hurricane watches could be issued for these islands as early as tonight."

The center warned that hurricane conditions were possible in the hurricane watch area by Tuesday and that Maria could bring "a dangerous storm surge accompanied by large and destructive waves."

Maria was also expected to bring heavy rain to areas of the Leeward and Windward Islands through Wednesday night, it said, with the potential to cause life-threatening flash floods and mudslides. Swells generated by Maria were expected to begin affecting the Lesser Antilles, likely bringing life-threatening surf and rip conditions by Sunday night, the center said.

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HEADLINE	09/16 Lakewood shooting verdict to arbitration
SOURCE	http://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/crime/15m-verdict-in-police-shooting-of-unarmed-black-man-heading-to-arbitration/
GIST	<p>A bitter dispute over claims that a record \$15.1 million jury verdict, against the Lakewood Police Department, its chief and two officers for the fatal shooting of an unarmed African-American man, was the result of prejudicial "racially charged trial themes" has led a federal judge to refer the case to mediation.</p> <p>Lakewood's attorneys contend the verdict was "excessive" and that punitive damages levied against Chief Mike Zaro (\$3 million), Sgt. Brian Markert (\$2 million) and Officer Mike Wiley (\$1.5 million) are not covered by insurance and beyond what they could ever pay.</p> <p>"In the case of Chief Zaro, \$3 million in punitive damages ... is not mere punishment, it is the financial equivalent of a death sentence," wrote attorney Brian Augenthaler.</p> <p>He asked U.S. District Judge Barbara Rothstein to reduce the total verdict — which included \$8.6 million in compensatory damages — by more than 80 percent, or grant a new trial.</p> <p>Rothstein responded by sending the case to a mediator in hopes the two sides could negotiate an agreement before ruling.</p> <p>Augenthaler said the city would be willing to pay the family and estate of Leonard Thomas a total of \$2.4 million — including \$720,046 in punitive damages divided among the three officers.</p>

A unanimous seven-member jury in U.S. District Court handed down the \$15.1 million verdict — likely the largest civil-rights verdict ever in the Western District of Washington — in July after a three-week trial over the death of Thomas, who was shot in 2013 after a misdemeanor domestic-violence assault escalated into a four-hour SWAT standoff at his Fife home, where he had retreated with his 4-year-old son.

Two armored vehicles and 29 heavily armed officers from the multi-jurisdiction Pierce County Metro SWAT team responded to the incident. Zaro was incident commander, Wiley led an assault team and Markert was a sniper armed with a high-powered rifle.

According to testimony, Thomas — who was drunk and off medications for bipolar disorder — had agreed to let the child go home with the child’s grandmother. Zaro had ordered that Thomas be stopped from taking the child back into the house, jurors were told.

Thomas was on the porch with the child’s backpack and car seat when Zaro ordered a SWAT assault team to use explosives to breach a back door. An assault team shot and killed the family dog and then flooded the home from the rear.

When Thomas, 30, reacted to the blast, Markert shot him in the belly. He bled to death struggling to hold on to this child, pleading “Don’t hurt my boy” as police pulled the child from his arms. The boy was yelling, “Daddy! Daddy!” according to testimony.

Thomas had repeatedly told negotiators — as did family members — that he was not armed, and no firearms were found in house.

The jury awarded compensatory damages in the amount of \$4 million to Thomas’ now 9-year-old son, \$1.885 million to his estate, and \$1.375 million each to his mother and father.

Zaro, Markert and Wiley were singled out by the jurors for punitive damages for their roles in the death, with the jury finding each personally liable for multiple violations of Thomas’ civil rights.

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HEADLINE	09/16 College pays professor center of protest
SOURCE	http://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/evergreen-professor-at-center-of-protests-resigns-college-will-pay-500000/
GIST	<p>The Evergreen State College professor at the center of campus protests this spring will receive \$500,000 in a settlement that was announced Friday.</p> <p>Bret Weinstein and his wife, Heather Heying, resigned from their faculty positions effective Friday. <u>The couple filed a \$3.85 million tort claim</u> in July alleging the college failed to “protect its employees from repeated provocative and corrosive verbal and written hostility based on race, as well as threats of physical violence,” according to the claim.</p> <p>Weinstein had criticized changes to the school’s annual Day of Absence after white students who chose to participate were asked to go off campus to talk about race issues. He called the event “an act of oppression,” according to emails obtained by The Olympian. Weinstein later appeared on Fox News and wrote an Op-Ed in The Wall Street Journal.</p> <p>The incident led to protests and threats over allegations of racism and intolerance, pulling Evergreen into a national debate over free speech on college campuses. The campus was closed for three days in June and graduation was moved to Cheney Stadium in Tacoma.</p> <p>In an email to faculty and staff sent Friday about 6:40 p.m., Evergreen officials wrote that the college will pay \$450,000 to the couple and \$50,000 toward the couple’s attorney fees.</p>

“In making this agreement, the college admits no liability, and rejects the allegations made in the tort claim. The educational activities of Day of Absence/Day of Presence were not discriminatory. The college took reasonable and appropriate steps to engage with protesters during spring quarter, de-escalate conflict, and keep the campus safe,” according to the email.

In a statement, Evergreen spokesman Zach Powers said the settlement was in the college’s best interest.

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HEADLINE	09/15 State psychiatric hospitals overwhelmed
SOURCE	http://www.thenewstribune.com/news/politics-government/article173303441.html
GIST	<p>The number of patients being referred to the criminal wards at Washington’s congested psychiatric hospitals has soared in the last year, a trend that has befuddled state officials and prompted them to scramble for answers.</p> <p>The state’s psychiatric facilities, including Western State Hospital in Lakewood, already have struggled for years to overcome crowding and lengthy wait lists for care. The result has been millions of dollars in fines and court orders to speed up required services for mentally ill defendants.</p> <p>While in line to get help at the hospitals, patients accused of crimes have been left in local jails, where they can’t get proper treatment.</p> <p>Yet the new and escalating rise in referrals to criminal, or forensic, wards makes the state’s tall task of shortening hospital wait lists even more difficult, especially with little idea of why it’s happening, said Thomas Kinlen, who oversees services for forensic patients for the state.</p> <p><u>An August report</u> from the state says the increase in referrals of forensic patients is leading to an increase in the admission wait list, “especially on the western side of the state.”</p> <p>State Rep. Laurie Jenkins, a Tacoma Democrat who serves on a committee focused on state psychiatric hospitals, said the influx of new patients is “incredibly troubling.”</p> <p>“And it’s even more troubling that we’re not really able to put our finger on what’s causing that,” she said.</p> <p>Forensic wards serve mentally ill patients who have been accused or convicted of a crime.</p> <p>State data show 1,450 patients in 2016 were referred to forensic wards at state psychiatric facilities for treatment to evaluate or restore their competency to stand trial. In 2015, the hospitals saw 1,076 such referrals.</p> <p>That’s a roughly 35 percent jump. The previous four years saw growth ranging from 0.4 percent to 10.5 percent.</p> <p>Preliminary data from 2017 shows the influx continuing. Referrals to forensic wards at 800-bed Western State Hospital have shot up 36 percent when comparing the first five months of 2017 to the same time period in 2016.</p> <p>Western State is Washington’s biggest — and most crowded — psychiatric facility. A federal judge repeatedly has fined the state for not providing timely competency services to forensic patients, particularly at Western State.</p> <p>Some growth in forensic referrals is normal and planned for, Kinlen said, but not at this rate.</p> <p>The rise in forensic patients “skyrocketed” starting in August of 2016, Kinlen said. It hasn’t relented.</p>

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HEADLINE	09/15 Everett suspends bikini barista laws
SOURCE	http://q13fox.com/2017/09/15/city-of-everett-agrees-to-suspend-enforcement-of-ordinances-aimed-at-forcing-bikini-baristas-to-cover-up/
GIST	<p>EVERETT, Wash. — The city of Everett said Friday it has agreed to suspend enforcement of two new ordinances aimed at forcing bikini baristas to cover up, pending the outcome of a lawsuit challenging the new laws.</p> <p>“The City has agreed to suspend enforcement of the new ordinances for several weeks, at which time the challenge will be decided on the merits without the unnecessary intermediary step of litigating a temporary restraining order. We are confident that the City will prevail and the ordinances will be upheld,” the city of Everett said in a news release.</p> <p>The ordinances went into effect on Sept. 5. They essentially banned bikinis and lingerie at the coffee stands.</p> <p>A group of bikini baristas filed suit in federal court alleging the ordinances violated their constitutional rights.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/15 DOJ rolls back COPS program
SOURCE	http://thehill.com/regulation/350954-doj-rolls-back-program-intended-to-identify-problems-in-police-departments
GIST	<p>The Department of Justice announced Friday that it’s rolling back an Obama-era program created to help improve trust between police agencies and the communities they serve.</p> <p>The department said it’s making significant changes to an office that investigated and issued public reports about problems it found in individual police departments.</p> <p>DOJ said the changes to the program “will return control to the public safety personnel sworn to protect their communities and focus on providing real-time technical assistance to best address the identified needs of requesting agencies to reduce violent crime.”</p> <p>The move falls in line with Sessions' tough-on-crime policies and President Trump's pro-police administration.</p> <p>The changes target the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS Office) Collaborative Reform Initiative for Technical Assistance. DOJ described it in 2016 as a “a long-term strategy that first identifies issues within an agency that may affect public trust and then offers recommendations based on a comprehensive agency assessment for how to resolve those issues and enhance the relationship between the police and the community.”</p> <p>“Changes to this program will fulfill my commitment to respect local control and accountability, while still delivering important tailored resources to local law enforcement to fight violent crime,” Attorney General Jeff Sessions said in a statement.</p> <p>As The Washington Post reported, DOJ’s civil rights division has for decades conducted “pattern or practice” probes of troubled police departments to determine whether there are systemic problems that require a court-appointed monitor to correct. The COPS office had reportedly been expanding in recent years.</p>

	“This is a course correction to ensure that resources go to agencies that require assistance rather than expensive wide-ranging investigative assessments that go beyond the scope of technical assistance and support,” according to the DOJ.
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HEADLINE	09/15 Bangladesh warns Myanmar over border
SOURCE	http://www.reuters.com/article/us-myanmar-rohingya/bangladesh-warns-myanmar-over-border-amid-refugee-crisis-idUSKCN1BR03V
GIST	<p>DHAKA (Reuters) - Bangladesh has accused Myanmar of repeatedly violating its air space and warned that any more “provocative acts” could have “unwarranted consequences”, raising the risk of a deterioration in relations already strained by the Rohingya refugee crisis.</p> <p>Nearly 400,000 Rohingya Muslims from western Myanmar have crossed into Bangladesh since Aug. 25, fleeing a Myanmar government offensive against insurgents that the United Nations has branded a “textbook example of ethnic cleansing”.</p> <p>Bangladesh said Myanmar drones and helicopters had violated its air space three times - on Sept. 10, 12 and 14 - and it had called in a top Myanmar embassy official in Dhaka to complain.</p> <p>“Bangladesh expressed deep concern at the repetition of such acts of provocation and demanded that Myanmar takes immediate measures to ensure that such violation of sovereignty does not occur again,” the ministry said in statement late on Friday.</p> <p>“These provocative acts may lead to unwarranted consequences.”</p>
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HEADLINE	09/15 Exoneration: cop killings of black men
SOURCE	http://www.reuters.com/article/us-missouri-crime-factbox/factbox-in-u-s-police-killings-of-black-men-law-generally-sides-with-officers-idUSKCN1BQ2YD
GIST	<p>(Reuters) - The acquittal on Friday of a white former St. Louis police officer in the 2011 shooting death of a black man is the latest in a nationwide series of racially tinged police killings that mostly ended in the exoneration of the officers involved.</p> <p>The former St. Louis officer, Jason Stockley, 36, was acquitted by Circuit Judge Timothy Wilson of first-degree murder in the killing of Anthony Lamar Smith, 24, prompting hundreds of protesters to take to the city’s streets to voice their anger.</p> <p>Similar protests, some of them violent, followed police killings of other African-American men and the news that the officers involved would face no legal consequences.</p> <p>Here are five recent cases:</p> <p>MICHAEL BROWN The shooting of unarmed 18-year-old Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri, near St. Louis, on Aug. 9, 2014 sparked nearly two weeks protests and rioting that subsided at the family’s urging just before Brown’s funeral.</p> <p>The case against the white officer, Darren Wilson, went to a grand jury, which decided on Nov. 24, 2014 not to indict him, sparking more street protests. The U.S. Justice Department also cleared him on March 4, 2015. Wilson is no longer with the Ferguson Police Department.</p> <p>ERIC GARNER</p>

Accused of illegally selling individual cigarettes, Eric Garner, 43, died on July 17, 2014 after he was arrested in New York City's Staten Island borough and put into a chokehold by New York City Police Officer Daniel Pantaleo, who is white. The encounter was captured on video.

Several street protests in New York and other cities followed news of the killing, and again five months later, on Dec. 3, when a grand jury did not return an indictment against Pantaleo, who is still with the NYPD.

FREDDIE GRAY

In Baltimore, 25-year-old Freddie Gray was arrested on April 12, 2015 after police said he fled the scene unprovoked in a high crime area while in possession of an illegal switchblade. After being transported in a police van, Gray was hospitalized unconscious and died on April 19 of what was determined to be a neck injury.

Gray's injury and death while in police custody sparked several days of protests and rioting in Baltimore, prompting Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake to set a week-long curfew. As a result, the Baltimore Orioles were forced to postpone two home games against the Chicago White Sox, and played a third on April 29 in an empty stadium, unprecedented in Major League Baseball.

Six Baltimore police officers, including three who are black, were charged with Gray's death. None were convicted, and the Justice Department subsequently decided not to bring charges against them.

TERENCE CRUTCHER

While standing near his car in the middle of a street in Tulsa, Oklahoma, on Sept. 16, 2016, 40-year-old Terence Crutcher was fatally shot by police officer Betty Shelby, who is white. The shooting was captured on video from several angles.

The killing touched off protests in Tulsa and led the Tulsa County district attorney to charge Shelby with first-degree manslaughter on Sept. 22.

Earlier this year, on May 17, a jury acquitted Shelby of the charge. Shelby, who had been placed on administrative duty since the shooting, resigned from the Tulsa police force on July 14.

KEITH LAMONT SCOTT

In North Carolina, 43-year-old Keith Lamont Scott was shot dead on Sept. 20, 2016 by Charlotte police Officer Brentley Vinson, who is also black. Police said Scott got out of his car carrying a handgun and refused orders to drop it. Scott's wife, who was present, disputed the account.

The shooting sparked both peaceful protests and violent riots in Charlotte over two nights, resulting in several injuries and one death.

The district attorney determined on Nov. 30, 2016 that Vinson "acted lawfully," and Charlotte-Mecklenburg police Chief Kerr Putney later ruled that he acted in accordance with department policy. Last month, a civilian review board in the city split evenly over Putney's decision, the first time in the board's 20-year history that it did not agree with the chief.

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HEADLINE	09/16 More protests break out in St. Louis
SOURCE	http://www.reuters.com/article/us-missouri-crime/more-protests-break-out-in-st-louis-after-acquittal-in-police-shooting-idUSKCN1BQ161
GIST	ST. LOUIS (Reuters) - Protesters marched through an upscale St. Louis-area shopping mall on Saturday and the rock group U2 canceled a concert hours after police clashed with a crowd outraged over the acquittal of a white former policeman accused of murdering a black man.

<p>Return to Top</p>	<p>In a second day of protests over the judge’s ruling in the 2011 shooting death, hundreds of people chanted “Shut it down” and waved fists in the air as they snaked through the West County Center in the St. Louis suburb of Des Peres.</p> <p>Police officers were out in force but there were no skirmishes, unlike the previous night, when nine city officers and a state trooper were injured, and at least 23 people were taken into custody during the clashes.</p> <p>“We don’t want to see property destruction or see people getting hurt,” Elad Gross, 29, a St. Louis civil rights attorney said on Saturday as protesters gathered in a park before going to the mall. “But this is a protest that addresses injustices not only happening here in St. Louis but around the country.”</p> <p>On Friday, Circuit Judge Timothy Wilson acquitted former St. Louis Police Officer Jason Stockley, 36, of first-degree murder in the shooting death of Anthony Lamar Smith, 24.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/16 NKorea leader: will reach nuclear goal
SOURCE	http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-41289532
GIST	<p>North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has vowed to reach the country's nuclear goals, according to state media.</p> <p>The aim was to establish "equilibrium" of military force with the US, the KCNA news agency quoted him as saying.</p> <p>Mr Kim's comments come after North Korea fired its latest missile over Japan - in what is being described as the country's farthest-reaching test.</p> <p>The move split world powers who united behind new UN sanctions against North Korea just days ago.</p> <p>"We should clearly show the big power chauvinists how our state attain the goal of completing its nuclear force despite their limitless sanctions and blockade," Mr Kim was quoted as saying by the KCNA.</p> <p>He also said North Korea's goal was "to establish the equilibrium of real force with the US and make the US rulers dare not talk about military option for the DPRK [North Korea]".</p>
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HEADLINE	09/16 Expert: NKorea talk may signal opening
SOURCE	http://www.foxnews.com/world/2017/09/16/tough-talk-from-kim-jong-un-but-expert-says-it-may-signal-opening.html
GIST	<p>SEOUL, South Korea – More tough words from Kim Jong Un. Through state media he’s quoted as saying that North Korea is going “full speed and straight” to the goal of “completing its nuclear force” and is “nearly” there.</p> <p>The North Korean leader goes on to say his regime’s aim is to “establish the equilibrium of real force with the U.S.” so the U.S. would “dare not talk about the military option.”</p> <p>All of this comes after the latest launch by North Korea of an intermediate range ballistic missile that flew a distance of 2,300 miles which, if pointed in that direction, means it could hit the US territory island of Guam.</p> <p>And all of this also comes as the U.S. is working with its allies here and in the U.N. to put maximum economic diplomatic pressure on Kim’s regime. As late as Friday there was more talk from Trump administration officials of possible military action.</p>

	<p>Still, according to one leading North Korea expert here in Seoul, Kim Jong Un’s latest rhetorical outburst suggests intriguing possibilities.</p> <p>“This is an important statement,” John DeLury of Seoul’s Yonsei University told Fox News. “I think this is an opening.”</p> <p>For one thing, DeLury notes, the fact that the North Korean leader is talking about achieving “equilibrium” with its nuclear arsenal rather than turning the U.S. into “darkness and ashes” is a good thing. Also that Kim Jong Un thinks he is close to completing that arsenal might mean he thinks he is close to considering negotiations.</p> <p>“The language is significant,” DeLury said. He adds that the words come from “...Kim Jong Un himself... there is no higher level.”</p> <p>Experts like DeLury are convinced negotiations are the only way out of the North Korean crisis.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/15 Judge: can't withhold money from cities
SOURCE	https://www.cbsnews.com/news/federal-judge-rules-trump-cant-withhold-money-from-sanctuary-cities/
GIST	<p>CHICAGO - For now, Attorney General Jeff Sessions can't follow through with his threat to withhold public safety grant money to <u>Chicago and other so-called sanctuary cities</u> for refusing to impose new tough immigration policies, a federal judge ruled Friday in a legal defeat for the Trump administration.</p> <p>In what is at least a temporary victory for cities that have defied Sessions, U.S. District Judge Harry Leinenweber ruled that the Justice Department could not impose the requirements.</p> <p>He said the city had shown a "likelihood of success" in arguing that <u>Sessions exceeded his authority</u> with the new conditions. Among them are requirements that cities notify immigration agents when someone in the country illegally is about to be released from local jails and to allow agents access to the jails.</p> <p>The city had asked the judge for a "nationwide" temporary injunction this week, asking the judge not to allow the Justice Department to impose the requirements until the city's lawsuit against the department plays out in court.</p> <p>After the ruling, Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel said the ruling was a "clear statement" by the judge "that the Trump administration is wrong." He said that the Justice Department's policy, if implemented, would be "driving a wedge between the immigrant community and the police department" and that effectively, the Justice Department was asking cities to "abandon the principle of community policing."</p>
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HEADLINE	09/16 Protests at Va. Confederate statue rally
SOURCE	https://www.cbsnews.com/news/protesters-counter-protesters-converge-at-confederate-statue-rally-in-virginia/
GIST	<p>Protesters defending Confederate statues surrounded a monument of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee in Richmond, Virginia, Saturday, but counter-protesters far outnumbered them, forming a crowd of several hundred people, CBS News' Paula Reid reports.</p> <p>Organizers planned the "Heritage not Hate" rally to urge the city to keep Lee's statue where it stands. Richmond is reevaluating the monument after the violent white nationalist rally in nearby <u>Charlottesville last month</u> that began as a rally to protest the removal of a Confederate statute. That day's deadly events</p>

still weigh heavily on the minds of the state's residents. On Saturday, a "Richmond Stands United" Rally countered the pro-Lee Rally by a statue recently dedicated to Maggie Walker, the daughter of a slave who became a newspaper publisher and founder of a bank.

The police presence was heavy Saturday morning, Reid reports, contrasting sharply with the law enforcement response in Charlottesville. Authorities closed down streets and blocked them off with dump trucks to prevent a repeat of Charlottesville, when a suspect rammed a car into a crowd of counter-protesters and killed 32-year-old Heather Heyer.

The Richmond rally began peacefully, with chants and name-calling, but no visible altercations, according to Reid. Some protesters toted guns in the open, as Virginia is an open-carry state. As of 11:32 a.m., there were no arrests, although one person was removed from the scene, according to the Richmond Police Department. The protesters don't have a permit.

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HEADLINE	09/15 Asylum seekers stream into Canada
SOURCE	http://www.latimes.com/world/mexico-americas/la-fg-canada-asylum-seekers-20170915-htmlstory.html
GIST	<p>The Royal Canadian Mounted Police intercepted nearly 3,000 of the asylum seekers at this one illicit crossing in July, nearly four times the number apprehended in June. In the first two weeks of August, 3,700 more were taken into custody.</p> <p>“We’ve never seen such numbers coming in,” Claude Castonguay, a spokesman for the force, told reporters. “They’re unprecedented.”</p> <p>Though the numbers have dropped in the last few weeks, the influx has strained Canada’s immigration and refugee services, leaving officials scrambling to find places to shelter them all and causing months-long delays in the processing of asylum claims.</p> <p>Canadian authorities set up tents at the border and installed rows of cots at the Montreal Olympic stadium — a jarring sight for many Canadians, who say the scenes are reminiscent of a war zone. Schools, conference halls and an abandoned hospital were also converted into temporary shelters for the migrants.</p> <p>The rush poses a political problem for the Liberal government of Prime Minister <u>Justin Trudeau</u>, who faces a backlash from opposition parties and anti-immigrant groups because of his welcoming stance toward refugees.</p> <p>Government officials have taken to the press and <u>social media</u> in recent weeks to try to dispel the notion — common among the migrants — that anyone who requests asylum in Canada will automatically receive permanent residence.</p> <p>“You will not be at an advantage if you choose to enter Canada irregularly,” Trudeau said at a news conference. “You must follow the rules, and there are many.”</p> <p>Police say they first noticed an increase in illegal crossings around the time of the U.S. election in November, and many of the asylum seekers say they have lost hope that America will accept them as long as President Trump remains in office.</p> <p>Some are from the six predominantly Muslim countries — Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen — subject to a U.S. travel ban imposed by Trump. But they also include many other foreign nationals who are frightened by his crackdown on illegal immigration and vows to slash the number of immigrants admitted to the U.S. lawfully.</p> <p>The largest share — about 85% of those currently arriving — are Haitians who lacked visas to enter the</p>

	<p>U.S. or overstayed the ones they had and now fear being sent home.</p> <p>It's a mystery how people from as far away as Africa and the Middle East first discovered Roxham Road, which cuts through thick forest and is lined with a handful of trailer homes. But once they did, word spread quickly on social media about how easy it is to enter Canada here.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/16 San Diego struggles w/hepatitis outbreak
SOURCE	http://www.latimes.com/local/california/la-me-hepatitis-los-angeles-20170914-htlstory.html
GIST	<p>Health officials in San Diego have scrambled for months to contain an outbreak of <u>hepatitis A</u> — vaccinating more than 19,000 people, putting up posters at bus stations and distributing hand sanitizer and cleansing wipes.</p> <p>Despite those efforts, 16 people have died of the highly contagious virus in San Diego County and hundreds have become ill in what officials say is the nation's second-largest outbreak of hepatitis A in decades.</p> <p>Earlier this month, San Diego officials declared a public health emergency.</p> <p>Though Los Angeles has so far escaped an outbreak, public health officials are hoping to head off a similar emergency. They say the virus could easily spread to Los Angeles because of its proximity to San Diego and the region's large homeless population.</p> <p>"We know it's getting worse in San Diego so we're really ramping up," said Cristin Mondy, the county's area health officer for a region that includes downtown Los Angeles.</p> <p>In their efforts to get their outbreak under control, San Diego health officials have adopted a technique from L.A. that they hope will stop cases from spreading locally: washing the streets with water containing bleach.</p> <p>"They didn't have any outbreaks. We did. So we were like, 'What's going on there?'" said San Diego County public health officer Dr. Wilma Wooten. "That's what we wanted to replicate here."</p> <p>Since November, 421 people in San Diego County have been infected with the virus, including the 16 who died, health officials said. Typically there are only two or three cases of hepatitis A per month in the county. The majority of those infected in the ongoing outbreak were either homeless or illicit-drug users, with cases concentrated in downtown San Diego and the cities of El Cajon, Santee and La Mesa, Wooten said.</p> <p>A related outbreak began in Santa Cruz County as well this year, where 69 people have been infected by the same strain of hepatitis A so far, she said. Though hepatitis A is often contracted through contaminated food, the strain circulating in San Diego and Santa Cruz isn't associated with food, but instead seems to be spreading from person to person, she said.</p> <p>"We know that the numbers are going to increase, and they've been increasing since we first identified the outbreak," Wooten said.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/15 Russia unveils massive military force
SOURCE	http://www.thedailybeast.com/russia-unveils-massive-military-force-the-enemy-has-no-chance
GIST	Russia has begun its biggest war game in years on land, in the air, and on the sea bordering <u>NATO's</u> smallest and weakest member states. No fewer than 12,000 troops, 70 warplanes, 250 tanks, and 10

warships are officially scheduled to wage mock warfare from Sept. 14 to Sept. 20 in Belarus and Russia and on the Baltic and Barents Seas.

The "Zapad 2017" training exercise, a joint effort between the Russian and Belarusian militaries, involves some of the latest Russian-made weaponry. But the war game is equally notable for the weapons that *aren't* involved.

Despite a resurgence under President Vladimir Putin, Moscow's armed forces still can't deploy stealth fighters or the latest tank models. And Russia's sole aircraft carrier, the aged *Admiral Kuznetsov*, is also unavailable for training.

The equipment shortfalls help to explain why Jussi Niinistö, Finland's defense minister, described Zapad 2017 as a propaganda exercise. "Western countries have taken the bait completely," Niinistö said.

"They've plugged the exercises so much."

Zapad 2017 is the latest edition of a long-running war game meant to "train troops for combat in isolated areas against the actions of illegal armed formations," according to the Belarusian defense ministry. Putin was scheduled to personally observe the training on Russian soil.

"The exercise is purely defensive, and does not target any country or group of states," the Russian defense ministry stated.

But those assurances did little to calm NATO and neutral countries near the exercise zone. "I believe it is clear that we are witnessing yet another Russian demonstration of power and capabilities," German defense minister Ursula von der Leyen said.

Von der Leyen accused Russia of undercounting the number of troops involved in Zapad 2017 by an order of magnitude. The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, an international body that monitors the military balance of power on the continent, requires that countries either limit their war games to no more than 13,000 troops—or invite foreign officials to observe the training.

The exercise kicked off weeks before its official start date. Army logisticians began staging equipment and supplies on training ranges in Russia and Belarus. The Belarusian air force practiced operating MiG-29, Yak-130, and Su-25 warplanes from a highway.

The Russian navy sortied 50 warships from ports on Russia's northern coast toward Russia's maritime border with Norway. The flotilla included the nuclear-powered battlecruiser *Pyotr Velikiy*—one of the world's largest warships at 827 feet long—plus several submarines.

Notably missing from Zapad 2017 and its associated events were Russia's most advanced and potentially most powerful weapon systems. The army's new T-14 tank is still in testing. And a Russian official recently admitted the country would only build 100 of the tanks by 2020—thousands fewer than Moscow previously claimed.

The air force's new Su-57 stealth fighter likewise is still undergoing testing. The plane's builder announced it would deliver just a dozen of the twin-engine jets to the military by 2019. By comparison, the U.S. Air Force declared its own F-22 and F-35 stealth fighters combat-ready in 2005 and 2016, respectively.

As for *Admiral Kuznetsov*, Russia's sole aircraft carrier—the vessel is in a shipyard for repairs following its disastrous first-ever deployment, to Syria, in the summer of 2017. During the brief deployment, two of the carrier's 15 fighter planes crashed while trying to land.

The United States and its NATO allies together possess no fewer than 14 aircraft carriers operating hundreds of planes.

So while the scale and proximity of the Zapad 2017 war game startles nearby countries, the major absences from the exercise undercut the threat the Russian mobilization seems to pose. Moscow can still send thousands of troops, hundreds of vehicles, scores of warplanes and tens of major warships to a neighboring country and near waters... and inspire alarming headlines all over the world.

But these forces are relatively few in number and lacking in sophistication. Zapad 2017 is pretend war whose propaganda value is all too real.

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HEADLINE 09/15 Another Seattle mayor declines to stay

SOURCE <http://mynorthwest.com/753985/bruce-harrell-declines-seattle-mayor/>

GIST Bruce Harrell will not remain Seattle’s mayor in the wake of Ed Murray’s resignation.

“While I have a passion for excellence and boldness and heck of a lot of energy, I have decided to decline the position of mayor for the remainder of this term and will return to the city council and continue representing District 2,” Harrell said Friday.

“It may sound a little cheesy and corny — I don’t care — I care about this city,” he said. “There are issues on the council that require my leadership. There are issues with District 2 that need me. That’s my home. It would make sense for me to put my energy in another position.”

Harrell announced Friday that he is declining the position he was [sworn into two days prior](#). As the city council president, Harrell was next in line to take on the mayoral position after Murray stepped down. Now the council will select another colleague to take on the job until the next mayor is elected in November. That decision will likely come at its meeting on Monday, Sept. 18.

Whoever is elected will step into office early; as soon as the election is verified.

“I met with Miss Moon and Miss Durkan this morning and with members of our transition team to make it welcoming for both candidates when one is elected,” Harrell said.

Before closing, Harrell wanted to make one clarification and speak to the controversy around Ed Murray. [Murray left the office of the mayor](#) after a fifth allegation he sexually abused minors in the ’80s and ’90s. “A very close person to my wife and I who lives in our district, who we call sister, told me ‘I believe with love and respect, Bruce’ — she didn’t call me Mayor Harrell — ‘Bruce, I heard you the other day. As a victim of abuse I needed to hear more, I wanted to hear more.’ ... She needs to feel that I understood what the allegations against our mayor brought out in her.”

“So to the survivors, I hear you,” he said. “It was your voice that changed the history of this city. It was your voice that changed its course and direction. It was your voice that prompted me to ask an entire city to heal. I’ve learned in life that the truth always prevails over falsity and that justice and karma are universal laws of life.”

While Harrell is only mayor briefly, he also announced that he signed four executive orders in his two days on the job.

Executive order 201706: Directs the Seattle Office of Economic Development to respond to Amazon’s recent request for proposal for a [new city to place a second headquarters](#). It directs city staff to work with the area’s other big employers, such as the University of Washington, to help with the city’s response. “By October 19 we will have our response,” Harrell said. “I’ve met with Amazon’s executives and I’ve chatted with Gov. Inslee ... quite candidly, if there are to be an additional 50,000 jobs from warehouse workers to software engineers, they should be for our residents.”

	<p>Executive order 201708: Directs the city to find various locations for smaller, normalized environments that are an alternative to a planned county youth jail. It shifts the city’s policy from incarcerating youth criminals to utilizing restorative justice.</p> <p>“As many of you know the county is en route to build a \$210 million facility on 14th Avenue and East Alder Street,” Harrell said. “... if we knew in 2012 what we know now about mass incarceration, racial disparities in our judicial system, if we knew about the ‘War on Drugs’ and how it devastates communities of color, and the abuses of prosecutorial discretion and historical and institutional racism, would we consider a different approach? As mayor I would say yes.”</p> <p>King County Councilmember Rod Dembowski was present and expanded upon what the order does. “It aims at a goal of zero youth detention and providing alternatives to our judicial system than the default of locking our kids up,” Dembowski said. “Which we know leads, 80 percent of the time, to recidivism.”</p> <p>Executive order 201707: Directs Seattle Public Utilities to find the 10 worst areas in the city filled with litter and waste and clean them up. Harrell said that last year the city hauled away 6 million pounds — 333 garbage trucks worth — of litter and illegally dumped waste and that “we have to do better.”</p> <p>“Our city has become filthy,” Harrell said. “I was cautioned not to use that word. And I’m sure it will be a sound bite ... but as an elected official I’m embarrassed driving and walking around areas of this city.”</p> <p>Executive order 201705: Directs the city’s information technology department to look into how Seattle could be vulnerable to hacking and cyber attacks. Harrell pointed to recent high profile hacking incidents, and said Seattle should be prepared.</p>
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Cyber Awareness

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HEADLINE	09/17 Disaster relief hacks dominate stage
SOURCE	https://techcrunch.com/2017/09/17/disaster-relief-hackathon-disrupt-2017/
GIST	<p>At the Disrupt SF 2017 Hackathon, a massive swath of the 102 companies that took the stage on Sunday presented hacks with disaster relief in mind. From ResQme to ResQMi to RescueMe, if you can think of a phrase with the word “rescue” in it, it probably showed up on stage among the roughly 30 emergency and disaster related hacks.</p> <p>Most of the disaster-related apps that presented today mentioned the recent events of Hurricane Harvey and Hurricane Irma in their pitches, observing that tech should be able to pair victims, resources and rescue workers far better than existing services. Many of the rescue-oriented apps that took the stage acknowledged that mobile data services usually go down during these events and the vast majority of them offered an SMS-based version of their hack.</p> <p>While some hacks addressed specific disaster scenarios like emergency ridesharing and drone rescue operations, nearly all of the disaster-related apps mentioned failings of modern emergency management, like a “lack of communication” between victims and rescuers and the absence of a “cohesive program” tracking realtime rescue and relief efforts.</p>
<p>Return to Top</p>	<p><i>Click on source link to review a selection of the notable disaster relief hacks from 2017’s Disrupt Hackathon</i></p>

HEADLINE	09/18 On high alert amid NKorea cyber threats
SOURCE	http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/us-on-high-alert-amid-north-koreas-cyber-threats/article/2634270

<p>GIST</p>	<p>North Korea's threats against the U.S. have brought a heightened sense of awareness around cyber threats, according to current and former government officials, operators of critical industrial systems, and other experts.</p> <p>The U.N. Security Council last week approved new sanctions against Pyongyang, prompting vows of retaliation, specifically against the U.S.</p> <p>Sources said the programs and entities ready to swing into action include Department of Homeland Security coordinating structures and information-sharing programs, the National Cyber Incident Response Plan, an interagency cyber coordinating group established during the Obama administration, and the Cyber Threat Intelligence Integration Center, or CTIIC, among others.</p> <p>"The systems are in place, but they are not as mature as they should be," said one source with experience in the executive branch and the private sector.</p> <p>"The CTIIC is probably working a lot of overtime right now," said a former high-ranking administration official who said the center would disseminate information about the North Korean threat "so policymakers have a comprehensive view."</p> <p>The federal government has "a duty" to get related information, possibly sanitized to meet the recipients' clearance levels, into the hands of infrastructure contacts, the source noted. That information would go out through DHS or law enforcement agencies.</p> <p>"The communication channels with the private sector are way better than they used to be," the former ranking administration official said.</p> <p>Some of these programs have faced criticism in the past over the perceived inadequacy of coordination with the private sector, and they could be tested if the North Korea situation escalates.</p> <p>"The North Korea threat is the most scary and the most direct," the source with government and private-sector experience said. "If there is a conflict, a lot of it will be fought in cyberspace. This is not a drill, it's real-world."</p> <p>One source close to a critical-infrastructure group said, "So much time and effort has been invested in bringing cyber policy up to a point where various parties know how important it is. I'd like to believe we'd bring a coordinated response and handle ourselves well in a crisis."</p> <p>But the source acknowledged that "countless breaches" over the years have put sensitive information about critical infrastructure systems into the hands of "foreign adversaries."</p> <p>"That is known, and they can steal other information too," the source said. "That's just the reality we're living in. As the clock ticks, it seems like we're getting closer and closer to something happening. That could apply to electricity, gas, water, you name it."</p>
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<p>HEADLINE</p>	<p>09/17 Pirate Bay cryptocurrency mining script</p>
<p>SOURCE</p>	<p>https://www.hackread.com/the-pirate-bay-caught-running-cryptocurrency-mining-script/</p>
<p>GIST</p>	<p>In 2015, it was reported that uTorrent was secretly installing Epic Scale Bitcoin mining software on users' computer to get generate revenue. Now, something similar has happened with The Pirate Bay (TPB), one of the most visited platforms for downloading pirated content. As Alexa shows TPB is among 87 most visited sites in the world while it holds the rank of 55 in the United States.</p> <p>Many wonder how the platform earns money? Well, it's simple; it's through third-party advertising and affiliate marketing mostly related to Virtual Private Network (VPN) software. However, recently; the</p>

Pirate Bay's domain thepiratebay.org has been found using a cryptocurrency mining code to hijack CPUs of its visitors to generate [Monero](#) digital coins.

This was discovered by none other than TPB's visitors themselves who noticed that upon visiting the site, their CPU usage dramatically increased. On further analysis, it was discovered that the site carries a cryptocurrency miner who uses their CPU to generate digital currency.

One of the users "Intertubes_Unclogger" who discovered the script [wrote in a Reddit post](#) that while visiting TPB "I was looking at a torrent page and suddenly all my CPU threads went 100% 80-85%, something which usually only occurs when I'm encoding stuff. Happens on some pages, and it only stops when I navigate back to the home page or close the tab."

"The code in question is tucked away in the site's footer and uses a miner provided by Coinhive. This service offers site owners the option to convert the CPU power of users into Monero coins," [reports](#) TorrentFreak.

It's understandable that online businesses, especially websites providing free stuff have to make money to keep themselves up and running but it's quite upsetting that on TPB it was done in secret and without the knowledge of its visitors.

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HEADLINE	09/15 Scammers offer to sell Equifax data
SOURCE	http://www.securityweek.com/scammers-offer-sell-data-stolen-equifax-hack
GIST	<p>Equifax alerted customers on September 7 that hackers had accessed its systems between mid-May and late July. The breach affects roughly 143 million U.S. consumers and involves names, social security numbers, dates of birth, addresses and, in some cases, driver's license numbers, credit card numbers and dispute documents. Equifax has confirmed that an Apache Struts vulnerability was used in the attack.</p> <p>Security experts believe the attackers will likely try to sell the data and warned users to be on the lookout for phishing attempts and scams.</p> <p>The U.S. Federal Trade Commission (FTC) has launched an investigation into the massive data breach, and released an alert regarding scam phone calls from people claiming to represent Equifax.</p> <p>Shortly after Equifax disclosed the breach, various individuals started claiming to possess the stolen data. One hacker with the online moniker "1x0123," who had previously been credited for finding vulnerabilities in software and websites, offered to sell access to Equifax servers on Twitter, but later locked his account after more reputable researchers pointed out that he was a scammer.</p> <p>One of the first scam websites emerged on the Tor anonymity network hours after Equifax made the announcement. The individuals who had set up the site wanted Equifax to pay them 600 bitcoin (at the time worth roughly \$2.7 million) to prevent the public release of all the data – except the credit card numbers – on September 15.</p> <p>After several experts pointed out that it was likely a scam or a hoax, the operator of the service hosting the Tor website shut them down.</p> <p>A more recent attempt to allegedly sell the Equifax data comes from a group calling itself "Equihax." They offered to release all the data via a crowdfunding effort whose goal was 600 bitcoin or 8,400 Ethereum. They also offered to sell 1 million data entries for 4 bitcoin (\$12,500).</p> <p>While they convinced some people that their claims are legitimate, others pointed out that this, too, is likely a scam.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/15 Houston man jailed for hospital hack
SOURCE	https://www.scmagazine.com/houston-man-sentenced-to-27-months-for-hospital-hack/article/689175/
GIST	<p>A Houston man was sentenced to 27 months in prison for hacking into the Centerville Clinic computer system, disabling all administrative controls and using the health care facilities credit card to make purchases at Staples.</p> <p>Brandon Coughlin, of Houston, Texas, had plead guilty in June to intentional damage to a protected computer and wire fraud. Court papers say Coughlin, 29, was hired on Jan 16, 2013, by Centerville Clinic as an in-house computer administrator, but resigned on February 4, 2013, at the request of the clinic. On September 18, 2013, Coughlin admitted to hacking into the computer system, disabling all administrative accounts needed to control the servers and deleted data, including patient health records. His actions caused about \$60,000 in damage, a Department of Justice statement said.</p> <p>In addition, Coughlin said he used Centerville's Staple's account to purchase online iPad Air tablets. This also entailed hacking into Centerville's email server to delete the purchase confirmation from Staples sent to the company's purchasing officer.</p> <p>Coughlin was also ordered to pay \$64,849.41 in restitution.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/15 Alaska voters' data left exposed
SOURCE	https://www.scmagazine.com/researchers-spotted-600000-exposed-alaskan-voter-records/article/689173/
GIST	<p>Kromtech Security Center researchers discovered an unsecured U.S. <u>voter</u> database was exposed to the public internet due to a misconfiguration of CouchDB instance.</p> <p>The database contained information on 593,328 Alaskan voters and appeared to be part of VoterBase, a national voter file compiled and provided by TargetSmart, a provider of political data and technology, according to a Sept. blog post.</p> <p>The breach was attributed to Minnesota AI software firm Equals3's failure to secure some of their data and some data they license from TargetSmart. The AI company claims that misconfigured information has since been secured and said although the data was left exposed, it wasn't accessed by unauthorized personnel.</p> <p>“When the database was configured, administrators bypassed important security settings that were set to “public” instead of “private”, allowing anyone with an internet connection to gain access the repository,” the post said. “Those who follow cybersecurity news may remember that in early 2017 an estimated 10% of CouchDB servers were victims of ransomware because of the same misconfiguration.”</p> <p>This isn't the first time sensitive information has been left exposed due to careless misconfigurations, researchers said.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/16 OurMine claims Vevo hack; posts data
SOURCE	https://www.darkreading.com/vulnerabilities---threats/ourmine-claims-vevo-hack-releases-312tb-of-data/d/d-id/1329902?
GIST	A massive security breach hit entertainment company Vevo, with approximately 3.12TB of its documents

	<p>and files pilfered and posted online, according to Gizmodo.</p> <p>Vevo, a joint-venture comprised of Universal Music Group, Alphabet, Sony Music Entertainment, Abu Dhabi Media, and Warner Music Group, confirmed the breach and attributed it to a LinkedIn-related phishing scam, Gizmodo says.</p> <p>OurMine, which claimed responsibility for hacking Mark Zuckerberg's Twitter account and other notable hacks, says it is also responsible for the Vevo hack.</p> <p>The released documents include promotional materials, videos, weekly music charts, and office documents as well as sensitive material like instructions for setting the alarm at a Vevo facility, the report says.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/17 Puyallup PD innovative social media use
SOURCE	http://q13fox.com/2017/09/17/using-social-media-puyallup-police-have-missing-teen-speak-to-public-in-hopes-of-solving-her-case/
GIST	<p>PUYALLUP, Wash. - The power of social media was put to the test Sunday by the Puyallup Police Department hoping to use an innovative approach to solve a missing teen's case from 25 years ago.</p> <p>Misty Copsey was 14 years old when she went to the Puyallup Fair in 1992 with her friend Trina. Copsey never returned home that night.</p> <p>Sunday marked the 15th anniversary of her disappearance.</p> <p>"There's not a fair that comes and goes that we don't think about Misty," said Scott Engle, a captain with the Puyallup Police Dept.</p> <p>The year, Puyallup police wanted everyone walking through the gates at the Puyallup Fair to also think about Misty through an innovative social media strategy allowing victims to speak to the public.</p> <p>"Our hope is that as people read the <u>twitter feed</u>, the Facebook posts, people will read the story, follow the hashtag #MistyCopsey they'll actually hear Misty speak to their heart," said Engle.</p> <p>Tweets like this hoping to tug at readers were posted on the Puyallup police twitter page. "When mom dropped us off that night she told me she loved me and I told her I loved her too."</p> <p>Through the years the Puyallup police department says they've gotten leads and tips but none have panned out to hold someone accountable.</p> <p>Another tweet reads, "My mom needs your help. I need your help. If you have any information at all call Puyallup Police at 253-770-3343. <u>#mistycopsey</u>"</p> <p>Diana Smith, Misty's mom said: "Time heals though, it's been 25 years." Decades after her disappearance Misty's mother hopes social media will help a new generation get to know her daughter.</p> <p>"If she's speaking, shows her pictures growing up, people can relate to that, she was a kid," said Smith.</p> <p>Smith, who has lived through every parent's worst nightmare says she hopes the clicks will translate to closure.</p> <p>"It would mean the world to mean, to have my child home, knowing she's been who knows where, disrespectfully thrown somewhere, she needs to come home and be laid to rest and I need to be able to go be with her and talk to her," said Smith.</p>

	Puyallup police hope the social media posts will be shared and perhaps spark someone to come forward who may be able to provide the clue to solving this mystery.
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HEADLINE	09/18 Firm: hackers compromised CCleaner
SOURCE	http://www.reuters.com/article/us-security-avast/hackers-compromised-ccleaner-free-software-avasts-piriform-says-idUSKCN1BT0R9
GIST	<p>SAN FRANCISCO (Reuters) - Hackers broke into British company Piriform's free software for optimizing computer performance last month and installed tools that could have allowed them to take control of tens of millions of devices, the company and independent researchers said on Monday.</p> <p>The malicious program was slipped into legitimate software called CCleaner, which is downloaded for personal computers and Android phones as often as 5 million times a week. It cleans up junk programmes and advertising cookies to speed up devices.</p> <p>CCleaner is the main product made by London's Piriform, which was bought in July by Prague-based Avast, one of the world's largest computer security vendors. At the time of the acquisition, the company said 130 million people used CCleaner.</p> <p>A version of CCleaner downloaded in August included remote administration tools that tried to connect to several unregistered web pages, presumably to download additional unauthorized programs, security researchers at Cisco's Talos unit said.</p> <p>Talos researcher Craig Williams said it was a sophisticated attack since it penetrated an established and trusted supplier in a manner similar to June's "NotPetya" attack on companies that downloaded infected Ukrainian accounting software.</p> <p>"There is nothing a user could have noticed," Williams said, noting that the optimization software had a proper digital certificate, which means other computers automatically trust the program.</p> <p>In a blog post, Piriform confirmed that two programmes released in August were compromised. It advised users of CCleaner v5.33.6162 and CCleaner Cloud v1.07.3191 to download new versions. It did not disclose how many users were affected.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/15 Wash. AG: consider a credit freeze
SOURCE	http://www.seattletimes.com/business/washingtonians-heres-how-much-it-costs-to-freeze-your-credit/
GIST	<p>It's been a week since news broke of what could be the largest hack of credit data ever, and many Americans still aren't sure whether their financial information is vulnerable.</p> <p>Along with many other authorities, Washington Attorney General Bob Ferguson this week encouraged all Washingtonians to consider a credit freeze even if Equifax says on its security site that your personal data wasn't breached.</p> <p>A credit freeze, the attorney general's website says, makes it harder for a hacker to open an account or credit card in your name — but consumers must place a freeze with all three credit-reporting agencies, and you cannot open new lines of credit until the freeze is temporarily lifted or removed.</p> <p>Although Equifax is waiving its fee for credit freezes until Nov. 21, it usually costs to place a freeze, unless you are already a victim of identity theft.</p>

Here's how much they cost in Washington:

Equifax: Freezes are free, for the next few weeks. Removing or temporarily lifting the fee [costs \\$10](#), according to Equifax's website, unless you're 65 or older. If you're removing a security freeze for a protected consumer — which Washington state law defines as someone under 16, is incapacitated or has a guardian or conservator — the removal fee is \$3.

TransUnion: In Washington, it costs \$10 to have TransUnion freeze your credit if you're not a victim of identity theft and under 65. It's free for seniors. It is free for all consumers to remove the freeze, according to [TransUnion's website](#). TransUnion's website doesn't mention a waiver for protected consumers.

Experian: [\\$10.95](#) (which includes tax) to freeze, and \$10.95 to remove. If you are over the age of 65, or a protected consumer under Washington law, the fee is waived, according to Experian's website. Ferguson's office encouraged Washingtonians to get the free annual credit reports provided by the three major credit-reporting agencies, spacing the reports out every four months to stay up to date.

Washingtonians who have had their information stolen should report it to the Federal Trade Commission at www.identitytheft.gov and file a police report.

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HEADLINE	09/16 UK: cyberattack could sink cruise ships
SOURCE	http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/09/16/cyber-attack-could-sink-cruise-ships-government-advice-warns/
GIST	<p>Cruise ships could be sunk by cyber terrorists, official Government guidance has warned in a drive to improve protections from online attacks.</p> <p>Vessels could be vulnerable to “kidnap, piracy, fraud [and] theft of cargo” if their computer systems are compromised, the Transport Department said.</p> <p>At worse a cyber-hack could result in “risk to life and/or the loss of the ship”, the industry was also told. The concern is that hackers could distort mapping equipment or the ship's controls, causing it to hit another vessel or run aground.</p> <p>The dire warnings were made in a “Cyber Security for Ships” code of practice, written by the Institution of Engineering and Technology and distributed by Whitehall.</p> <p>Fears that a commercial vessel could be sunk, causing untold loss of life, provide a chilling example of how exposed the transport sector is to cyber-crime.</p> <p>Experts told this newspaper that any ship that relies on a computer system – such as electronic location trackers – could be vulnerable. They urged companies to make sure crews are trained in “old seamanship” so they could keep control of ships which come under attack.</p> <p>In recent years the Government has put resources into building Britain's protections to cyber-attacks, both in the public and private sector. The National Cyber Security Centre, part of Britain's spy hub GCHQ, was opened in February 2017 to improve the country's “cyber resilience”.</p> <p>In the document released this week, the Transport Department spells out the vulnerabilities of the shipping industry in the 21st century.</p> <p>“The maritime sector is a vital part of the global economy, whether it is carrying cargo, passengers or vehicles,” it reads.</p> <p>“Ships are becoming increasingly complex and dependent on the extensive use of digital and</p>

	<p>communications technologies throughout their operational life.</p> <p>“Poor security could lead to significant loss of customer and/or industry confidence, reputational damage, potentially severe financial losses or penalties, and litigation affecting the companies involved.”</p> <p>The dangers of a ship becoming “compromised” by a hack – be it from criminals, terrorists or a rival country – are also spelled out in explicit terms.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/16 EU-US data pact faces first major test
SOURCE	http://www.reuters.com/article/us-eu-dataprotection-usa/eu-u-s-data-pact-faces-first-major-test-of-credibility-idUSKCN1BR09W
GIST	<p>BRUSSELS (Reuters) - A pact underpinning billions of dollars of transatlantic data transfers will undergo its first annual review on Monday, with Europe seeking to ensure Washington has lived up to its promises to protect the data of European citizens stored on U.S. servers.</p> <p>Feted as a milestone in transatlantic relations, which had soured after revelations of mass U.S. surveillance four years ago, the EU-U.S. Privacy Shield data pact has been in place for just over a year.</p> <p>It was hammered out after the European Union’s top court struck down a previous data transfer pact in 2015 because it allowed U.S. spies excessive access to people’s data, plunging everyday cross-border data transfers into legal limbo.</p> <p>However, it is already subject to two legal challenges in European courts on the grounds that it does not offer adequate privacy protections for European citizens’ data, and EU data protection watchdogs have also expressed misgivings.</p> <p>The first annual review taking place on Monday and Tuesday will be an opportunity for the European Commission, which negotiated the Privacy Shield, to ensure it is functioning well and that the U.S. administration is keeping its part of the deal.</p> <p>“My expectation is that we will find Privacy Shield functioning, we might find some space or room for improvement,” Vera Jourova, EU Justice Commissioner, told Reuters in an interview.</p> <p>The Privacy Shield seeks to strengthen the protection of Europeans whose data is moved to U.S. servers by giving EU citizens greater means to seek redress in case of disputes, including through a new privacy ombudsman within the State Department who will deal with complaints from EU citizens about U.S. spying.</p> <p>However a new ombudsman has not been appointed under the new U.S. administration, something Jourova said she will push for.</p> <p>Companies wanting to transfer Europeans’ personal data outside the bloc have to comply with tough EU data protection rules which forbid them from transferring personal data to countries deemed to have inadequate privacy protections unless they have special legal contracts in place.</p> <p>The Privacy Shield allows firms to move data across the Atlantic without relying on such contracts, known as model clauses, which are more cumbersome and expensive.</p> <p>Over 2,400 companies are signed up to the scheme including Alphabet Inc’s Google (GOOGL.O), Facebook (FB.O) and Microsoft (MSFT.O).</p> <p>“Virtually every transaction in the trillion-euro transatlantic trade relationship, from the movement of services and capital to the movement of goods and people, heavily relies on the transfer of data between</p>

	<p>the EU and U.S.," said Thomas Boue, Director General, Policy, EMEA for BSA, which represents the likes of Apple (AAPL.O), Microsoft and IBM (IBM.N).</p> <p>The Commission is also seeking to find out figures for how many requests for people's data companies had received from U.S. authorities.</p> <p>"The million dollar question was how many times they were asked by the national secret service," Jourova said. "This is of big relevance for assessing whether Privacy Shield is successful."</p>
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HEADLINE	09/15 Equifax CIO, security chief resign
SOURCE	https://www.nbcnews.com/business/consumer/equifax-executives-step-down-scrutiny-intensifies-credit-bureaus-n801706
GIST	<p>Equifax's feet are being held to the fire — and that fire keeps getting higher.</p> <p>The beleaguered company announced Friday evening that its chief information officer, David Webb, and chief security officer, Susan Mauldin, had retired. A statement said Mark Rohrwasser would serve as interim CIO and Russ Ayres would be interim CSO.</p> <p>Since the breach, the now retired Mauldin's internet presence has begun to disappear. A podcast interview with her was taken down and her LinkedIn profile, which archival copies of showed the former chief security officer studied music composition in college and had no security degree, had the last name changed to "M." and was set to private.</p> <p>Equifax's internal probe into the massive security breach, which affected the personal financial histories of half of America, is still ongoing. The company is continuing to work closely with the FBI in its investigation.</p> <p>But are these moves will be enough to tamp down the growing conflagration surrounding the company? "Not at all," Ed Mierzwinski, Senior Fellow for U.S. PIRG, a Washington-based advocacy group, told NBC News in an email. "These are calculated sacrifices at a company with a troubled record."</p> <p>"All the credit bureaus have a troubled culture because consumers do not regulate their markets," he added. "You cannot vote with your feet. They've only just begun to be reined in under the CFPB after 40 years of sneering at consumers and the FTC."</p> <p>The longtime consumer advocate joins a bonfire party of government bodies, including the FBI, FTC, several states' attorneys general, over 30 class action lawsuits, a bevy of individual small claims cases, and rampant customer outrage since the July breach was announced last week. In addition to that revelation, a reported nearly 200,000 credit cards were also compromised.</p> <p>Watchdogs are referring to the debacle as "corporate malfeasance," noting that it is "the worst breach in history."</p>
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Terror Conditions

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HEADLINE	09/15 London subway bombing
SOURCE	http://www.nationalreview.com/article/451413/london-subway-terror-attack-jihad-west-reaches-new-stage
GIST	The latest reporting indicates that 22 people were injured, but fortunately none killed, in this morning's

<p>Return to Top</p>	<p>terrorist bombing in the London subway transit system.</p> <p>An improvised explosive device detonated at the Parsons Green Tube station in West London shortly after 8 a.m. British time. According to Sky News, at least one witness reports seeing “a white builder’s bucket” and a “foiled carrier bag.”</p> <p>The bucket is said to have had “wires hanging from it and a strong smell of chemicals . . . a chemical smell more than a burning smell.” It is the fifth terrorist attack this year in the United Kingdom.</p> <p>Police are hunting for at least one suspect, who has not been identified.</p> <p>At the moment, we don’t know who did this, although strong suspicions of jihadism are certainly justified.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/15 London subway attack bomb
SOURCE	http://nypost.com/2017/09/15/london-subway-attack-bomb-apparently-had-christmas-light-detonator/
GIST	<p>The crude bucket bomb used in <u>Friday’s London subway attack</u> appears to have included a detonator made from Christmas lights.</p> <p>A photo of the device shows holiday lights and wires coming out of a plastic bucket. The lights were thought to have been a detonator with a timer, <u>The Daily Mail reported</u>.</p> <p>Bomb experts said the device was poorly designed.</p> <p>“The fact that an initial bang was heard but the bomb did not even shatter the plastic bucket it was contained in suggests to me this could have been hydrogen peroxide,” Dr. Sidney Alford told the Mail.</p> <p>In 2015, Zahid Hussain, 29, was arrested in Birmingham, England for planning to attack a railway with a pressure-cooker bomb that was to use Christmas lights as a detonator.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/17 RCMP sidelined cases for terror probes?
SOURCE	https://beta.theglobeandmail.com/news/national/mounties-put-hundreds-of-files-on-hold-in-shift-toward-anti-terrorism/article36285597/?ref=http://www.theglobeandmail.com&
GIST	<p>The RCMP sidelined more than 300 investigations, mostly into organized-crime, as it redirected more than \$100-million to its national-security squads after two Canadian soldiers were killed by Islamic State sympathizers.</p> <p>The figures come from government records obtained by The Globe and Mail under Access to Information laws and speak to how big of a bite the force's counterterrorism contingent has been taking out of its traditional law-enforcement work.</p> <p>These massive RCMP redeployments started in October, 2014 – the month that a terrorist gunman shot dead a Canadian Forces soldier, before being killed while storming Parliament.</p> <p>That dramatic attack, and a similar one days earlier in Quebec, sparked a major shift in the kinds of detective work done within Canada in the months and years that followed.</p> <p>Proponents of the RCMP's pan-Canadian policing model often tout the organization's unique ability to scale up operations to blitz a suspected threat. Yet that approach can severely disrupt other kinds of detective work done under the force's sprawling mandate, potentially causing organized-crime suspects,</p>

such as drug smugglers and human traffickers, to be overlooked.

"Somebody decided that we have to prevent things from going 'boom' at any and all costs, so that's where all the resources are going," says Christian Leuprecht, a senior fellow at the MacDonald-Laurier Institute.

Mr. Leuprecht, a long-time police watcher who this month released a report highlighting weaknesses in the RCMP's structure, argues that police could have much more efficiently managed the counterterrorism work. That way, he argues, Mounties could have kept more of a focus on other obligations, such as policing borders or managing a growing opioid crisis.

But instead, "we yank Mounties and budgets around to wherever we think is the biggest tactical and political priority of the day," Mr. Leuprecht says.

For any large police force, counterterrorism cases are a conundrum. Police are directed to pre-empt possible threats rather than simply respond to past crimes. Police commanders are under severe pressure to forestall the possibility of any attack, even if it means ratcheting back on other investigations.

In internal briefing notes from 2015, Public Safety Canada – the federal department that oversees the RCMP – highlighted how this logic had started resulting in understaffed organized-crime cases at a pivotal time.

"Since the terrorist attacks in Canada in October, 2014, high-priority, national-security investigations have diverted resources away from organized-crime investigations, including those focused on major drug trafficking and money laundering," reads one such note. It adds that the RCMP's bolstering of the terrorism file resulted in "approximately 320 other federal investigations being put on hold."

This high number of cases pushed to the back burner – it's not clear how many have resumed since – has been mentioned publicly before. In a March, 2015, CBC interview, then-RCMP commissioner Bob Paulson spoke to it, but glossed over the specific tradeoffs being made. "I think we've sidelined about 321 significant criminal investigations outside of counterterrorism," he said. "And that is going to have an effect in time."

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HEADLINE	09/17 Final battles w/ISIS raise casualty fears
SOURCE	http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2017/sep/17/isis-fight-will-raise-civilian-casualties-rights-g/
GIST	<p>As the endgame nears for the fight to oust Islamic State from its last strongholds in Iraq and Syria, rights activists and the United Nations are expressing mounting concerns that civilian casualties are spiking, as both the U.S.-backed coalition and Russian-backed Syrian forces intensify their battle against the terrorist group.</p> <p>Instances of civilian casualties have dogged American and coalition commanders since U.S. warplanes began bombarding Islamic State positions in Syria and northern Iraq in 2014, after the terrorist group cut a swath of territory across the Middle East, proclaiming it to be its new caliphate.</p> <p>Since then, American and allied forces have carried out over 26,000 airstrikes against suspected Islamic State targets in the region, according to figures compiled by the Defense Department. Officially, U.S. military officials claim coalition airstrikes have resulted in just over 600 civilian deaths, but unofficial tallies by independent nongovernmental organizations say the number of innocent civilians killed in the air war is in the thousands.</p> <p>Officials at Airwars.com, a nonprofit research group focused on tracking civilian casualties tied to the offensive, say a minimum of 5,300 civilians have been killed in the fight against the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria. That figure includes civilians killed by Russian airstrikes in Syria as part of Moscow's support of the Bashar Assad regime.</p>

In the siege to retake Mosul, Islamic State fighters put civilians in harm's way to slow down the U.S.-backed Iraqi forces.

The U.N. human rights office said at least 140 Iraqi civilians were killed by a single U.S. airstrike on March 17 in western Mosul's al-Jadida district. A Pentagon investigation found that U.S. warplanes adhered to the stated rules of engagement during the strike. The body count was high because Islamic State fighters confined civilians in the target area to use as human shields.

With Mosul retaken and Islamic State's hold on its Syrian capital of Raqqa slipping, the potential for more civilian casualties is increasing. Coalition commanders are ramping up air operations in the campaign, and U.N. officials estimate that 20,000 civilians remain trapped in the Raqqa crossfire.

"I am deeply concerned that civilians — who should be protected at all times — are paying an unacceptable price and that forces involved in battling [Islamic State] are losing sight of the ultimate goal of this battle," Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein, the U.N. high commissioner on human rights, said this month. He made the comments after reports that 23 Syrian civilians were killed in coalition strikes on the Islamic State-held city.

"I am extremely concerned that in its conduct of hostilities, the attacking forces may be failing to abide by the international humanitarian law principles of precautions, distinction and proportionality," Mr. Hussein said.

Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi is expected to raise the issue of civilian casualties during the U.N. General Assembly meeting in New York this week.

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HEADLINE	09/17 London suspect arrested 2 weeks ago
SOURCE	http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4892516/Second-man-21-arrested-Parsons-Green-bombing.html
GIST	<p>Police are searching a house just yards away from Heathrow airport after a second suspect was arrested in connection with the Parsons Green bombing.</p> <p>The 21-year-old was apprehended in the London borough of Hounslow on Saturday night, amid fears a terror cell was planning a fresh attack on the country.</p> <p>It came just hours after officers swooped the Port of Dover and arrested an 18-year-old, believed to be an Iraqi refugee who was allegedly arrested two weeks ago at the exact same tube station where the device exploded on Friday before being released.</p> <p>The teenager - who is being held after police tracked him to the departures hall of the coastal town's port - is thought to have been a 'problematic foster child' who was raised in Sunbury-on-Thames, Surrey, by Penelope Jones, 71, and husband Ronald, 88.</p> <p>The couple's home was raided by armed officers on Saturday and 'a bomb and 15 firearms' were found, a neighbour claimed.</p> <p>Following the arrests the Home Secretary Amber Rudd has this afternoon announced the UK terror threat level has been reduced to 'severe' — meaning intelligence chiefs no longer think an attack is imminent.</p> <p>She added said it appeared the bomber was not a lone wolf but added that it was 'too early to reach any final conclusions on that'.</p> <p>Speaking this afternoon Ms Rudd said police had made 'good progress' in the investigation as she</p>

	<p>announced the country had been removed from the highest terror alert.</p> <p>Close friends of pensioners Penny and Ron Jones said the couple - who are widely respected in the local area - were at 'their end' with the teenager.</p> <p>Serena Barber, 47, who has known the couple all her life and lives in a property backing on to theirs, said: 'They have two boys at the moment, both are foreign. One is very quiet and polite, the other who is 18 is awful.</p> <p>'I know about two weeks ago he was arrested by police at Parsons Green, for what I don't know and returned back to Penny and Ron. After that Penny said she was going to have to stop caring for him, she couldn't handle him.'</p> <p>The development comes as police revealed they are 'keeping an open mind' on whether there was more than one person responsible for the bombing.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/17 France: railway jihadists, food poisoning
SOURCE	https://www.rt.com/news/403599-french-police-railway-jihadists/
GIST	<p>French police have issued a confidential note based on an analysis of “jihadist propaganda,” warning of possible lone-wolf attacks causing trains to derail and even food poisoning, Le Parisien newspaper reports, citing the document.</p> <p><i>“Due to recent jihadist propaganda urging plans for train derailment, particular attention should be paid to any reports of intrusion or attempted sabotage on the premises of railways,”</i> a seven-page report compiled by the police directorate at the beginning of September reads, as cited by Le Parisien.</p> <p>The document, which focuses on aspects of “<i>jihadist propaganda</i>” over the past three months, warns that terrorists are instructed to make explosives “<i>as shown in tutorials,</i>” conceal their radicalization, calling on “<i>lone wolves</i>” to cause “<i>train derailments, forest fires or food poisoning</i>” in Europe.</p> <p>The highest police authorities confirm in the report, citing the propaganda analysis, that “<i>the threats of attack remain very high</i>” in France. The confidential document notes that apart from the railway network, increased vigilance is requested for schools and universities, including “<i>sensitive products or materials</i>” which jihadists may steal from laboratories for homemade explosives.</p> <p>Tourist attractions such as churches, considered “<i>a symbol of the western way of life,</i>” are also listed among the potential targets most vulnerable to attack. The police report also mentions the threat of assaults in which people are attacked by speeding cars. Similar incidents happened this summer in London and Barcelona.</p> <p>It is highly recommended that car rental companies check the identity of their customers and “<i>report without delay any suspicious behavior</i>” or “<i>theft of vehicles.</i>”</p>
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HEADLINE	09/17 Philippine army captures pro-ISIS base
SOURCE	https://www.yahoo.com/news/philippine-army-captures-key-pro-besieged-city-022748959.html
GIST	<p>Marawi (Philippines) (AFP) - The Philippine military said Sunday it had captured the command centre of Islamic State group supporters who have besieged a southern city for nearly four months.</p> <p>Security forces have engaged in ferocious street-to-street combat and launched airstrikes in their efforts to expel the fighters from Marawi, in a battle that has left 800 dead and raised fears that IS is looking to</p>

<p>Return to Top</p>	<p>establish a Southeast Asian base in the Philippines.</p> <p>The military said it had captured the militants' control centre in a deadly operation that began Saturday against a mosque and another building.</p> <p>"This enormous (military) gain further weakened the terrorist group by denying them their erstwhile command and control hub," military chief General Eduardo Ano said in a statement.</p> <p>"As follow up and clearing operations continue, we expect the enemy to yield more previously occupied positions, but not without a fight," he said. "We are ready for that."</p> <p>Colonel Romeo Brawner, deputy commander of the task force battling the militants, said the military had encountered some of the heaviest resistance in recovering the mosque.</p> <p>Its capture may be a sign that the prolonged fighting with the Maute militant group, whose leaders have pledged allegiance to IS, may be nearing a conclusion, he said.</p> <p>"We believe we are close to the end. The area where the Maute terrorist group can move is shrinking. We noticed that their resistance is weakening," Brawner told AFP.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/17 UK lowers terror level after second arrest
SOURCE	http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/uk-police-arrest-2nd-man-london-subway-attack-49905738?cid=clicksource_76_4_article%20roll_articleroll_hed
GIST	<p>The British government lowered the country's official terrorist threat level Sunday after a second man was arrested in connection with the attack on a London subway train where a bomb partially exploded.</p> <p>The downgrading of the threat level from "critical" to "severe" means authorities no longer believe an attack is imminent. The "severe" classification, the second highest level of alert, is based on the assessment that an attack is "highly likely."</p> <p>Home Secretary Amber Rudd said the easing of the alert indicates that police and security services are making "good progress" in the sprawling investigation into the attack on a subway train that injured 30 people during the rush hour Friday morning.</p> <p>Rudd cautioned that the investigation was ongoing.</p> <p>Police announced the second arrest early Sunday, offering the clearest indication yet that authorities do not believe the person who planted the homemade bomb acted alone.</p> <p>The first person arrested was an 18-year-old man who was taken into custody Saturday in the departure area of the port of Dover. The Metropolitan Police force said a 21-year-old man was arrested Saturday shortly before midnight in the west London borough of Hounslow.</p> <p>The force said the second suspect was being held under the Terrorism Act and questioned at a south London police station Sunday, but has been neither charged nor identified.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/17 Russia denies strike on US-backed forces
SOURCE	http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/russia-denies-claim-airstrike-us-backed-syrian-force-49906896?cid=clicksource_76_4_article%20roll_articleroll_hed
GIST	The Russian military denied claims on Sunday that it struck a U.S.-backed force in eastern <u>Syria</u> ,

<p>Return to Top</p>	<p>wounding six fighters.</p> <p>The Kurdish-led and U.S.-supported Syrian Democratic Forces said Saturday that its fighters had been hit in the airstrike near the eastern city of Deir el-Zour in an industrial area that recently had been liberated from the Islamic State group.</p> <p>Western forces embedded with the SDF were not injured, the U.S. military said. The SDF is supported by a U.S.-led international coalition of forces to defeat IS militants in Syria and Iraq. An estimated 900 U.S. troops are embedded with partner forces in Syria. They provide artillery support and can command air support.</p> <p>Russian Defense Ministry spokesman Maj. Gen. Igor Konashenkov said: "Russian air forces carry out pinpoint strikes only on IS targets that have been observed and confirmed through several channels."</p> <p>SDF fighters have been advancing against IS fighters on the east bank of the Euphrates while Syrian government forces and their allies are pushing on the western side against the jihadists.</p> <p>The march by the SDF aims to prevent Syrian troops and their allies from expanding their presence along the border with Iraq.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/17 UK: record number terror arrests so far
SOURCE	https://www.upi.com/Top_News/World-News/2017/09/17/British-police-made-record-number-of-terrorism-arrests-over-past-year/5161505687466/?utm_source=fp&utm_campaign=ls&utm_medium=1
GIST	<p>Sept. 17 (UPI) -- British police made 379 terrorism-related arrests between June 2016 and June 2017, the highest number ever recorded in a 12-month period, British officials said.</p> <p>Britain's Home Office began keeping track of terrorism arrests in 2001. Since then, no 12-month period has seen <u>as many arrests</u> as the one before June, which has included several high-profile terror attacks, including the Ariana Grande concert bombing in Manchester in May that killed 22 people and the London Bridge Attack in June that killed eight.</p> <p>Of the 379 arrests, 105 people were charged with terrorism offenses, with another 18 being charged with non-terrorism criminal offenses. But as many as 189 arrests did not result in charges of any kind.</p> <p>While terror incidents appear to have risen in Britain recently, so has the use of "stop and search" powers by British police, which may partially explain the large spike in arrests, including arrests that resulted in no charges.</p> <p>British police increased their use of stop and search powers by 17 percent, but total arrests during these stops decreased from 12 percent to 8 percent, reported the Guardian.</p> <p>The Guardian said six terrorist plots had been prevented since the Westminster attack in March.</p> <p>"There is no doubt that since March and following the attacks in London and Manchester we have seen a shift-change in momentum," said Neil Basu, the deputy assistant commissioner and senior national coordinator for counter-terrorism policing.</p> <p>"But while the terrorist threat has increased in recent months, so has our activity, reflected by this significant increase in arrests."</p>
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HEADLINE	09/16 Kabul fortification signals long US stay
SOURCE	http://www.seattletimes.com/nation-world/kabul-fortification-signals-long-u-s-stay-in-afghanistan/
GIST	<p>KABUL, Afghanistan — Soon, U.S. Embassy employees in Kabul will no longer need to take a Chinook helicopter ride to cross the street to a military base less than 100 yards outside the present Green Zone security district.</p> <p>Instead, the boundaries of the Green Zone will be redrawn to include that base, known as the Kabul City Compound, formerly the headquarters for U.S. Special Operations forces in the capital. The zone is separated from the rest of the city by a network of police, military and private security checkpoints.</p> <p>The expansion is part of a huge public-works project that in the next two years will reshape the center of this city of 5 million to bring nearly all Western embassies, major government ministries, and NATO and U.S. military headquarters within the protected area.</p> <p>After 16 years of U.S. presence in Kabul, it is an acknowledgment that even the city’s central districts have become too difficult to defend from Taliban bombings.</p> <p>The capital project is also clearly taking place to protect another long-term U.S. investment: Along with an increase in troops to a reported 15,000, from around 11,000 at the moment, the Trump administration’s new strategy for Afghanistan is likely to keep the military in place well into the 2020s, even by the most conservative estimates.</p> <p>No one wants to say when any final pullout will take place because the emphasis now is on a conditions-based withdrawal, presumably meaning after the Afghan government can handle the war alone. But President Donald Trump has kept secret the details of those conditions, and how they are defined.</p> <p>“Until he says what the conditions are, all that means is we’ll be there as long as we want, for whatever reason we want,” said Barnett Rubin, a longtime Afghanistan expert who advised the Obama administration. “And they don’t have to lie to do that because the conditions will never be good enough to say we’re absolutely not needed.”</p> <p>In practical terms, it means the U.S. military mission will continue for many more years, despite its unpopularity with the American public. Many military strategists, in the United States and Afghanistan, have penciled in plans well into the ’20s, and certainly past any Trump re-election campaign.</p> <p>At the NATO summit meeting in Warsaw last year, the allies, including the United States, agreed to fund the development of the Afghan security forces until the end of what was termed “the transition decade,” meaning from 2014, when Afghan forces began to take charge of their own security, until 2024.</p> <p>“I would guess the U.S. has to plan on being inside Afghanistan for a decade or more in order for there to be any type of resolution,” said Bill Roggio, editor of Long War Journal. “It’s definitely past his first term in office, no two ways about it.”</p>
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HEADLINE	09/17 Pakistani Taliban claim tribal area blast
SOURCE	http://www.reuters.com/article/us-pakistan-blast/pakistani-taliban-says-behind-deadly-blast-in-tribal-region-idUSKCN1BS0FJ
GIST	<p>PESHAWAR, Pakistan (Reuters) - The militant Pakistani Taliban group said it carried out an attack on Sunday that killed five people in the tribal areas bordering Afghanistan.</p> <p>Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) spokesman Mohammad Khurassani said the militants planted an improvised explosive device “to target security personnel” in the Bajaur Agency area that is part of the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA).</p>

	<p>The blast struck a vehicle in the Mamund area of Bajaur, killing four security personnel and an official from the civilian administration, local government sources said.</p> <p>Bajaur is one of the Pashtun tribal regions near the Afghan border. Security in the region has improved in recent years after the Pakistani military mounted offensives there against the al Qaeda-linked Pakistani Taliban, which is considered the country's biggest security threat.</p> <p>But militants continue to stage attacks in FATA, which remains off-bounds for foreigners and is considered one of the most volatile parts of the nuclear-armed nation of 208 million people.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/16 Iraq PM: half ISIS detained families Turkish
SOURCE	http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/iraq-pm-half-families-detained-mosul-turkish-49898793?cid=clicksource_76_4_article%20roll_articleroll_hed
GIST	<p>Turkish nationals make up half of the hundreds of families being held in a camp near Mosul for suspected links to the Islamic State group, Iraqi Prime Minister <u>Haider al-Abadi</u> said in an exclusive interview with The Associated Press Saturday.</p> <p>At the camp near Mosul, Iraqi forces are holding 1,333 women and children who surrendered to Kurdish forces. The families handed themselves over after an Iraqi offensive drove the extremist group from the northern town of Tal Afar, near Mosul at the end of August.</p> <p>Many of those detained at the camp are not guilty of any crime, al-Abadi said and his government is "in full communication" with their home countries to "find a way to hand them over."</p> <p>So far, al-Abadi said, Iraq has repatriated fewer than 100 people.</p> <p>"But we are working very hard to accelerate this. It is not in our interest to keep families and children inside our country when their countries are prepared to take them," he added.</p> <p>Tens of thousands of foreigners traveled to Iraq and Syria to live in the IS group's self-styled Islamic caliphate. As the territory under IS control has rapidly shrunk over the past two years, Iraqi forces have arrested and detained thousands of men, women and children for suspected IS links.</p> <p>Iraqi forces retook the country's second largest city of Mosul from the extremists in July, leaving only scattered pockets of IS held territory in Iraq.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/17 US: ISIS suicide bombers attack base
SOURCE	http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/islamic-state-suicide-bombers-attack-coalition-base-iraq-49905775?cid=clicksource_76_4_article%20roll_articleroll_hed
GIST	<p>The U.S.-led coalition says several Islamic State suicide bombers have attacked one of its bases in <u>northern Iraq</u>, without causing any Iraqi or foreign casualties.</p> <p>U.S. Army Col. Ryan Dillon, the coalition spokesman, says all the attackers were killed.</p> <p>Dillon says Sunday's attack occurred in the area of the northern town of Hawija, one of the last pockets of IS control after the extremists were driven from Mosul earlier this year.</p> <p>U.S.-backed <u>Iraqi forces</u> have retaken all the major urban areas the extremists once held in Iraq, but IS remains capable of carrying out attacks on civilian and military targets.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/17 Philippine troops rescue abducted priest
SOURCE	http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/philippines-troops-rescue-catholic-priest-amid-battle-49905996?cid=clicksource_76_4_article%20roll_articleroll_hed
GIST	<p>Philippine troops have rescued a Roman Catholic priest and another civilian who were among dozens of people abducted in May when hundreds of militants aligned with the Islamic State group laid siege on southern Marawi city, officials said Sunday.</p> <p>Presidential adviser Jesus Dureza and two senior security officials said without elaborating that troops retrieved the two late Saturday after a battle to recapture a key mosque and another Islamic building used as a command center by the gunmen in Marawi.</p> <p>The two security officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to publicly disclose details about the ongoing assaults. The government refused to comment on the reported rescue of the hostages, saying ongoing assaults may be jeopardized and troops and other hostages may be endangered if it releases details.</p> <p>At least 860 people, including more than 660 militants and 147 troops and police, have been killed since the siege began in Marawi, regarded as a center of Islamic faith in the southern third of the largely Roman Catholic nation. Marawi's central business district and outlying communities now resemble a smoldering wasteland of disfigured buildings and houses.</p> <p>The siege has sparked fears that the Islamic State group may gain a foothold in Southeast Asia by influencing and providing funds to local militants as it suffers battle defeats in Syria and Iraq. The United States and Australia have deployed surveillance aircraft to help Filipino troops battling the Marawi attackers.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/16 Relief in Syria city after ISIS siege ends
SOURCE	http://www.cnn.com/2017/09/16/middleeast/syria-deir-ezzor-siege-isis/index.html
GIST	<p><i>Deir Ezzor, Syria (CNN)</i> A massive dust cloud engulfed the Russian army chopper as we touched down on the landing zone. The fine sand made it impossible to see as we walked away from the helicopter.</p> <p>When it departed and the dust cleared, we could see several dozen Syrian government soldiers and Russian special forces, their faces covered by masks, holding their guns.</p> <p>This was our welcome in Deir Ezzor, a former ISIS stronghold where the terror group besieged two Syrian government enclaves in the city's west for more than three years until <u>its ouster about two weeks ago</u>.</p> <p>The Russian army drove the CNN crew and about 20 other journalists into town in an armored vehicle. Gun and mortar fire could be heard -- ISIS still holds parts of the city -- but in the center life was clearly coming back.</p> <p>Some people were out shopping for basic goods. While relieved the ISIS siege had been lifted, they were still too afraid to give out their names, saying the terror group remained close.</p> <p>"ISIS spread fear, cutting off heads, murdering people," one man said. "It was not a question of faith, there was no faith. There is no Islam in these deeds. Never was Islam part of ISIS' ideology."</p> <p>The government-held parts of the eastern city of Deir Ezzor, home to tens of thousands of people, survived for years on airdrops by the United Nations and the Syrian and Russian air forces.</p>

	<p>Now the market was decently stocked, a line of people gathering outside a little store to buy groceries. One shopkeeper praised Russia for helping Syrian government forces push ISIS out.</p> <p>"Russia is a friend, a very, very, good friend," he said, then added: "What Russia did for us is so great. Their efforts are too great to describe."</p> <p>Children were playing on the streets and giving victory signs to the Russian and Syrian soldiers who formed a heavy military presence in a town still partially under ISIS control.</p> <p>Most of the buildings in the city center around the market seemed intact, even after the heavy fighting and the siege.</p> <p>But on the outskirts many buildings were flattened, and tanks and armored personnel carriers could be seen heading to the front.</p> <p>While the government-held areas of Deir Ezzor are breathing a sigh of relief, the Russian military acknowledges that tough battles lie ahead. However, the Russians believe defeating ISIS here will go a long way to ousting the group from southeastern Syria.</p> <p>After three years under siege, the people in this hot and dusty town appear simply happy to have access to basic goods and be free from worry about ISIS invading their home.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/17 Second arrest in London subway attack
SOURCE	http://www.cnn.com/2017/09/17/europe/london-tube-terror-incident/index.html
GIST	<p><i>London (CNN)</i> British authorities have arrested a second man in connection with the bombing of a London Underground train on Friday, officials said.</p> <p>The 21-year-old man was arrested in Hounslow, west London, Saturday night by detectives from the London Metropolitan Police Counter Terrorism Command. The incident at <u>Parsons Green</u> station injured 30 passengers.</p> <p>"He was arrested under section 41 of the Terrorism Act and taken to a south London police station where he remains in custody," police said in a statement Sunday.</p> <p>Two people have been arrested as part of a major manhunt for suspects. Police had arrested an 18-year-old suspect in Dover on Saturday. Dover is major port town about 80 miles southeast of London.</p> <p>UK Home Secretary Amber Rudd had said "it's much too early to say" whether anyone behind the bombing was previously known to authorities.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/15 ISIS urges attacks in hurricane cities
SOURCE	https://www.cnbc.com/2017/09/15/isis-linked-tweets-target-hurricane-cities-houston-miami-and-others.html
GIST	<p>Law enforcement officials have been advised to step up alerts for "lone wolf attackers" in <u>Miami</u>, <u>Houston</u> and other cities in the wake of threatening social media posts that appear to be connected to ISIS, according to an internal government intelligence document.</p> <p>The confidential "situation awareness" document, obtained by CNBC, is dated Sept. 14 from the Homeland Security Bureau's Southeast <u>Florida</u> Fusion Center. The center is the Miami-Dade Police Department's Homeland Security Bureau. It was sent to law enforcement and "homeland security</p>

communities."

"On Sept. 11, there was a twitter posting that appears to be authored by the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) that threatens Washington, New York, Los Angeles, Houston, Miami and Las Vegas, the document states.

The posting said there were "a lot of opportunities for the Soldiers of Islamic state to target, the Question is When?"

The document, which is unclassified, mentions a Newsweek article dated Sept. 6 that cites another ISIS posting calling for attacks on Houston relief centers. The article said: "To all the (lone mujahids) in the U.S. (warrior), pop down to Houston and drop in at any of the relief centers housing displaced people from the Houston floods, make sure to bring lots of supplies/gadgets/toys to see if you can help put any (unbeliever) out of their misery."

The document also states: "Another Jihadist, in Arabic writing said, 'A historic hurricane will hit Florida, especially the city of Miami soon' One that would leave an 'international tragedy' on American soil. He quotes Allah saying that a 'roaring wind in the days of the snakes' had been sent and makes use of a hurricane emoji."

An analyst comment in the document says that "these posts appear to be more aspirational than operational, with hopes that their followers would then act on calls for attacks. Incidents involving lone wolf attackers have demonstrated the potential danger, lethality and effectiveness of a rehearsed small arms or knife attack that can be carried out by a single individual with little or no training. It also underscores the potentially higher consequences of an assault attack involving multiple operatives."

The alert states, "officers should continue to maintain situational awareness of their surroundings." States and local governments operate fusion centers for intelligence information sharing and analysis, according to the Department of Homeland Security. The document is labeled unclassified and for official use only.

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HEADLINE	09/16 London subway attack: UK on critical alert
SOURCE	http://time.com/4944714/london-underground-bomb-train-arrest-dover/?xid=homepage
GIST	<p>British police made an apparent breakthrough Saturday in the race-against-time subway bombing investigation with what they called a "very significant" arrest, but the country remained on a "critical" alert, meaning that another attack is judged imminent.</p> <p>Police arrested an 18-year-old man in the port of <u>Dover</u> — the main ferry link to France — and then launched a massive armed search in the southwestern London suburb of Sunbury in which they evacuated residents, established a huge cordon and imposed a no-fly zone above the property being searched.</p> <p>Police did not say that they had nabbed the man believed to have planted the bomb that partially exploded on a crowded London subway train Friday morning, but Home Secretary Amber Rudd and others said the arrest was of major importance.</p> <p>The man is being held under the Terrorism Act and has been brought to London for questioning. His identity is a closely guarded secret and police have implored the press not to speculate while the inquiry unfolds. Authorities would not say if they thought the man was trying to flee to France on a Dover ferry.</p> <p>It's clear that Britain's police and security services are still worried. Hundreds of soldiers patrolled public areas Saturday, freeing up police for the bombing investigation. Rudd said the country's terror threat level — which was raised Friday night to the highest possible level — will stay there until the independent Joint Terrorism Analysis Center is convinced the threat of imminent attack has eased.</p>

The homemade bomb on the rush-hour train only partially detonated — Rudd said it could have been much worse — and there are fears that accomplices may have similar devices. Experts said the bomb could have caused many fatalities if it had functioned properly. Three of the 29 people injured by the blast remained hospitalized Saturday.

Rudd, frustrated by the string of terrorist attacks in recent months, said officials will have to work harder to make bomb components more difficult to obtain.

"(We must) "make sure to take all steps that we can to ensure the sort of materials that this man was able to collect" are harder to find, she said.

The fast-moving inquiry shifted to the pleasant town of Sunbury, where neighbors were ordered to evacuate immediately by police.

Police did not reveal details about the search, but the precautions suggested concern that there might be explosives or violent extremists on the property. The Islamic State group has claimed one of its units planted the bomb.

Security at seaports and airports had been increased after the attack. Officials have hinted there may be more than one person involved, but haven't released details.

Police are combing through closed-circuit TV images and have extensively studied the remains of the partially detonated explosive device, which was contained in a bucket with wires hanging out of it and concealed in a plastic shopping bag.

The train hit by the bomber at Parsons Green station in southwest London had video cameras in each car, and the London Underground network has thousands of cameras at the entrances to stations and along its labyrinth of subterranean and above-ground passageways.

The Parsons Green station was reopened Saturday, restoring some normalcy to London's transport network after a day of severe disruption. There was no sign of panic among Londoners and the weekend life of the multicultural city continued undeterred.

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HEADLINE	09/16 Iraq PM: Kurds 'playing with fire'
SOURCE	http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-iraq-kurds/iraqi-pm-says-kurds-playing-with-fire-with-independence-vote-report-idUSKCN1BR003?il=0
GIST	<p>BAGHDAD (Reuters) - Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi said on Saturday that Kurdish plans to hold a referendum on independence was like "playing with fire", according to a local media website.</p> <p>Abadi's comment came after the parliament of the autonomous Kurdish region in northern Iraq approved on Friday the Kurdistan Regional Government's plan to hold the vote on Sept. 25.</p> <p>The vote could jeopardize gains achieved by the Kurds under the self-rule regime, Abadi said, according to the Iraqi Media News Agency news website.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/16 Jets strike US-backed forces in Syria
SOURCE	http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-sdf/jets-strike-u-s-backed-forces-in-eastern-syria-sdf-idUSKCN1BR09K
GIST	BEIRUT (Reuters) - U.S.-backed militias said they came under attack on Saturday from Russian jets and

	<p>Syrian government forces in Deir al-Zor province, a flashpoint in an increasingly complex battlefield.</p> <p>The Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), an alliance of Kurdish and Arab militias fighting with the U.S.-led coalition, said the strikes wounded six of its fighters.</p> <p>Washington and Moscow support separate offensives in the Syrian conflict - with both sides advancing against Islamic State militants in the eastern region that borders Iraq.</p> <p>“Our forces east of the Euphrates were hit with an attack from the Russian aircraft and Syrian regime forces, targeting our units in the industrial zone,” the SDF said in a statement.</p> <p>The SDF accused the Syrian government of trying to obstruct its fighters. Such attacks “waste energies that should be used against terrorism ... and open the door to side conflicts,” it said.</p> <p>There was no immediate comment from Moscow or Damascus.</p> <p>The assaults by the Russian-backed Syrian army and the U.S.-backed SDF have at times raised fears of clashes that could stoke tensions between the competing world powers.</p> <p>The offensives have converged on Islamic State from opposite sides of the Euphrates river, which bisects oil-rich Deir al-Zor, Islamic State’s last major foothold in Syria.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/15 ISIS fighter tagged ‘enemy combatant’
SOURCE	https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/trump-admin-tags-isis-fighter-enemy-combatant-reviving-bush-era-n801686
GIST	<p>WASHINGTON — Almost nothing is publicly known about the American ISIS fighter who is now in the custody of the U.S. military, but one fact has already made the case extraordinary: The Trump Administration has declared him an enemy combatant, according to a military spokesman.</p> <p>Legal experts say it appears to be the first time that designation has been used since 2009, when the Obama administration stopped using the label for Ali Saleh Kahlah al-Marri, a Qatari citizen who had been designated an enemy combatant in 2003. He was held for six years in a military brig before being transferred to the federal court system in 2009, where he was sentenced to 15 years, including time served.</p> <p>The case presents an early test of whether Trump will seek to follow through on any of his campaign rhetoric about counterterrorism. He promised last year to "load up" the U.S. military prison at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba "with some really bad dudes." U.S. citizens can't be brought to Guantanamo, but the Trump administration has made no secret of its desire to place terror suspects in military detention elsewhere.</p> <p>Trump administration officials have declined to say publicly what they intend to do with the American fighter, who the military says was captured Sept. 12 by Kurdish allies in Syria and turned over to U.S. forces.</p> <p>So far, however, signs suggest a reality different than Trump's rhetoric.</p> <p>A senior administration official told NBC News the U.S. plans to keep the man in military custody to exploit any information he can provide and then transfer him to the civilian justice system. The official and a defense official also said they expect him to spend some time in military custody.</p> <p>"There's no urgency" to transfer him, said the senior administration official.</p> <p>The Pentagon referred questions about the matter to the Justice Department, which also suggests the intention is to bring him to the U.S. and charge him in federal court, according to experts. The Pentagon</p>

	<p>also did not call him an "unlawful" enemy combatant, which is the language used to describe current Guantanamo detainees.</p> <p>Spokesmen for the Justice Department and the White House National Security Council declined to comment on the case.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/16 Iraq PM: Mosul battle killed 1,260 civilians
SOURCE	http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/latest-iraqi-pm-camp-suspects-holds-turks-49895983
GIST	<p>Iraq's prime minister says between 970 and 1,260 civilians were killed during the grueling nine-month battle against the Islamic State group in Mosul.</p> <p>Haider Al-Abadi says: "We've tried our utmost to protect the civilians, that's why our security forces have paid a very high price," explaining that <u>Iraqi security forces</u> faced more than double the number of casualties than the city's civilians.</p> <p>Unlike in past battles against IS, in Mosul, Iraqi officials called on the more than 1 million civilians living in the city to remain in their homes to avoid massive displacement.</p> <p>The presence of civilians quickly complicated the fight with IS fighters who used them as human shields. As Iraqi forces punched into Mosul's more densely populated neighborhoods, civilian casualties spiked and human rights groups warned of the dangers of using large munitions in the packed urban environment.</p> <p>On March 17, more than 100 civilians were killed in a single U.S. airstrike targeting two IS fighters in west Mosul, according to a Pentagon investigation.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/16 'Significant arrest' London subway attack
SOURCE	http://abcnews.go.com/International/london-police-investigating-incident-subway-station/story?id=49866327
GIST	<p>UPDATES: WHAT WE KNOW NOW</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 18-year-old man has been arrested in connection with Friday's apparent bucket bomb explosion on a London Underground train. • Following the arrest, police searched a residence in Sunbury-on-Thames. • ISIS has claimed responsibility for Friday's attack. • The terror attack is the sixth in Britain this year. • The blast sent at least 29 people to the hospital. • Witnesses described a ball of flames and a loud explosion on the subway car. • Police said the improvised explosive device did not fully explode. • The U.K. threat level has been raised to "critical," meaning an attack is expected imminently.
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Suspicious, Unusual

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HEADLINE	09/17 Next time some won't evacuate?
SOURCE	http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/U/US_IRMA_NEVER_AGAIN?SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2017-09-17-11-54-26
GIST	FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP) -- After a painful flight across several states to escape unpredictable Hurricane Irma, Suzanne Pallot says it's unlikely she would evacuate South Florida again - an attitude

echoed by other evacuees that experts say could put them in danger when the next storm hits.

"It is a very emotionally draining thing to go through ... the anticipation of what is next and not having control of what is next," Pallot, 73, said in an interview from her cousin's home in Memphis, Tennessee, where her family ended up after first stopping in Atlanta. "This is the first time I even agreed to think about leaving. I probably would not do it again."

About 7 million people were asked to evacuate as Irma threatened Florida and the Southeast with strong winds and storm surge that in some places was forecast to push water as high as the rooftops of single-story homes. Neither wind nor water was quite as fierce as predicted, but no one knew that would be the case until it happened. Before then, the forecast was ominous enough that government officials decided they couldn't take any chances, and they repeatedly beseeched people in vulnerable areas to leave.

Some of the tens of thousands who heeded the warnings got stuck in massive traffic jams, waited in hourslong lines at a dwindling number of gas stations still equipped with fuel, and were forced to bounce from city to city as the storm kept changing its path.

Craig Fugate, a former chief of the Federal Emergency Management Agency who lives in Gainesville, Florida, and lost power during Irma, said he understands such experiences may lead some to stay home next time in hopes of riding out the storm.

"People start rationalizing, 'It's not that bad to stay here,'" Fugate said. "If people in the evacuation zones start drawing this conclusion, that is not a good thing."

Psychologist Nora Baladerian, who specializes in anxiety and depression among trauma victims, said an event such as a mass evacuation can put mental stress on people that impairs their decision-making ability during the next crisis.

"Obviously there are some who would say, 'Let's do all we can to survive, and since the experts are saying it is best to evacuate, that is what we will do,'" she said. "However, some will not be able to make the effort, and may remain in harm's way, saying, 'Come what may, I've made my decision.'"

Rosie Rollo of Miami, her two young boys, and her husband evacuated from three different places to escape Irma's wrath: first to Tampa, then to Fort Walton Beach, and then on to New Orleans before finally landing in Biloxi, Mississippi.

"We were SO RELIEVED once we arrived here and once we knew Irma wasn't coming this way," Rollo said in a text message interview from Biloxi. "It's been a very scary experience. ... I've never been through any of this."

JennyLee Molina says her evacuation put a strain on her family's finances.

"We're spending money we really didn't plan to spend," said Molina, who with her husband, 7-year-old son and seven other family members first evacuated from Miami to Cartersville, Georgia. When it appeared Irma would head that way, they left for Asheville, North Carolina, eventually ending up in St. Augustine, Florida, on the state's northeastern coast.

Molina said the nomadic uncertainty gave her an inkling of what it must be like to flee war zones and oppression.

"It made me think about the immigrant experience and the refugee experience. You're arriving somewhere that doesn't feel like home at all," she said.

Before she had a family, her attitude about evacuating was, "We'd have a hurricane party and stock up on beer and junk food. That was more my lifestyle."

	<p>But now, she says, "with a child, I would never stay with a storm at Category 3 or up."</p> <p>Pallot said she's likely to stick it out next time, maybe buy a power generator and reinforce her home to withstand strong storms. Still, she said she does understand why authorities urged her and others to evacuate for Irma, which was so unpredictable.</p> <p>"It's a really hard call," Pallot said. "This was such an unknown ... it could gain strength, and it was breaking all records."</p> <p>Marc Caputo, a Coral Gables resident and former longtime Miami Herald correspondent who covered many storms for the newspaper, didn't evacuate for Irma. The explanation he offered in a column written for his current employer, Politico, reflects the rationale of many storm-experienced Floridians.</p> <p>"People who have never lived through a hurricane often have a hard time understanding why anyone would stay in the path of one. Are you stupid? Get out of there!" he wrote.</p> <p>"But everyone has their reasons, or rationalizations. And when you've survived a few of these things, you figure: What's one more?"</p>
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HEADLINE	09/17 Social Security disability backlog
SOURCE	http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/U/US_SOCIAL_SECURITY_BACKLOG?SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2017-09-17-08-29-32
GIST	<p>WASHINGTON (AP) -- More than 1 million Americans await a hearing to see whether they qualify for disability benefits from Social Security, with the average wait nearly two years - longer than some of them will live.</p> <p>All have been denied benefits at least once, as most applications are initially rejected. But in a system where the outcome of a case often depends on who decides it, most people who complete the appeals process will eventually win benefits. The numbers come from data compiled by the Social Security Administration.</p> <p>About 10.5 million people get disability benefits from Social Security. An additional 8 million get disability benefits from Supplemental Security Income, the disability program for poor people who don't qualify for Social Security. The disability programs are much smaller than Social Security's giant retirement program. Still, the agency paid out \$197 billion in disability payments last year.</p> <p>Recipients won't get rich as the average benefit is \$1,037 a month - too small to lift a family of two out of poverty.</p> <p>For some, the benefits come too late.</p> <p>Last year there were 7,400 people on waitlists who were dead, according to a report by Social Security's inspector general.</p> <p>For someone to qualify for Social Security disability benefits, a doctor must determine that the disability is severe enough to prevent an applicant from working. The disability must last at least a year or could result in death.</p> <p>If applicants can't perform their old jobs, officials see if they can adapt to new ones.</p> <p>The Social Security Administration says it is working to reduce the backlog by hiring 500 new administrative law judges and more than 600 support staff. The judges, who now number about 1,600, hear appeals from people who were initially denied benefits. The agency is also expanding a program that</p>

	<p>quickly awards benefits to people with serious illnesses and conditions, including certain cancers, said Bea Disman, the agency's acting chief of staff.</p> <p>But advocates say budget cuts over the past five years have frustrated efforts to reduce the disability backlog.</p> <p>Last year, the agency's budget was \$12.6 billion, roughly the same as it was in 2011, even though an additional 6 million people receive either retirement or disability benefits from Social Security.</p> <p>"No search for efficiencies, reprioritization of tasks or technological improvements can substitute for adequate resources," said Lisa Ekman of the National Organization of Social Security Claimants' Representatives.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/17 Airlines cancel New Zealand flights
SOURCE	https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2017-09-17/airlines-cancel-n-z-flights-ration-fuel-after-pipeline-leak
GIST	<p>Airlines are canceling flights in New Zealand and adding stops for long-haul services after a pipeline bringing jet fuel to Auckland airport was closed due to a leak.</p> <p>Air New Zealand estimated 2,000 customers a day will be affected by the disruption over the next few days as it has just 30 percent of normal fuel volumes available to it. The airline said Monday it has canceled 18 flights so far and further schedule changes will be necessary. Qantas Airways has canceled some flights within New Zealand and to Australia as it is also forced to ration fuel.</p> <p>The disruption comes just days before New Zealanders vote in a Sept. 23 general election that polls show is too close to call. While motorists aren't affected at this stage, the government has deployed a naval tanker to help with fuel distribution after opposition parties claimed there had been a failure to secure supply to the nation's busiest airport.</p> <p>"It's been made very clear to all of those working on this that the government will commit whatever resources and effort are required to get this sorted out as quickly as possible with a minimum of disruption," Energy Minister Judith Collins said in a statement. The naval tanker will assist by shipping diesel around the country so resources can be freed up to focus on Auckland Airport, she said.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/15 Mystery shakes at NKorea volcano
SOURCE	http://www.newsweek.com/north-koreas-nuclear-blast-second-mystery-shock-felt-china-shuts-volcano-park-665517
GIST	<p>China has limited access to a nature reserve on its border with North Korea after mysterious seismic shakes at the rogue nation's nuclear test site were detected less than 10 minutes after it launched a missile earlier this month.</p> <p>Beijing reportedly closed the site over fears that underground detonations by the North Koreans at a facility near Punggye-ri could lead to rockslides and even trigger an eruption of the active volcano Mount Paektu, which is sacred to North Korea and located right on the border between the two countries.</p> <p>The notices from Chinese authorities, restricting access to the Changbaishan National Nature Reserve, were posted on China's state-regulated analog to Twitter Weibo, South Korea's Donga Ilbo newspaper reported Thursday. It covers a radius of around 70 miles from the Punggye-ri test site.</p> <p>"For the safety and convenience of travelers, we have temporarily closed the southern tourist zone of</p>

Changbai Mountain," read the message from Chinese authorities, translated by [UPI](#). "Officials are thoroughly investigating the safety of the tourist area." The area will remain closed to the public until "the potential risks disappear," it said.

Weibo comments expressing fears over Pyongyang's nuclear testing began disappearing from the social media platform, users noted. Beijing's online censors often erase content unfavorable to the state's agenda from the platform.

Besides radioactive risks—which could be contained inside the test facility—the shock of a large blast could disturb mountains in the Changbai range, including Paektu, an active volcano that last erupted in 1903.

A new article in scientific journal Nature's [Scientific Reports](#) states that "an underground nuclear explosion test near an active volcano constitutes a direct threat."

It could "disturb the magma chamber of a volcano, thus accelerating the volcanic activity," scientists argue.

The findings come as seismologist experts work to determine the impact of the blast on the environment around it, including the cause of a mysterious and significant, albeit weaker, second shake detected minutes after the nuclear blast. Researchers are debating a range of possibilities, from a possible tunnel collapse to a landslide or a rock splintering inside nearby Mount Mantap.

"This is an interesting mystery at this point," Göran Ekström, a seismologist at Columbia University in New York City, told [Nature](#).

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HEADLINE	09/16 Curious case of courteous arrestee
SOURCE	http://www.thenewstribune.com/news/local/crime/article173769281.html
GIST	<p>Sept. 15: Every now and then, cops pick up a rare bird — the courteous arrestee.</p> <p>The tabs on the maroon 1997 Saturn SL were expired. The sheriff's deputy spotted it in the 2200 block of 208th Street East in Spanaway. He turned on his emergency lights and pulled the car over.</p> <p>The driver, 28, didn't have his license, but he said he was glad the deputy stopped him. The man explained that he had two felony warrants for his arrest and planned to turn himself in, so this was a convenient moment.</p> <p>The man asked if the deputy could take him into custody so he wouldn't have to drive downtown himself.</p> <p>The deputy said he would have to confirm the warrants. He cuffed the man, put him in the patrol car and ran a records check.</p> <p>The man wasn't lying. He had two warrants: one for possession of a stolen vehicle, and one from the state Department of Corrections for escaping community custody.</p> <p>The man said he knew about the warrants, but wanted to get his affairs in order before turning himself in. He was "extremely polite and cooperative," the report states.</p> <p>The deputy booked the man into the Pierce County Jail on the warrants, and released the Saturn to the man's girlfriend, who owned it.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/16 Investigating Cuba 'attack' mystery
SOURCE	http://www.newsmax.com/Newsfront/US-Cuba-Attacks-Medical/2017/09/16/id/813995/
GIST	<p>WASHINGTON — There must be an answer.</p> <p>Whatever is harming U.S. diplomats in Havana, it's eluded the doctors, scientists and intelligence analysts scouring for answers. Investigators have chased many theories, including a sonic attack, electromagnetic weapon or flawed spying device.</p> <p>Each explanation seems to fit parts of what's happened, conflicting with others.</p> <p>The United States doesn't even know what to call it. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson used the phrase "health attacks." The State Department prefers "incidents."</p> <p>Either way, suspicion has fallen on Cuba. But investigators also are examining whether a rogue faction of its security services, another country such as Russia, or some combination is to blame, more than a dozen U.S. officials familiar with the investigation told The Associated Press.</p> <p>Those officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to publicly discuss the investigation. The AP also talked to scientists, physicians, acoustics and weapons experts, and others about the theories being pursued.</p> <p>Perhaps the biggest mystery is why the symptoms, sounds and sensations vary so dramatically from person to person.</p> <p>Of the 21 medically confirmed U.S. victims, some have permanent hearing loss or concussions, while others suffered nausea, headaches and ear-ringing. Some are struggling with concentration or common word recall, the AP has reported. Some felt vibrations or heard loud sounds mysteriously audible in only parts of rooms, and others heard nothing.</p> <p>"These are very nonspecific symptoms. That's why it's difficult to tell what's going on," said Dr. H. Jeffrey Kim, a specialist on ear disorders at MedStar Georgetown University Hospital who isn't involved with the investigation.</p> <p>To solve the puzzle, investigators are sorting symptoms into categories, such as auditory and neurological, according to individuals briefed on the probe.</p> <p>There can be a lag before victims discover or report symptoms, some of which are hard to diagnose. So investigators are charting the timeline of reported incidents to identify "clusters" to help solve the when, where and how of the Havana whodunit.</p> <p>While Cuba has been surprisingly cooperative, even inviting the FBI to fly down to Havana, it's not the same as an investigation with the U.S. government in full control.</p> <p>"You're on foreign soil," said David Rubincam, a former FBI agent who served in Moscow. "The quality of the information and evidence you collect is limited to what the host government will allow you to see and hear and touch and do."</p> <p>Especially when you don't even know what you're looking for.</p> <p>SONIC DEVICE</p> <p>The first signs pointed to a sonic attack. But what kind?</p> <p>Some victims heard things — signs that the sounds were in the audible spectrum. Loud noise can harm hearing, especially high-decibel sounds that can trigger ear-ringing tinnitus, ruptured ear drums, even permanent hearing loss. But others heard nothing, and still became ill. So investigators considered inaudible sound: infrasound, too low for humans to hear, and ultrasound, too high.</p>

Infrasound often is experienced as vibration, like standing near a subwoofer. Some victims reported feeling vibrations. And it's not impossible that infrasound could explain some of what diplomats thought they heard.

Though infrasound is usually inaudible, some people can detect it if the waves are powerful enough. For example, individuals living near infrasound-generating wind turbines have described pulsating hums that have left them dizzy, nauseous or with interrupted sleep. Such effects have prompted fierce scientific debate.

The balance problems reported in Havana? Possibly explained by infrasound, which may stimulate cells in the ear's vestibular system that controls balance, scientists say.

But there's little evidence infrasound can cause lasting damage once the sound stops. And the pinpointed focus of the sound, reported by some? Infrasound waves travel everywhere, making them difficult to aim with precision.

"There's no efficient way to focus infrasound to make it into a usable weapon," said Mario Svirsky, an expert on ear disorders and neuroscience at New York University School of Medicine.

If not infrasound, maybe ultrasound? At high-intensity, ultrasound can damage human tissue. That's why doctors use it to destroy uterine fibroids and some tumors. But ultrasound damage requires close contact between the device and the body. "You cannot sense ultrasound from long distances," Svirsky said. No victim said they saw a weird contraption nearby.

None of these sound waves seems to explain the concussions. Usually, those follow a blow to the head or proximity to something like a bomb blast.

"I know of no acoustic effect or device that could produce traumatic brain injury or concussion-like symptoms," said Juergen Altmann, an acoustic weapons expert and physicist at Germany's Technische Universitaet Dortmund.

ELECTROMAGNETIC WEAPON

It may sound like Star Wars fantasy, but electromagnetic weapons have been around for years. They generally harm electronics, not humans. The electromagnetic spectrum includes waves like the ones used by your cellphone, microwave and light bulbs. And they can be easily pinpointed. Think lasers. Such waves can also travel through walls, so an electromagnetic attack could be plausibly concealed from afar.

There's precedent. For more than a decade ending in the 1970s, the former Soviet Union bombarded the U.S. Embassy in Moscow with microwaves. The exact purpose was never clear.

What about the sounds people heard?

Microwave pulses — short, intense blasts — can cause people to "hear" clicking sounds. According to a two-decade-old U.S. Air Force patent, the American military has researched whether those blasts could be manipulated to "beam" voices or other sounds to someone's head.

But when electromagnetic waves cause physical damage, it usually results from body tissue being heated. The diplomats in Cuba haven't been reporting burning sensations.

SOMETHING ELSE

The stress and anxiety about the disturbing incidents could be complicating the situation. Diplomats may be taking a closer look at mild symptoms they'd otherwise ignored.

After all, once symptoms emerged, the U.S. Embassy encouraged employees to report anything suspicious. Many of these symptoms can be caused by a lot of different things.

At least one other country, France, tested embassy staffers after an employee reported symptoms. The French then ruled out sonic-induced damage, the AP reported.

Not knowing what's causing the crisis in Cuba has made it harder to find the culprit. If there is one at all.

THE CUBA THEORY

It was only natural that American suspicion started with Cuba. The attacks happened on Cuban soil. The two countries routinely harassed each other's diplomats over a half-century of enmity. Despite eased tensions over the past couple of years, distrust lingers. Diplomats reported incidents in their homes and in hotels. Cuban authorities would know who is staying in each.

But what's the motive?

When symptoms emerged last November, Cuba was working feverishly with the U.S. to make progress on everything from internet access to immigration rules before President Barack Obama's term ended. Officials still don't understand why Havana would at the same time perpetrate attacks that could destroy its new relationship with Washington entirely.

Cuban President Raul Castro's reaction deepened investigators' skepticism, according to officials briefed on a rare, face-to-face discussion he had on the matter with America's top envoy in Havana.

Predictably, Castro denied responsibility. But U.S. officials were surprised that Castro seemed genuinely rattled, and that Cuba offered to let the FBI come investigate.

Then, Canadians got ill. Why them? The warm, long-standing ties between Cuba and Canada made it seem even less logical that Castro's government was the culprit.

THE ROGUES

If not Castro, could elements of Cuba's vast intelligence apparatus be to blame? Investigators haven't ruled out that possibility, several U.S. officials said.

It's no secret that some within Cuba's government are uneasy about Raul Castro's opening with Washington.

"It's entirely possible that hard-line elements acted," said Michael Parmly, who headed the U.S. mission in Havana until 2008. But mounting unauthorized attacks, tantamount to aggression against a foreign power, would be a risky act of defiance in a country noted for its strong central control.

Cuba's surveillance of U.S. diplomats in Havana is intense. The government tracks U.S. diplomats' movements and conversations.

So at a minimum, if Americans were being attacked, it's difficult to imagine Cuba's spies being left in the dark.

THE OUTSIDERS

Who else would dare?

U.S. investigators have focused on a small group of usual suspects: Russia, Iran, North Korea, China, Venezuela.

Russia, in particular, has harassed American diplomats aggressively in recent years. Moscow even has a plausible motive: driving a wedge between the communist island and "the West" — nations such as the United States and Canada. Russia also has advanced, hard-to-detect weaponry the much of the world lacks and might not even know about.

None of officials interviewed for this story pointed to any evidence, however, linking Russia to the illnesses. The same goes for the other countries.

SPYING GONE AWRY?

Maybe no one tried to hurt the Americans at all.

Several U.S. officials have emphasized the possibility the culprit merely surveilled the U.S. diplomats using some new, untested technology that caused unintended harm. You might think eavesdropping devices simply receive signals. But the world of espionage is full of strange tales.

During the Cold War, the U.S. Embassy in Moscow discovered Russia listening to conversations through a wooden plaque that the American ambassador received as a gift. The plaque had a tiny "microphone" and antenna embedded, but no power source, making it hard to detect even when the room was swept for bugs. The Russians had developed something novel. They remotely beamed electromagnetic waves to activate the device, which then transmitted sound back via radio frequencies.

Yet if the Cubans or anyone else were equally as innovative, it's unclear why the incidents would have continued once the United States and Canada complained.

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HEADLINE	09/16 Union: Houston firefighters told stay home
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SOURCE	https://www.cbsnews.com/news/houston-firefigthers-harvey-union/
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GIST	HOUSTON -- Thousands of Houston firefighters were told to stay home at the height of <u>Harvey's flooding</u> even as calls for help overwhelmed 911 dispatchers, the president of the city's firefighters union said Friday.
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In an interview with CBS Houston affiliate KHOU, Marty Lancton said that the fire department could have done more during the storm.

"I don't want to hear about lack of resources," Lancton said. "Emergencies are something you prepare for. You don't have the answers, but you prepare. In this case, they weren't prepared."

On Sunday, Aug. 27, as fast-rushing water chased people onto their rooftops, about 3,000 firefighters were instructed not to report to work, according to Lancton, an agonizing order for many eager to assist with rescues.

"We're sorry," Lancton said, fighting back tears. "Every Houston firefighter would put their life on the line for anybody without question, with a moment's notice, and this is not different."

Houston Fire Chief Sam Pena acknowledged that three-quarters of the force was asked not to report, but said that the department was fully staffed.

"Everything we had available, we deployed in anticipation of that," Pena said.

The decision against a full recall, which Pena said was made based on staffing needs during past disasters, left a crew of 900 firefighters responsible for 650 square miles of Houston. Many worked two or three days without a break.

Pena said he hadn't seen the data yet for response times from that Sunday but that in hindsight, he would have brought in more firefighters to make sure crews could rotate out each day.

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HEADLINE	09/16 Veterans suicide highest West, rural areas
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SOURCE	http://abcnews.go.com/Health/wireStory/suicide-veterans-highest-western-us-rural-areas-49891060?cid=clicksource_26_2_hero_headlines_bsq_hed
GIST	<p>Suicide among military veterans is especially high in the western U.S. and rural areas, according to new government data that show wide state-by-state disparities and suggest social isolation, gun ownership and access to health care may be factors.</p> <p>The figures released Friday are the first-ever Department of Veterans Affairs data on suicide by state. It shows Montana, Utah, Nevada and New Mexico had the highest rates of veteran suicide as of 2014, the most current VA data available. Veterans in big chunks of those states must drive 70 miles or more to reach the nearest VA medical center.</p> <p>The suicide rates in those four states stood at 60 per 100,000 individuals or higher, far above the national veteran suicide rate of 38.4.</p> <p>The overall rate in the West was 45.5. All other regions of the country had rates below the national rate.</p> <p>Other states with high veteran suicide rates, including West Virginia, Oklahoma and Kentucky, had greater levels of prescription drug use, including <u>opioids</u>. A VA study last year found veterans who received the highest doses of opioid painkillers were more than twice as likely to die by suicide compared to those receiving the lowest doses.</p> <p>The latest VA data also reaffirmed sharp demographic differences: Women veterans are at much greater risk, with their suicide rate 2.5 times higher than for female civilians. Among men, the risk was 19 percent higher among veterans compared to civilians. As a whole, older veterans make up most military suicides — roughly 65 percent were age 50 or older.</p> <p>"This report is huge," said Rajeev Ramchand, an epidemiologist who studies suicide for the RAND Corp. He noted that the suicide rate is higher for veterans than non-veterans in every single state by at least 1.5 times, suggesting unique problems faced by former service members. "No state is immune."</p>
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HEADLINE	09/16 Iran claims 'father of all bombs'
SOURCE	https://www.rt.com/news/403554-iran-father-bomb-moab/
GIST	<p>A top commander of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) claims that the country possesses the "father of all bombs" which overshadows the most powerful non-nuclear ordnance of the US.</p> <p>The bomb was developed under a special request of the IRGC, the corps' Aerospace Force commander, Brigadier General Amir Ali Hajizadeh, said in an interview on Friday.</p> <p><i>"Following a proposal by the Aerospace Force of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC), [Iran's] Defense Industries [Organization] manufactured a 10-ton bomb. These bombs are at our disposal,"</i> PressTV <u>cited</u> the commander as saying.</p> <p><i>"They can be launched from Ilyushin aircraft and they are highly destructive,"</i> he added, without providing any further details on the capabilities of the ordnance.</p> <p>The commander called the device the <i>"father of all bombs,"</i> comparing it to the US GBU-43/B Massive Ordnance Air Blast Bomb (MOAB), commonly known as the <i>"mother of all bombs."</i> Since the American device weighs 9.8 tons and yields 11 tons in TNT equivalent, the IRGC commander presumably referred to the weight of the new Iranian ordnance rather than its destructive potential.</p> <p>The MOAB was developed in 2003 and first used in combat this April, when the US dropped the device in Afghanistan on a mountain tunnel complex used by Islamic State (IS, formerly ISIS/ISIL) terrorists.</p>

	<p>The new Iranian ordnance, however, might trigger a bomb paternity dispute, as Russia already possesses a non-nuclear ordnance known as the “<i>daddy</i>.”</p> <p>The Aviation Thermobaric Bomb of Increased Power, known as the ‘father of all bombs’ (FOAB), was successfully tested by Russia in 2007, with impressive results for a non-nuclear device – a 44-ton yield when detonated. The bomb explodes midair, vaporizing its targets, collapsing structures, and leaving a moon-like scorched landscape.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/15 NASA ‘Cassini’ space mission ends
SOURCE	http://www.cnn.com/2017/09/15/us/cassini-mission-ends/index.html
GIST	<p>(CNN)Contact has been lost with the Cassini spacecraft after it completed a "death dive" into the upper atmosphere of Saturn and transmitted its final signal, according to NASA.</p> <p>The spacecraft deliberately sank into Saturn's upper atmosphere at a high speed and plunged itself into the planet just after 6:30 a.m. ET Friday. Given the amount of time it takes signals to reach Earth, the final signal and last bits of data reached the Deep Space Network's Canberra Station in Australia about an hour and a half later.</p> <p>NASA confirmed the spacecraft's demise at 7:55 a.m. ET, as predicted.</p> <p>For about a minute, Cassini was able to transmit new data about the planet's composition as long as its antenna remained pointed toward Earth, with the assist from small thrusters. Then, the spacecraft burned and disintegrated due to the heat and high pressure of the hostile atmosphere. It became part of the planet it set out to explore.</p> <p>"It was a perfect spacecraft," said Julie Webster, spacecraft operations chief. "Right to the end, it did everything we asked it to. It's perfect, it's perfect."</p> <p>No spacecraft has ever been so close to Saturn. The last few seconds of the Cassini mission provided the "first taste" of the atmosphere of Saturn, NASA said.</p> <p>"You can think of Cassini as the first Saturn probe," said Linda Spilker, Cassini project scientist.</p> <p>On Thursday, Cassini took its last images and transmitted all the data on its recorder to prepare for the final plunge. The final data from Friday is already being processed and analyzed.</p> <p>After launching in 1997 and reaching the Saturn system in 2004, <u>Cassini spent 13 years</u> exploring the planet and its moons. The data and images led to numerous discoveries that changed how scientists think about our solar system.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/17 Paris airport security incident
SOURCE	http://www.cnn.com/2017/09/17/europe/paris-airport-security-incident/index.html
GIST	<p>Paris (CNN)A security incident that delayed a British Airways flight in Paris and led to passengers deplaning was caused by a false alarm, French authorities said.</p> <p>BA303, an Airbus 320, was due to take off Sunday from Charles de Gaulle Airport at 7:25 a.m. (1:25 a.m. ET) for London's Heathrow airport when passengers were deplaned.</p> <p>Authorities later cleared the flight for takeoff after completing security checks, the French national police said.</p>

	While passengers waited on the tarmac, security personnel conducted bag searches while sniffer dogs checked the aircraft...
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HEADLINE	09/16 Convenience stores Kitsap Co. on notice
SOURCE	http://komonews.com/news/local/one-third-of-kitsap-co-stores-sold-booze-to-minors
GIST	<p>PORT ORCHARD, Wash. - Convenience stores in Kitsap County are on notice after deputies said a third of the shops targeted in a recent sting sold alcohol to kids.</p> <p>On Wednesday, deputies sent underage buyers into two dozen grocery and convenience stores. Investigators said eight of the clerks sold booze to the minors, and many never even asked to see identification.</p> <p>Deputies said when minors were carded, they presented their valid ID showing they were underage - but at least one clerk sold the alcohol anyway. Parents said the stores may see it as just another sale, but there could be lives at stake.</p> <p>"Because now they are going to go out, they're going to drink, and they might get behind the wheel and it's going to cause accidents," Bethune said.</p> <p>Deputies said they want all stores to comply with the law but instead they are finding a dangerous trend.</p> <p>"With underage alcohol use we know comes a lot of criminal activity, whether it's malicious mischief, assaults, DUI, accidents and what have you," said Lt. Earl Smith with the Kitsap Co. Sheriff's Office. "So we're just trying to prevent those types of activities within our community."</p> <p>The workers who sold to minors will be charged with misdemeanors, according to investigators. The state liquor control board has also been notified and could potentially review the stores' liquor licenses.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/16 Car crashes in crowd Idaho car show
SOURCE	https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation-now/2017/09/16/car-crashes-into-crowd-idaho-car-show-injures-11/673848001/
GIST	<p>BOISE, Idaho — The Boise Police Department said a driver leaving the parking lot of a car show <u>crashed into several people</u> on a sidewalk.</p> <p>The agency said 11 people were injured and six hospitalized.</p> <p>The incident happened about 11 a.m. Saturday as two events took place at the Boise Spectrum, a complex of movie theaters, shops and restaurants.</p> <p>Police said the investigation is ongoing, but preliminary information shows the driver was accelerating rapidly as he left the car show, lost control and drove into the crowd. The driver is cooperating with the investigation.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/16 Ryanair canceling hundreds of flights
SOURCE	https://www.upi.com/Top_News/World-News/2017/09/16/Ryanair-to-cancel-hundreds-of-flights-due-to-employee-vacation-

	time/9591505571657/?utm_source=fp&utm_campaign=lh&utm_medium=1
GIST	<p>Sept. 16 (UPI) -- European airline Ryanair is canceling hundreds of flights in the next six weeks due to a new employee vacation schedule.</p> <p>A pinned tweet on Ryanair's official Twitter account states travelers whose flights have been canceled as a result of the decision will be notified by email.</p> <p>"Your flight is operating as scheduled unless you have received a cancelation mail," the tweet states. "Please check the email address used to make your booking."</p> <p>The airline plans to cancel 40 to 50 flights a day until the end of October, citing "tighter crewing numbers" as the result of a new employee-leave calendar that forced pilots and crew members to take time off, the Independent reported.</p> <p>"By canceling less than 2 percent of our flying program over the next six weeks, we can improve the operational resilience of our schedules and restore punctuality to our annualized target of 90 percent," the airline said.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/15 Study: Arctic sea ice melt 'massive'
SOURCE	https://www.upi.com/Science_News/2017/09/15/Study-shows-Arctic-sea-ice-continues-to-melt-considerably/2031505504968/?utm_source=fp&utm_campaign=ts&utm_medium=16
GIST	<p>Sept. 15 (UPI) -- Arctic sea ice shrank to roughly 4.7 million square kilometers in September, making the sea ice extent in 2017 far below numbers from 1979 to 2006.</p> <p>Scientists from the Alfred Wegener Institute, the University of Bremen and Universitat Hamburg reported Friday that the minimum sea ice extent for 2017 is average for the past 10 years, despite being far below average from previous decades.</p> <p>The sea ice in the Arctic is considered a critical element in climate processes and a vital early-warning system for global warming. Researches point to the September minimum extent as an important indicator of climate change.</p> <p>Sea ice covered area is measured using high-resolution microwave satellites, with data provided by the University of Bremen and Universitat Hamburg.</p> <p>According to researchers, the amount of ice loss is massive even though the current extent of sea ice does not represent a new record low.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/16 Catalan mayors defy Spanish courts
SOURCE	http://www.reuters.com/article/us-spain-politics-catalonia/catalan-mayors-defy-spanish-courts-ahead-of-independence-vote-idUSKCN1BR0FW
GIST	<p>BARCELONA (Reuters) - More than 700 mayors from across Catalonia gathered in Barcelona on Saturday to confirm their support for a planned independence referendum that Madrid has declared illegal.</p> <p>The Catalan government plans to hold a referendum on self rule for the wealthy northeastern region on Oct. 1, despite strong opposition from government which has challenged the vote in the Constitutional Court.</p> <p>The mayors met with Catalonia's regional head Carles Puigdemont in a show of defiance, following Spanish prosecutors warning earlier this week that officials engaging in any preparations for the vote could</p>

be charged with civil disobedience, abuse of office and misuse of public funds.

On Wednesday, Spanish prosecutors summoned for questioning more than 700 mayors who had said they would allow municipal spaces to be used for voting. If the mayors do not respond to the order, police should arrest them, the order said.

Meeting in downtown Barcelona in front of hundreds of flag waving pro-independence protesters, the mayors gave speeches in which they promised continued support for the referendum amid chants of “we will vote” and “independence.”

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HEADLINE 09/15 Prophecy claim: world ends on Sep 23rd

SOURCE <http://www.foxnews.com/science/2017/09/15/biblical-prophecy-claims-world-will-end-on-sept-23-christian-numerologists-claim.html>

GIST Christian numerologists claim that the world will end on Sept. 23, 2017 as they believe a planet will collide with Earth.

According to Christian numerologist David Meade, verses in Luke 21: 25 to 26 is the sign that recent events, such as the recent solar eclipse and Hurricane Harvey, are signs of the apocalypse.

The verses read:

“25: There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea. People will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken.’

”26: Men’s hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken.’

Sept. 23 is a date that was pinpointed using codes from the Bible, as well as a "date marker" in the pyramids of Giza in Egypt.

Meade has built his theory, which is viewed with a widely skeptical lens, on the so-called Planet X, which is also known as Nibiru, which he believes will pass Earth on Sept. 23, causing volcanic eruptions, tsunamis and earthquakes, according to British newspaper The Sun.

NASA has repeatedly said Planet X is a hoax.

Revelation 12:1–2, is supposed to be the start of the Rapture and second coming of Christ, which is also being mentioned heavily by Christian conspiracy theorists.

The passage reads: "And a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of 12 stars. She was pregnant and was crying out in birth pains and the agony of giving birth."

In the passage, the woman is Virgo. On Sept. 23, both the Sun and the Moon will be in Virgo, as will the planet Jupiter. However, this occurrence happens naturally once every 12 years. There is also a rare alignment, known as "the Lion of the tribe of Judah," which the conspiracy theorists are hanging their hats on.

According to the Express, author Jonathan Sarfati wrote that the same planetary coincidence previously happened four times in the last millennium.

"As usual with any astrology (or Christian adaptations of it), one cherry-picks the stars that fit the desired conclusion," Sarfati wrote, according to the Express. "There is nothing to suggest that 23 September is a

	momentous date for biblical prophecy, and Christians need to be careful about being drawn into such sensationalist claims."
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HEADLINE	09/15 NKorea shows advance in missile tech
SOURCE	https://www.cbsnews.com/news/north-korea-shows-advance-in-missile-tech-and-sanctions-wont-stop-it/
GIST	<p>On Thursday night, <u>North Korea test-fired</u> another one of its intermediate range missiles over Japan.</p> <p>The rogue state has conducted other launches before, but CBS News national security correspondent David Martin reports that this test marks a big advance: until now, North Korea had tested its intermediate and intercontinental range missiles from fixed launch pads.</p> <p>This time, for the first time, an intermediate range missile was launched from a mobile transporter, a significant development since it enables Kim Jong Un to fire a long-range weapon with little or no warning.</p> <p>In this case, though, spy satellites had seen the missile being rolled into position at an airfield near Pyongyang well before the actual launch, as if Kim was deliberately trying to avoid catching the U.S. off guard.</p> <p>The missile flew more than 2,000 miles over northern Japan and into the Pacific Ocean. A Pentagon official said it was "no coincidence" the missile flew far enough to reach the <u>U.S. air base on Guam</u> had it been fired in that direction.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/15 Florida growing too fast to evacuate?
SOURCE	http://www.miamiherald.com/news/weather/hurricane/article173494726.html
GIST	<p>Hurricane Irma mercifully weakened before it swept much of Florida with hurricane-force gusts. But the gridlocked madhouse caused by the largest evacuation in Florida's history shows just how vulnerable runaway development has made one of the nation's fastest-growing states, emergency planners say.</p> <p>"We have to stop and take a deep breath and ask, 'What are we doing?' " said David Paulison, a former Miami-Dade County fire chief brought in to run the Federal Emergency Management Agency by President George W. Bush after the agency's response to Hurricane Katrina was harshly criticized. "The more people we put here, the worse it's going to be for evacuation."</p> <p>Irma could have been Florida's worst nightmare: A massive Category 5 hurricane wide enough to hit both of the state's densely populated coasts, where growth has boomed despite the obvious risks of living on the water in an area regularly walloped by storms. The push for more development — one of Gov. Rick Scott's central policies in his successful effort to revive Florida's economy — is elevating the risks to both people and property, said Craig Fugate, FEMA chief under President Barack Obama and the state's emergency management director under Gov. Jeb Bush.</p> <p>"We're trying to evacuate more people over the same infrastructure," Fugate said. "It's something Florida has to revisit."</p> <p>Even though Florida was spared catastrophic damage, the evacuation — which experts say saved lives — felt like a disaster of its own to residents. Highways backed up for hours as people fled north. And state transit authorities were unwilling to change the direction of lanes because emergency vehicles and supplies needed to keep heading south toward the storm.</p>

By the basic measures of fatalities, Florida's evacuation — which saw 6.5 million people ordered to flee their homes — was a success. At least six people died in car crashes described as storm-related as of Thursday, including one in the Florida Keys. It's not yet clear if any of the dead were evacuees. Compare that to the catastrophe before Hurricane Rita in 2005: When Houston evacuated, desperate drivers created a deadly traffic jam. Dozens died, including 24 elderly people whose bus caught fire.

Florida's evacuation had problems, Paulison said, "but for the amount of people that moved, it went fairly well."

While roads were jammed, some of those who needed safety most were stranded. In Hollywood, eight nursing home residents died after the air conditioning in their facility failed, turning it into a sweltering death trap. They lived across the street from a hospital. Meanwhile, evacuation shelters across Miami-Dade County were understaffed. Schools chief Alberto Carvalho said Red Cross volunteers didn't show up in expected numbers.

South Florida's income inequality — the second-highest in the nation — exacerbated the problem as some low-income residents without cars or steady internet access didn't know where shelters were or how to get to them.

Florida is now the fourth-fastest growing U.S. state. Big storms aren't scaring away new residents.

"The issue is not that we developed too fast, it's that we developed the wrong way," said Richard Florida, an urban planning expert at the University of Toronto and visiting fellow at Florida International University. "We have a gross over-dependence on the car and the single-family home that puts Florida at risk."

Since 1990, two years before Hurricane Andrew struck, the state added roughly eight million new residents, bringing its total population to nearly 21 million. That's a growth rate of 59 percent, almost double the national average. The state projects its population will surpass 25 million in less than two decades.

Much of the expansion has taken place south of Lake Okeechobee, in the state's most vulnerable, low-lying coastal areas. Armed with a sun-and-sand pitch, developers have turned a swamp into one of the nation's premiere destinations. Grateful cities — in a state without an income tax — depend on new development to boost their property tax revenues, giving them less of an incentive to weigh the feasibility of future evacuations.

Since 1990, the populations of the Naples and Fort Myers metro areas have more than doubled, according to U.S. Census figures. Miami and Tampa have grown 50 percent. Even areas without brand-name cachet are booming: The metro region around Port St. Lucie has grown 85 percent and, in greater Melbourne, the population is up 45 percent. Florida now has more people than New York.

And 91 percent of Floridians live in greater urban areas, Florida said. Only Washington, D.C.; New Jersey; Nevada; Massachusetts and Hawaii are more urbanized.

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Crime, Criminals

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HEADLINE	09/17 Pasco: police return fire; injure man
SOURCE	http://mynorthwest.com/755114/pasco-police-officer-wound-man-who-fired-at-them/
GIST	PASCO, Wash. (AP) — Pasco Police say officers shot and wounded a 31-year-old Pasco man who fired at them. Authorities say the man was taken to a local hospital following the shooting late Saturday. He is expected

	<p>to recover from his gunshot wounds.</p> <p>Police said Sunday that the man was a suspect in a violent domestic dispute and did not follow police commands. KPER-TV reports that officers tried to use a Taser on him but he broke free, grabbed a gun and fired at police. Officers fired back.</p> <p>Officers involved in the shooting have been placed on administrative leave.</p> <p>A special regional team is investigating.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/17 France: Americans suffer acid attack
SOURCE	http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4892572/Two-American-tourists-suffer-acid-attack-Marseille.html
GIST	<p>A woman with ‘deep psychological problems’ was in custody in the <u>French</u> city of Marseille Sunday after spraying four American tourists with acid and burning two in the face.</p> <p>The horrifying attack took place shortly after 11am at the Gare de Marseille-Saint-Charles station, where the party from the US was preparing to board a train.</p> <p>The 41-year-old attacker used a cleaning substance containing hydrochloric acid that she is thought to have picked up from a local DIY store.</p> <p>After carrying out the assault, the woman displayed photos of her own burns, allegedly picked up in an earlier incident.</p> <p>‘Two American women aged 20 were hit in the face, while the other two were sprayed in the legs, and were mainly suffering from shock,’ said a source close to the case.</p> <p>‘The two with facial injuries were taken to hospital, while the others were treated at the scene. They were also aged 20 or 21. The attacker wanted to show off photographs of her own injuries.</p> <p>‘She was arrested at the scene and faces charges. She displayed clear signs of suffering from deep psychological problems.’</p> <p>According to witnesses, no slogans were shouted out during the attack, and it was not thought to be terrorist related.</p> <p>Prosecutors have opened a criminal enquiry, while none of those involved have yet been named.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/17 Ft Bragg soldiers arrested in killings
SOURCE	http://www.foxnews.com/us/2017/09/17/fort-bragg-soldiers-charged-in-deadly-nc-parking-lot-shooting.html
GIST	<p>Two Fort Bragg soldiers and a third man have been arrested and charged with murdering two men they allegedly were trying to rob in a North Carolina restaurant parking lot.</p> <p>Fayetteville Police Department announced Saturday the arrests of 20-year-old Ferris Brown, 19-year-old Javier Rashad Johnson and 19-year-old Daivon Tahjai Chambers on charges of first-degree murder, robbery with a dangerous weapon and conspiracy to commit robbery.</p> <p>Brown and Johnson are active-duty soldiers at Fort Bragg. Brown is with the 1-17th Cavalry Regiment;</p>

	Johnson is with the 2-504th 82nd Airborne Division, according to police. Chambers is from Fayetteville.
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HEADLINE	09/18 More violence marks protests in St Louis
SOURCE	https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/more-violence-marks-protests-st-louis-over-ex-officer-s-n802206
GIST	<p>A third day of protests in Missouri over the acquittal of a <u>former police officer charged with murder</u> ended in chaos and dozens of arrests, authorities said.</p> <p>St. Louis police said "groups of criminals" were "creating chaos" downtown. In a statement on Twitter, police said there were reports of significant property damage.</p> <p>An unidentified chemical was thrown on police, another statement said, and a bicycle officer was transported to a hospital with a non-life-threatening injury.</p> <p>Officials confirmed that more than 80 people were arrested Sunday. Mayor Lyda Krewson highlighted that the "vast majority of protesters were nonviolent" and blamed "agitators" for the unrest.</p> <p>"Destruction cannot be tolerated," she added.</p> <p>Thirty-three people <u>were charged after protests Saturday</u>.</p> <p>The protests <u>erupted Friday</u> after St. Louis Circuit Judge Timothy Wilson acquitted the former officer, Jason Stockley, who was charged in the 2011 killing of Anthony Lamar Smith, 24.</p> <p>Prosecutors said Stockley, who is white, shot Smith five times and intended to kill Smith, who is black, after a high-speed pursuit. Authorities also alleged that he planted a gun on Smith.</p> <p>Stockley said he felt he was in imminent danger when he opened fire. Wilson said there was no evidence that he planted the gun.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/17 Arrests mount Conn. mental hospital
SOURCE	http://abcnews.go.com/Health/wireStory/abuse-allegations-arrests-mount-state-mental-hospital-49906233
GIST	<p>At Connecticut's only maximum-security psychiatric hospital, staff members put a diaper on a patient's head, threw food at him, poured water over him, put salt in his coffee, kicked him and placed a mop on his head after cleaning a floor, according to a state report.</p> <p>Thirty-one staff members at the Whiting Forensic Division hospital in Middletown have been suspended, and nine have been arrested. More arrests are expected, police say, and calls are pouring in with more allegations of misconduct and abuse, according to a state lawmaker who is calling for legislative hearings.</p> <p>Current and former staff members, as well as patients' relatives, are alleging abuse of other patients and staff wrongdoing, she said.</p> <p>"It's really incomprehensible that this could happen in this day and age," said Sen. Heather Somers, a Republican from Groton. "It's like something out of a Stephen King novel. I think it's very important that we, as legislators, get to the bottom of this. If you are put in the state's care, you should be cared for. You shouldn't be tormented."</p> <p>Somers did not disclose the names of the people who have called her, but she did say some of their</p>

	<p>allegations include staff abusing patients, overriding of doctors' orders and forgery of doctors' signatures on documents.</p> <p>Whiting is part of Connecticut Valley Hospital, a psychiatric care complex run by the state Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services. The division includes 106 beds for patients in maximum security and another 141 beds for those in "enhanced security." The patients include people found not guilty of murder and other crimes by reason of insanity, and others committed voluntarily or involuntarily by civil courts.</p> <p>Nine staff members were arrested and charged this month with cruelty to persons and disorderly conduct. The arrests followed the suspensions of 31 employees on claims they took part in the abuse or knew about the abuse and did not report it. Many incidents were recorded by surveillance cameras.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/17 Mexico: deadly clash military, gang
SOURCE	http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mexico-violence/clash-between-military-and-suspected-gang-leaves-nine-dead-in-southern-mexico-idUSKCN1BS0VT?il=0
GIST	<p>MEXICO CITY (Reuters) - The Mexican military fought back against an armed attack in the violent southwestern state of Guerrero on Saturday night, leaving eight suspected gang members and one soldier dead, authorities said on Sunday.</p> <p>At around 11 p.m., troops were making their rounds in the city of Teloloapan, about 155 miles (250 km) from Mexico City, when they came under gunfire from suspected gang members dressed in fake military uniforms, Roberto Álvarez Heredia, a spokesman for the Guerrero Coordinating Group, said in a statement.</p> <p>The military secured two vans painted in camouflage, weapons and uniforms, authorities said.</p> <p>A soldier was wounded in the confrontation and died afterward from his injuries.</p> <p>The public prosecutor's office in Guerrero, home to the resort city of Acapulco on Mexico's Pacific coast, has begun an investigation into the attack, authorities said.</p> <p>Violence has spiked in Guerrero over the past decade as a growing number of criminal gangs vie for control of crops of opium poppies and for drug-trafficking routes.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/17 St. Louis: second night violent protests
SOURCE	http://abcnews.go.com/US/demonstrators-turn-night-protests-st-louis-cops-acquittal/story?id=49901353
GIST	<p>Demonstrators took to the streets -- and shopping malls -- of St. Louis for a second day Saturday to protest a judge's decision Friday to acquit a white former police officer in the 2001 fatal shooting of a black man.</p> <p>St. Louis Circuit Judge Timothy Wilson found Jason Stockley, 36, not guilty of first-degree <u>murder</u> and armed criminal action. On Dec. 20, 2011, the then-police officer shot 24-year-old Lamar Smith five times after a high-speed chase and crash.</p> <p>While protests staged during Saturday afternoon and early evening were peaceful, reports began emerging later in the evening that some demonstrators were engaging in violent behavior.</p> <p>Hundreds of protesters marched Saturday night through the Delmar Loop of the St. Louis suburb of University City. After three hours, organizers asked protesters to disband and reconvene Sunday</p>

<p>Return to Top</p>	<p>afternoon.</p> <p>Protest participants were united in their reason for demonstrating: To use Smith's death as a catalyst to raise awareness of the tenuous relationship between law enforcement and communities of color.</p> <p>"I don't think <u>racism</u> is going to change in America until people get uncomfortable," protest organizer Kayla Reed of the St. Louis Action Council told The Associated Press.</p> <p>But after a majority of the protesters left, a small group remained. They vandalized businesses and threw rocks, water bottles and garbage can lids at police officers, The Associated Press reported. A chair was thrown through the window of a Starbucks, and one protester was also spotted hitting a police SUV with a hammer, according to the Post-Dispatch.</p> <p>"Officers are at Delmar & Skinker ordering all to disperse following multiple property damages in the Loop," police tweeted at 11:23 p.m.</p> <p>The violence continued into the early morning, with the St. Louis County Police Department, tweeting, "UCity PD requested assistance Saturday after peaceful protest turned violent when debris was thrown at officers."</p> <p>The St. Louis County Police Department tweeted that it arrested seven people, including five adults and 2 juveniles. Charges included resisting arrest, destruction of property and assaulting law enforcement officers.</p> <p>In addition the aforementioned seven arrests, the St. Louis Police Department tweeted that it made two arrests, both for failure to disperse.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/17 China charges 9 for toxic waste dump
SOURCE	http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/china-charges-people-dumping-toxic-waste-49903713?cid=clicksource_76_4_article%20roll_articleroll_hed
GIST	<p>Chinese authorities have charged nine people from a waste treatment facility with the dumping tens of thousands of tons of toxic waste into a section of the Yangtze River near <u>Shanghai</u>.</p> <p>The charges were filed Friday in the city of Changshu, the official Xinhua news agency reported. The nine are accused of sending garbage from Haiyan County, near Shanghai, to "unqualified" individuals who then dumped the waste in the river or buried it, Xinhua said. The dumping occurred between August and December of last year.</p> <p>Pollution has become a major issue for China's growing <u>middle class</u>, frustrated with years of grey skies and polluted rivers, and the government is anxious to show it is addressing the problem.</p> <p>Authorities stopped the dumping operation after spotting two boats dumping waste upstream from two drinking water sources, near the mouth of the Yangtze River close to Shanghai.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/17 Suspect prior suspended for 'threats'
SOURCE	http://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory/suspected-school-gunman-suspended-threats-49899263
GIST	<p>A <u>Washington</u> state student accused of a deadly school shooting had been suspended for bringing threatening notes to school shortly before the attack.</p> <p>Freeman School District Superintendent Randy Russell tells The Spokesman-Review that the district</p>

followed protocol by suspending the student and sending him for a mental evaluation.

The shooting occurred on the first day 15-year-old Caleb Sharpe returned from the suspension to Freeman High School in Rockford, the newspaper reported.

Court documents say he pulled an assault weapon from a bag, but it jammed. Police say Sharpe pulled a pistol from his coat and shot and killed a 15-year-old boy, and wounded three female students.

Sharpe was arrested and has yet to make an appearance in juvenile court. He faces a charge of first-degree murder.

After the shooting, some students told The Spokesman-Review that Sharpe had passed notes to his friends warning them that he planned to do "something stupid." One of the notes was then reportedly passed on to a school counselor.

Russell said Friday that federal law bars him from discussing details about any specific student. But when asked if a school official had contacted Sharpe's parents about the notes, suspended Sharpe and sent him for a mental evaluation, the superintendent said, "that's what our protocol looks like and we followed it to a T."

Russell acknowledged that the system has some limitations.

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HEADLINE	09/17 Fighting wildlife crime: follow the money
SOURCE	http://abcnews.go.com/Technology/wireStory/fight-wildlife-crime-experts-follow-money-49902624?cid=clicksource_4380645_7_hero_headlines_headlines_hed
GIST	<p>In most cases, the conviction of a Thai man trafficking rhino horns through a bizarre scheme that involved hiring prostitutes to pose as trophy hunters would have marked the end of the story.</p> <p>But investigators took an unusual, next step — deciding to "follow the money" that helped bankroll the South African operation. That led to a court order last year to seize Chumlong Lemtongthai's Thai bank accounts and other assets, including a house worth \$142,000, to shut him down.</p> <p>It was one of an increasing number of cases illustrating how nations are shifting tactics in fighting a global wildlife trafficking market worth up to \$23 billion, after decades of relying on headline-grabbing police raids that have had little overall effect in halting illicit trades.</p> <p>The idea is "to pick the pocket of the wildlife traffickers and try to freeze them in their tracks," said Steve Galster, founder of the anti-trafficking Freeland Foundation.</p> <p>The approach is quickly becoming mainstream.</p> <p>The U.N. General Assembly this week urged the world's nations to adopt laws that allow wildlife crimes to be investigated as potential money-laundering crimes. That allows law enforcement agents to use actions against traffickers such as seizing assets, monitoring of financial transactions and red-flagging suspicious accounts or individuals.</p> <p>With crime gangs increasingly turning to wildlife smuggling as a lucrative trade, experts say customs agents and police need to begin adopting these tools commonly used to fight drug lords and other crime kingpins.</p> <p>"We've gone beyond kicking down the door and looking for animals in the back room, to looking at who's the kingpin, who's the transportation coordinator, who ultimately is the vulnerable node in the syndicate without whom the syndicate wouldn't work," said Galster, whose group has teamed up with law</p>

	<p>enforcement agencies to bring down several trafficking rings in recent years.</p> <p>A new report this week calls this effort "urgent," given how quickly crime gangs are evolving.</p> <p>Agencies fighting wildlife crime need to conduct financial investigations after every bust — to identify broader crime networks and uncover criminal proceeds that can be frozen or confiscated, says the report by the Royal United Services Institute, a British think tank.</p> <p>Suspicious transactions and bank clients can be "red flagged" for agencies including financial intelligence units to monitor and investigate, it says. Watch lists of alleged poachers can be shared.</p> <p>"We've been very slow to recognize wildlife crime as serious transnational organized crime," said Cathy Haenlein, one of the report's authors.</p> <p>The trafficking epidemic has surged in recent years as incomes in Asia have risen.</p> <p>Tons of carved ivory, ivory tusks, rhino horns, live pangolins and pangolin scales have been seized in just the last few months in Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam and Indonesia. Hong Kong seized its biggest ivory haul in three decades — a shipment worth nearly \$10 million.</p> <p>But most arrests still only involve low-level smugglers.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/16 Arrests in deadly Malaysia school fire
SOURCE	http://www.cnn.com/2017/09/16/asia/malaysia-school-fire/index.html
GIST	<p>Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia (CNN)Seven suspects -- all of them younger than 19 -- have been arrested in connection with a fire this week at a school in Malaysia's capital that claimed the lives of 21 students and two adults, state-run media outlet Bernama reported Saturday.</p> <p>The suspects, who range in age from 11 to 18, were "school leavers and dropouts," Kuala Lumpur Police Chief Datuk Amar Singh Ishar Singh said Saturday during a news conference. They were arrested by Royal Malaysian Police, Bernama reported.</p> <p>The investigation into the fire's cause continues, Singh said.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/15 Judge denies El Chapo appeal
SOURCE	http://www.foxbusiness.com/markets/2017/09/15/judge-denies-el-chapos-effort-to-dismiss-drug-traffic-case.html
GIST	<p>NEW YORK – A drug trafficking case against Mexican drug lord Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman won't be dismissed even though his lawyers argued the U.S. government violated international law by charging him with different crimes after he was extradited, a federal judge said on Friday.</p> <p>El Chapo was transported from Mexico to New York in January to face charges that he oversaw a multibillion-dollar international drug trafficking operation that laundered money and oversaw a ruthless campaign of murders and kidnappings. His lawyers argued in court papers that the government charged him with different crimes after he was en route to the U.S.</p> <p>Judge Brian Cogan ruled Friday that El Chapo can't raise the issue without protest or objection from Mexico.</p> <p>El Chapo's lawyers said they were disappointed but not surprised by the ruling.</p>

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HEADLINE	09/15 Monroe mosque vandalized w/graffiti
SOURCE	http://komonews.com/news/local/monroe-mosque-vandalized-with-offensive-graffiti
GIST	<p>MONROE, Wash. - The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community Mosque discovered offensive graffiti tagged on the side of their Mosque Friday morning.</p> <p>The obscene graffiti plastered on the side of the mosque, goes against their motto, "love for all, hatred for none."</p> <p>A food bank volunteer discovered the spray painted words and scribbles. Leaders at the mosque said it's never happened before.</p> <p>"To see this, it was just frankly disappointing," said President Irfan Chaudhry. "The fact that there are individuals out there who will go out of their way to spray paint these hateful words on the side of the building shows you how deep rooted their hate or fear is for another community."</p> <p>The timing is puzzling. Earlier this week, the mosque hosted a blood drive to honor the victims of the Sept.11, 2001 terrorist attacks.</p> <p>Investigators are looking into whether the vandalism might be backlash.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/16 Athens rally turns violent
SOURCE	http://www.reuters.com/article/us-greece-anniversary-killing-protests/petrol-bombs-and-tear-gas-in-athens-rally-to-mark-rapper-killing-idUSKCN1BR0QU?il=0
GIST	<p>ATHENS (Reuters) - Greek police fired tear gas at protesters who hurled petrol bombs in Athens on Saturday during a rally marking four years since the killing of an anti-fascism rapper by an ultranationalist Golden Dawn supporter.</p> <p>The killing of Pavlos Fyssas, who performed under the stage name Killah P, had sparked protests across Greece and led to an investigation into Golden Dawn for evidence linking it to violent attacks. A trial of party members is continuing.</p> <p>Clashes broke out on Saturday after dozens of hooded demonstrators broke off from a march of about 2,000 people, including activists and migrants, towards the Golden Dawn offices in central Athens.</p> <p>Protesters shouted "Pavlos is alive! Crush the Nazis!" and held up banners demanding the party's offices are shut down and its members are jailed.</p> <p>Police buses and officers in riot gear blocked the column from reaching the building.</p> <p>A second rally to mark Fyssas's death anniversary on Sept. 18 has been called for Monday in the working-class neighborhood of Keratsini where he was stabbed to death.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/15 Trial: cop kicked suspect; not guilty
SOURCE	https://www.cbsnews.com/news/baltimore-officer-caught-kicking-a-suspect-found-not-guilty-in-30-minutes/
GIST	BALTIMORE — It took jurors less than 30 minutes to find a Baltimore County police officer not guilty

	<p>of assault after a camera captured him kicking a suspect, reports CBS affiliate WJZ.</p> <p>Christopher Spivey, 29, faced four counts of second degree assault after an incident on January 25. The case was built around 17 seconds of infrared helicopter video, showing him kicking a suspected car thief.</p> <p>In the minutes before, the chopper captured a car chase, then a foot chase, then the moment when 20-year-old Diamontae Tyquan Farrar hits the ground. Farrar was reportedly later convicted of the car theft.</p> <p>Throughout the trial, the state argued that after Farrar surrendered, the kicks and blows that followed were excessive force.</p> <p>The jury did not agree. They not only acquitted Spivey on day three of the trial, they waited around to thank him for his service outside the courthouse.</p> <p>Jurors told WJZ that seeing the video, they understand how it would be very easy to jump to conclusions, but in the end all 12 members reached a verdict very quickly.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/16 Jury reaches verdict Slender Man trial
SOURCE	https://www.cbsnews.com/news/slender-man-anissa-weier-verdict/
GIST	<p>A Wisconsin girl who admitted to participating in the stabbing of a classmate to <u>please horror character Slender Man</u> will avoid prison after a jury determined Friday that she was mentally ill at the time of the attack.</p> <p><u>Anissa Weier</u> and Morgan Geysler lured classmate Payton Leutner into the woods at a park in Waukesha, a Milwaukee suburb, in 2014. Geysler stabbed Leutner 19 times while Weier urged her on, according to investigators. A passing bicyclist found Leutner, who barely survived her wounds. All three girls were 12 at the time.</p> <p>The decision means Weier will be sent to a mental hospital rather than prison. A plea agreement calls for her to spend at least three years at a hospital.</p> <p>Three psychologists testified that she suffered a shared delusion that she and Geysler had to kill Leutner to become Slender Man's servants and prevent the character from killing their families.</p> <p>Both Weier and Geysler told detectives they felt they had to kill Leutner to become Slender Man's "proxies," or servants, and protect their families from the demon's wrath.</p> <p>Geysler has pleaded not guilty by reason of mental disease to being a party to first-degree attempted intentional homicide. Her trial is starts Oct. 9.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/16 Protests for cop acquittal turn violent
SOURCE	http://abcnews.go.com/US/st-louis-police-officers-acquittal-fatal-shooting-ignites/story?id=49872333&cid=clicksource_4380645_1_hero_headlines_bsq_hed
GIST	<p>Protesters in St. Louis Friday night blocked highways, damaged public and private property, broke windows, threw rocks at the mayor's house and threw bricks at police officers -- who responded by dispersing tear gas -- after a white former police officer earlier in the day was acquitted in the 2011 fatal shooting of a black man.</p> <p>Thirty-two people were arrested, the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department said. Ten officers were injured -- 9 St. Louis Police Department officers and one Missouri Highway Patrol officer -- two of whom</p>

	<p>were transported to a hospital with injuries sustained after being hit by a brick. Some officers were wearing protective gear due to items being thrown at them.</p> <p>St. Louis Circuit <u>Judge Timothy Wilson found</u> 36-year-old Jason Stockley not guilty of first-degree <u>murder</u> and armed criminal action. On Dec. 20, 2011, the then-police officer shot 24-year-old Lamar Smith five times after a high-speed chase and crash.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/16 Guilty plea Bellevue mosque fire
SOURCE	http://mynorthwest.com/754257/homeless-man-pleads-guilty-to-torching-bellevue-mosque/
GIST	<p>BELLEVUE, Wash. (AP) — Authorities say a homeless man who set fire to a Bellevue mosque in January has pleaded guilty to reckless burning.</p> <p>The Seattle Times reports no one was injured in the Jan. 14 fire, but Bellevue Fire Department officials say it destroyed about half of the Islamic Center of Eastside.</p> <p>County property records show the building was valued at \$1.2 million in 2016.</p> <p>Charging documents say 37-year-old Isaac Wayne Wilson, who has an extensive history of mental illness and property damage, was found in a parking lot behind the mosque, staring at the fire.</p> <p>When approached by police, documents say he calmly said, “I did it.”</p> <p>Police said there’s no indication that the fire was a hate crime or related to terrorism.</p>
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HEADLINE	09/16 Parent’s purse stolen in school shooting
SOURCE	http://mynorthwest.com/754385/police-purse-stolen-from-parent-following-school-shooting/
GIST	<p>ROCKFORD, Wash. (AP) — Authorities are searching for a thief who made off with the purse of a parent who rushed to check on her child following the school shooting this week in Washington state.</p> <p>The Spokane County Sheriff’s Office said the thief has racked up more than \$36,000 in fraudulent charges.</p> <p>“Property crimes themselves are typically hard for victims to deal with, especially when identity theft and fraud are involved,” said Deputy Mark Gregory in a news release on Friday. “But the fact these criminals took advantage of such a tragic situation is particularly heinous.”</p> <p>Authorities say the purse was stolen Wednesday morning as parents converged on Freeman High School in Rockford, where a gunman had opened fire, killing one student and injuring three others.</p> <p>Fifteen-year-old Caleb Sharpe has been arrested in the shooting but has yet to make an appearance in juvenile court.</p> <p>A two-lane road into the town of about 500 people near the Idaho border was clogged as worried parents sped to the school. Some people abandoned their cars on the street to make it to their children, and Gregory said someone “stole a purse hastily left behind by a worried parent.”</p> <p>Gregory said the fraudulent charges came from cashed checks and stolen credit cards.</p> <p>The sheriff’s office released three photos. One showed a woman shopping with sunglasses on top of her head. A second showed a woman dressed in different clothes pushing a cart and wearing a baseball cap</p>

	with sunglasses on top of the hat. A third photo was a grainy image of a white passenger car in a parking lot.
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