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Event Calendar

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Date	Event	Location/Time	Other Information
9-13 Apr	LEIU/ALEIA Training	Marriott Hotel, 700 West Convention	http://www.ialeia.org/2018_conference.php

2018	Event	Way Anaheim, CA 92801 (714) 750-8000
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Events, Opportunities

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HEADLINE	10/17 Seattle PD's first female K9 retires
SOURCE	http://q13fox.com/2017/10/17/spds-first-female-k9-retires-after-nearly-8-years-of-service/
GIST	<p>SEATTLE — After more than 5,000 police calls, 81 felony arrests, and 23 misdemeanor arrests the first female police dog at the Seattle Police Department is retiring.</p> <p>Ziva broke ground nearly 8 years ago when she became the first female “generalist patrol” K9 in Seattle’s canine unit. Generalist patrol K9s are person trackers.</p> <p>Ziva caught her first suspect on February 11, 2011, less than 24 hours after becoming certified by the state of Washington and Washington State Police Canine Association.</p> <p>Since then, Ziva and her partner Sergeant Mark Wong built up a worthy track record, even earning SPD Canine Unit “Team of the Year” awards in 2013 and 2014.</p> <p>Ziva is a notable K9 and community ambassador, demonstrating her tracking skills at more than 100 events and performing at the Seattle Kennel Club Dog Show. Ziva and Mark have also raised more than \$40,000 over the years for Seattle Animal Shelter Foundations among other animal shelters.</p> <p>Ziva was recognized and celebrated at the Seattle Animal Shelter Foundation’s 7th Annual Raining Cats and Dogs auction on Saturday. At the event, an X-ray suite was dedicated to Ziva in honor of her retirement and tireless work to protect families, pets, and the Seattle community.</p> <p>Ziva will turn 10 years old on November 15.</p>
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HEADLINE	10/17 WSP emphasizing ‘move over’ law
SOURCE	http://www.theolympian.com/news/local/article179380601.html
GIST	<p>Washington State Patrol troopers plan to crack down on drivers who don’t move over for emergency vehicles.</p> <p>Troopers will conduct a three-day emphasis patrol starting Wednesday. According to the State Patrol, 62 of its patrol cars were hit and 24 troopers were injured in the past two years. The numbers go up in bad weather, said Sgt. James Prouty.</p> <p>The state’s “move over” law says when approaching an emergency zone — the lanes next to an emergency vehicle that is parked with flashing lights — drivers should slow down and move over if possible.</p> <p>Emergency vehicles include those used by police, fire and medical crews; the law also applies to tow trucks and other vehicles providing roadside assistance.</p> <p>Last year, troopers contacted 4,175 drivers for violations. The penalty is \$214 and cannot be waived or reduced.</p>
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HEADLINE	10/18 UN: ethnic cleansing in South Sudan
SOURCE	https://apnews.com/6d16a08f5b1d4587b0df886b122eb52c/UN,-US-failed-to-prevent-ethnic-cleansing-in-South-Sudan
GIST	<p>YEI, South Sudan (AP) — Until the summer of 2016, South Sudan’s Yei region was a leafy oasis in the midst of the country’s civil war. But when a national peace deal broke down and government soldiers ransacked the area, a handful of U.N. and U.S. officials begged their leaders for help.</p> <p>The United Nations must send peacekeepers to Yei to protect civilians from President Salva Kiir’s forces, who are burning villages and slaughtering men, women and children, they argued. And the U.S. needs to change its approach in the face of a potential genocide, they warned.</p> <p>The pleas of officials and residents fell on deaf ears. The U.N. did not send peacekeeping troops to stay in Yei, and the U.S. continued to support South Sudan’s military, possibly in violation of U.S. law, an AP investigation found. The investigation is based on more than 30 internal or confidential documents from the U.N., White House or State Department, and dozens of interviews with current or former officials and civilians.</p> <p>In a matter of weeks, Yei became the center of a nationwide campaign of what the U.N. calls ethnic cleansing, which has created the largest exodus of civilians in Africa since the Rwandan genocide in 1994. More than 1 million people have now fled to Uganda, mostly from the Yei region. And while there is no tally for how many people have died in South Sudan, estimates put the number in the tens or even hundreds of thousands.</p> <p>Kate Almquist Knopf, director at the Africa Center for Strategic Studies at the U.S. Defense Department, compared the situation in South Sudan to Rwanda, where nearly a million people died in 100 days with little action from the U.S. or other world leaders.</p> <p>“The same thing is happening now in South Sudan,” she said. “It’s happening on Africa’s watch. It’s happening on America’s watch. It’s happening on the United Nations’ watch.”</p> <p>More than a year later, the U.N. says it is still considering sending a permanent peacekeeping force to Yei if it gets more troops. The U.N. now has about 12,000 peacekeepers throughout South Sudan, but U.S. officials say it would take roughly 40,000 to secure the country. That leaves Yei and other major population centers — such as Bentiu, Malakal and Wau — vulnerable.</p>
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HEADLINE	10/17 Sawant’s ‘Peoples’ Budget’ movement
SOURCE	http://mynorthwest.com/785831/sawant-stop-homeless-sweeps/
GIST	<p>Seattle Socialist City Councilwoman Kshama Sawant wants to keep city workers from sweeping unauthorized homeless camps.</p> <p>KIRO 7 reporter Rob Munoz attended a committee meeting, wherein the 2018 budget is adding \$3.4 million to support the cross-department Homelessness Emergency Response Program.</p> <p>The bar on homeless camp sweeps would happen temporarily as part of the budget. It’s a proviso that would be lifted after the legislation guarantees “human rights of unauthorized encampment inhabitants.”</p> <p>During the meeting, Sawant also proposed funds for sanitation, portable toilets, and trash removal for unauthorized camps.</p> <p>In a Facebook event page for a budget-related rally this week organized by Sawant, the councilwoman calls the city budget a “moral document that reveals the values of our city’s elected officials.”</p> <p>“So we know what it means when they pass a business-as-usual budget year after year: wasting millions</p>

on inhumane and ineffective sweeps of homeless people while catering to the interests of big business and a bloated budget for the police department,” she wrote. “We can stop this! By building a strong People’s Budget movement.”

Sawant describes the People’s Budget movement as one that stops sweeps, funds social services as an alternative to sweeps, and figures out affordable housing.

Seattle launched a new navigation team this year as a joint effort between the city and Washington Department of Transportation.

In September, Meg Olberding, the Seattle director of external affairs, Human Services Department told KIRO 7 News how the navigation team identifies camps to sweep.

“We identify areas by hazard and if the people living there are too close to the side of the highway,” Olberding said.

“Navigation team gets to know people in the [camps], makes offers of service, make offers of a safer location, like coming into a sanctioned encampment.”

Per city policy, when the navigation team issues notices for people to leave, they have a few days to disperse.

Seattle sanctions six homeless camps in the city, and the navigation team also offers shelters when posting notices at unauthorized camp. But even with the new navigation team, there is no way to check up regularly on the city’s 400 camps.

Olberding did tell KIRO 7 that the navigation team has addressed 36 hazardous camps over the past seven months, though it’s not clear how many of those camps quickly returned.

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HEADLINE	10/17 Death-by-distraction growing worse
SOURCE	https://www.newsmax.com/finance/economy/smartphones-killing-americans-distracted/2017/10/17/id/820173/
GIST	<p>Over the past two years, after decades of declining deaths on the road, U.S. traffic fatalities surged by 14.4 percent. In 2016 alone, more than 100 people died every day in or near vehicles in America, the first time the country has passed that grim toll in a decade. Regulators, meanwhile, still have no good idea why crash-related deaths are spiking: People are driving longer distances but not tremendously so; total miles were up just 2.2 percent last year. Collectively, we seemed to be speeding and drinking a little more, but not much more than usual. Together, experts say these upticks don’t explain the surge in road deaths.</p> <p>There are however three big clues, and they don’t rest along the highway. One, as you may have guessed, is the substantial increase in smartphone use by U.S. drivers as they drive. From 2014 to 2016, the share of Americans who owned an iPhone, Android phone, or something comparable rose from 75 percent to 81 percent.</p> <p>The second is the changing way in which Americans use their phones while they drive. These days, we’re pretty much done talking. Texting, Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram are the order of the day—all activities that require far more attention than simply holding a gadget to your ear or responding to a disembodied voice. By 2015, almost 70 percent of Americans were using their phones to share photos and follow news events via social media. In just two additional years, that figure has jumped to 80 percent.</p> <p>Finally, the increase in fatalities has been largely among bicyclists, motorcyclists, and pedestrians—all of whom are easier to miss from the driver’s seat than, say, a 4,000-pound SUV—especially if you’re glancing up from your phone rather than concentrating on the road. Last year, 5,987 pedestrians were</p>

killed by cars in the U.S., almost 1,100 more than in 2014—that’s a 22 percent increase in just two years.

Safety regulators and law enforcement officials certainly understand the danger of taking—or making—a phone call while operating a piece of heavy machinery. They still, however, have no idea just how dangerous it is, because the data just isn’t easily obtained. And as mobile phone traffic continues to shift away from simple voice calls and texts to encrypted social networks, officials increasingly have less of a clue than ever before.

Out of NHTSA’s full 2015 dataset, only 448 deaths were linked to mobile phones—that’s just 1.4 percent of all traffic fatalities. By that measure, drunk driving is 23 times more deadly than using a phone while driving, though studies have shown that both activities behind the wheel constitute (on average) a similar level of impairment. NHTSA has yet to fully crunch its 2016 data, but the agency said deaths tied to distraction actually declined last year.

There are many reasons to believe mobile phones are far deadlier than NHTSA spreadsheets suggest. Some of the biggest indicators are within the data itself. In more than half of 2015 fatal crashes, motorists were simply going straight down the road—no crossing traffic, rainstorms, or blowouts. Meanwhile, drivers involved in accidents increasingly mowed down things smaller than a Honda Accord, such as pedestrians or cyclists, many of whom occupy the side of the road or the sidewalk next to it. Fatalities increased inordinately among motorcyclists (up 6.2 percent in 2016) and pedestrians (up 9 percent).

In a recent study, the nonprofit National Safety Council found only about half of fatal crashes tied to known mobile phone use were coded as such in NHTSA databases. In other words, according to the NSC, NHTSA’s figures for distraction-related death are too low.

Perhaps more telling are the findings of Zendrive Inc., a San Francisco startup that analyzes smartphone data to help insurers of commercial fleets assess safety risks. In a study of 3 million people, it found drivers using their mobile phone during 88 percent of trips. The true number is probably even higher because Zendrive didn’t capture instances when phones were mounted in a fixed position—so-called hands free technology, which is also considered dangerous.

“It’s definitely frightening,” said Jonathan Matus, Zendrive’s co-founder and chief executive officer. “Pretty much everybody is using their phone while driving.”

There are, by now, myriad technological nannies that freeze smartphone activity. Most notably, a recent version of Apple’s iOS operating system can be configured to keep a phone asleep when its owner is driving and to send an automated text response to incoming messages. However, the “Do Not Disturb” function can be overridden by the person trying to get in touch. More critically, safety advocates note that such systems require an opt-in from the same users who have difficulty ignoring their phones in the first place.

In NHTSA’s defense, its tally of mobile phone-related deaths is only as good as the data it gets from individual states, each of which has its own methods for diagnosing and detailing the cause of a crash. Each state in turn relies on its various municipalities to compile crash metrics—and they often do things differently, too.

The data from each state is compiled from accident reports filed by local police, most of which don’t prompt officers to consider mobile phone distraction as an underlying cause. Only 11 states use reporting forms that contain a field for police to tick-off mobile-phone distraction, while 27 have a space to note distraction in general as a potential cause of the accident.

Massachusetts State Police Sergeant Christopher Sanchez, a national expert on distracted driving, said many police departments still focus on drinking or drug use when investigating a crash. Also, figuring out whether a mobile phone was in use at the time of a crash is usually getting trickier every day—proving that it precipitated the event can be even harder to do.

	<p>Prosecutors have a similar bias. Currently, it's illegal for drivers to use a handheld phone at all in 15 states, and texting while driving is specifically barred in 47 states. But getting mobile phone records after a crash typically involves a court order and, and even then, the records may not show much activity beyond a call or text. If police provide solid evidence of speeding, drinking, drugs or some other violation, lawyers won't bother pursuing distraction as a cause.</p> <p>"Crash investigators are told to catch up with this technology phenomenon—and it's hard," Sanchez said. "Every year new apps are developed that make it even more difficult." Officers in Arizona and Montana, meanwhile, don't have to bother, since they allow mobile phone use while you drive. And in Missouri, police only have to monitor drivers under age 21 who pick up their phone while driving.</p>
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HEADLINE	10/17 'Big dark' of 3 storms headed to region
SOURCE	https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/weather/the-big-dark-is-here-as-first-of-three-storms-roll-into-pacific-northwest-on-stretch-of-trans-pacific-moisture/
GIST	<p>The first of three rain and wind storms is rolling into the region Tuesday morning, marking the beginning of "The Big Dark."</p> <p>The National Weather Service said the storms are riding a stretch of trans-Pacific moisture from China to the Pacific Northwest.</p> <p>The first storm will likely be a "garden variety" front, bringing a few hours of light rain and gusty winds before subsiding by the end of the day Tuesday, according to Jay Albrecht, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Seattle.</p> <p>The second front, predicted to be more intense, is expected to hit Wednesday through Thursday morning with heavy rains and wind gusts of up to 50 mph on the coast and north of Everett, he said. In the Seattle region, winds could hit 35-40 mph.</p> <p>"That's not all that unusual as we get into fall, but it's our first windy system of the year and the first one tends to prune the trees of some dead branches and cause some local power outages," Albrecht said.</p> <p>Between 2 and 8 inches of rain are expected in the region, Albrecht said. The Skokomish River in Mason County will be watched for flooding and some urban areas where drains are choked with leaves could also have street flooding, he said.</p> <p>The third strong front will arrive late Saturday and, according to Albrecht, is expected to bring another round of heavy rains and wind similar to what is forecast for Wednesday.</p>
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HEADLINE	10/17 Ready for 'Big One'? Shakeout Thursday
SOURCE	https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/science/are-you-ready-for-the-big-one-look-at-what-these-folks-have-done-on-their-own-to-prepare/
GIST	<p>With the annual Great ShakeOut earthquake drill coming on Thursday, now's a good time to ask yourself: "How's that whole emergency preparedness thing going?"</p> <p>Are you feeling twinges of guilt because you still haven't stashed away any food, water or spare batteries? Maybe you were patting yourself on the back for your family's three-day supply of provisions and gear — until last year's Cascadia Rising drill made it clear that folks in Western Washington may have to survive on their own for up to two weeks after a megaquake and tsunami.</p> <p>From hurricanes in Houston and Puerto Rico to deadly earthquakes in Mexico, recent disasters show how</p>

long it can take for assistance to arrive and for power, water and transportation to be restored. Victims are left to fend for themselves and help each other in the chaotic aftermath.

Gov. Jay Inslee says one of his top earthquake priorities is to teach citizens how to prepare themselves and cope with conditions after the ground stops shaking. But the state has yet to provide any funding for educational outreach.

Local emergency management departments do their best to offer training and guidance, but the task is daunting. Seattle has three outreach staff for a city of more than 700,000. In Grays Harbor County on the Washington coast, emergency manager Chuck Wallace runs a 1.5-person shop responsible for an area nearly the size of Delaware.

“Virtually everyone is going to have to rely on themselves after a major event,” Wallace said. “We need citizens to step up and help lead the way.”

Great ShakeOut

The Great Washington ShakeOut on Thursday is one of thousands of simultaneous earthquake drills around the world. More than 1 million Washington residents have registered to join in the collective duck-and-cover exercise beginning at 10:19 a.m.

More than 700,000 school kids and educators will take part — but anyone can participate from any location.

Other events/resources include:

- Tsunami siren tests in coastal communities
- An online, Reddit Ask Me Anything Q&A with emergency preparedness experts and scientists at: <https://www.reddit.com/r/IAMa/>
- Participants can post photos of themselves on social media using the hashtag #ShakeOut or @waShakeOut on Twitter.
- Preparedness tips are available at: www.mil.wa.gov/preparedness and in Spanish at: www.mil.wa.gov/preparese

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HEADLINE	10/17 New fires break out in California
SOURCE	https://www.yahoo.com/news/californians-brace-emotional-toll-wildfires-070031683.html
GIST	<p>SANTA ROSA, Calif. (AP) -- As fire crews gain on wildfires burning for more than a week in Northern California's wine country, new fires broke out in other parts of the state, including northeast of Los Angeles.</p> <p>Fire fighters are battling a blaze that sprang up overnight in the southern Bay Area Santa Cruz mountains, prompting evacuation orders and threatening 100 homes. The fire has torched about 125 acres. At least one structure was destroyed, Rob Sherman, assistant chief of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, told KNTV news.</p> <p>Further south, crews with air support are racing to protect a historic observatory and communications towers from a growing brush fire on Mount Wilson northeast of Los Angeles. The blaze was initially estimated at around 5 acres (2 hectares). Officials say the observatory has been evacuated and the fire is not burning near foothill residences.</p>

<p>Return to Top</p>	<p>A week after fleeing wildfires in Northern California, tens of thousands of people are drifting back into their neighborhoods. Some will face the prospect of destroyed homes. All will face the possibility of lasting emotional damage.</p> <p>The cluster of wildfires has been burning in Northern California's wine country for more than a week. The fires, the deadliest cluster in California history, have killed at least 41 people and destroyed nearly 6,000 homes.</p> <p>"It's never going to be the same," said Rob Brown, a supervisor in Mendocino County, where all 8,000 evacuees were cleared to go home Monday. "You're going to have to seek a new normal."</p> <p>The fires, the deadliest cluster in California history, have killed at least 41 people and destroyed nearly 6,000 homes.</p>
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HEADLINE	10/17 Coal in slight edge as US power source
SOURCE	https://www.upi.com/Energy-News/2017/10/17/Coal-still-holds-a-slight-edge-as-US-power-source/5711508245236/?utm_source=fp&utm_campaign=ts&utm_medium=22
GIST	<p>Oct. 17 (UPI) -- U.S. coal production in the first half of the year is slightly lower than last year, but still holds an edge as an electricity source, the government said.</p> <p>The U.S. Energy Information Administration reported total U.S. coal production during the first half of the year was slightly lower than the same time last year, but higher than the first half 2016. The EIA's report said declines in 2017 were driven in part by lower demand for steam coal, which accounted for 90 percent of total U.S. production and serves as the main component for coal-fired electricity generation.</p> <p>"In recent years, coal has lost part of its electricity generation share to other fuels, but it still accounted for 30 percent of the U.S. electricity generation mix in the first half of 2017 compared with natural gas and renewables [including hydro] at 31 percent and 20 percent, respectively," the report read.</p>
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HEADLINE	10/17 Spanish court: Catalan referendum illegal
SOURCE	http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/latest-top-court-rules-catalan-referendum-illegal-50529730
GIST	<p>Spain's top court has officially ruled that Catalonia's disputed independence referendum was illegal because a regional law that backed it was against Spain's constitution.</p> <p>The Catalan regional parliament passed the so-called "self-determination referendum law" in early September. Regional leaders went on to stage the Oct. 1 referendum on whether the region should separate from Spain.</p> <p>Spain's Constitutional Court had earlier suspended the law temporarily while judges assessed the Spanish government's objection to it.</p> <p>In its ruling Tuesday, the court says the law was against national sovereignty and the "indissoluble unity of the Spanish nation."</p> <p>The court says that the parliamentary session that approved the law was also illegal.</p>
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HEADLINE	10/17 Inquest in Charleena Lyles shooting
SOURCE	http://mynorthwest.com/785937/charleena-lyles-inquest-king-county/
GIST	<p>King County Executive Dow Constantine has ordered an inquest into the fatal police shooting of Charleena Lyles.</p> <p>Inquests, in which jurors answer dozens of questions about the circumstances of a death, are routinely requested by county executives after police shootings.</p> <p>The inquest does not determine whether the officers are criminally or civilly liable, though prosecutors factor results of questions from inquest hearings in their charging decisions.</p> <p>Lyles, a 30-year-old woman who had recently been ordered to undergo mental health treatment, was fatally shot in a confrontation with police officers Sunday, June 18.</p> <p>Officers said Lyles was armed with two kitchen knives and, in audio of the incident, she is heard saying, "Get ready, motherf—ers."</p> <p>Her family has raised questions about why Lyles was shot instead of being controlled with nonlethal force. Police are conducting a review of the case, and a shooting inquest is expected.</p>
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HEADLINE	10/17 Declassified US files: Indonesia bloodbath
SOURCE	http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/files-show-details-us-support-indonesia-bloodbath-50529889
GIST	<p>Declassified files have revealed new details of U.S. government knowledge and support of an Indonesian army extermination campaign that killed several hundred thousand civilians during anti-communist hysteria in the mid-1960s.</p> <p>The thousands of files from the U.S. Embassy in Jakarta covering 1963-66 were made public Tuesday after a declassification review that began under the Obama administration. The Associated Press reviewed key documents in the collection in advance of their release.</p> <p>The files fill out the picture of a devastating reign of terror by the Indonesian army and Muslim groups that has been sketched by historians and in a U.S. State Department volume that was declassified in 2001 despite a last-minute CIA effort to block its distribution.</p> <p>In 1965, Indonesia had the world's third-largest communist party after China and the Soviet Union, with several million members, and the country's president, the charismatic Sukarno, was vociferously socialist and anti-American.</p> <p>U.S. officials despaired of Indonesia's apparently unstoppable drift into the communist fold and were ecstatic when conservative generals imposed martial law in Jakarta, seized state radio and set out to annihilate the country's communist party on the pretext that it had tried to overthrow the government. Within months, the army would prevail in its power struggle with Sukarno, shifting Indonesia's political orientation to the U.S. and opening its huge market to American companies.</p> <p>The newly released files underline the U.S. Embassy's and State Department's early, detailed and ongoing knowledge of the killings and eagerness to avoid doing anything that would hinder the Indonesian army. Historians had already established that the U.S. provided lists of senior communist party officials, radio equipment and money as part of active support for the army.</p> <p>The documents also show that U.S. officials had credible information that contradicted the Indonesian army's lurid story that the kidnapping and killing of seven generals in an abortive coup by junior officers on Sept. 30, 1965, which paved the way for the bloodbath, was ordered by the Indonesian communist party</p>

	<p>and Beijing.</p> <p>The documents specifically mention mass killings ordered by Suharto, a general who within months would seize total power and rule Indonesia for more than three decades, and the pivotal role in carrying out the massacres by groups that today remain Indonesia's biggest mainstream Muslim organizations: Nahdlatul Ulama, its youth wing Ansor and Muhammadiyah.</p> <p>The release of the documents coincides with an upsurge in anti-communist rhetoric in Indonesia, where communism remains a frequently invoked boogeyman for conservatives despite the collapse of the Soviet Union nearly three decades ago and China's embrace of global capitalism.</p> <p>Discussion of the 1965-66 period that departs from the Suharto era's partly fictional account of a heroic national uprising against communism is still discouraged. A landmark symposium last year that brought together aging survivors of the bloodbath and government ministers sparked a furious backlash. And last month, an anti-communist mob led by retired generals attacked a building in central Jakarta where activists had planned to discuss the killings.</p> <p>"The mass killings of 1965-66 are among the world's worst crimes against humanity, and our country's darkest secret," said Veronica Koman, an Indonesian human rights lawyer. "The 1965-66 survivors are all very old now, and I'm afraid that they will not see justice before they die. Hopefully with these cables coming to light, the truth can emerge and perpetrators can be held accountable."</p>
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HEADLINE	10/17 King County restaurant rating database
SOURCE	http://www.kiro7.com/king-county-restaurant-food-ratings
GIST	Click on source link for interactive tool: Use this tool to check how King County Health Department rated restaurants in its health inspection. You can use the search bar below to find a specific restaurant, or you can filter the information by cities and ratings. Also, you can click on a restaurant name to read more about the rating.
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HEADLINE	10/17 Snohomish Co. feels the housing burn
SOURCE	http://www.seattlepi.com/realestate/article/Snohomish-County-feels-the-burn-of-the-market-12284618.php
GIST	<p>Real estate statistics are helpful, but they rarely tell the whole story.</p> <p>There are, of course, more macro examples of this – like how a new monthly statistic can give the impression that a feverish market is finally breaking, instead of just undergoing an annual, seasonal change.</p> <p>But there are smaller examples too. As the Northwest Multiple Listing Service report notes, sometimes there are discrepancies across a single county like Snohomish.</p> <p>"In Snohomish County, we saw increases in the luxury (higher-end) segment during the summer months, which of course raised both the median and average sales prices," said Diedre Haines, principal managing broker-South Snohomish County at Coldwell Banker Bain in Lynnwood.</p> <p>"Now we're seeing a decrease in those types of sales with more affordable homes becoming more dominant."</p> <p>Even the data, once broken down, may paint a different picture, according to Haines. Last month's median</p>

price for Snohomish County was \$430,000, including single family homes and condos. But if you looked at each of the six sub-areas within that county, the median price ranged anywhere from \$352,000 in the northwest segment of the county to \$606,250 in the southeast portion.

With that kind of growth ranging between a year-over-year price increase of anywhere from 6 percent to more than 19 percent, one thing that can be said is that Snohomish County is feeling the burn of King County's troubles.

"This leap to new heights is based on high demand and low supply," Mike Grady, president and COO of Coldwell Banker Bain, said in the NWMLS report. He added that he expects market forces will continue to fuel appreciation into 2018, and possibly beyond.

"All indications are that sales price increases in these neighboring counties are likely to accelerate at an even faster rate."

Whether that's an accurate reading of the most recent statistics, only time will tell.

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HEADLINE	10/18 Amazon adds office space in Seattle
SOURCE	https://www.seattletimes.com/business/amazon/amazon-adds-most-of-macys-building-as-it-gobbles-up-office-space/
GIST	<p>In the latest irony of the Amazon age, the Seattle company is taking over the top six floors of the Macy's building in downtown, giving the online retailer a good chunk of space formerly occupied by a brick-and-mortar icon.</p> <p>The lease, confirmed by an Amazon spokesman, is the latest sign of expansion in the company's hometown, even as Amazon seeks to build a second headquarters campus somewhere in North America.</p> <p>Amazon's space in the Macy's building at 300 Pine St. — 312,000 square feet — is enough to hold about 1,500 employees. They'll be working above the Macy's store on the ground level and basement.</p> <p>By itself, it represents one of the biggest leases of Class A office space in the city — only a few companies, like F5 and Zillow — have more total office space in Seattle than Amazon will have just at the Macy's building.</p> <p>News of the lease comes a few weeks after Amazon confirmed it would take the entire office-space portion of the planned Rainier Square downtown skyscraper, a massive 722,000-square-foot lease.</p> <p>Until recently, Amazon had occupied about three dozen offices in South Lake Union and the Denny Triangle. But the move south into the downtown core indicates the company may be running out of room in the South Lake Union area it now dominates.</p> <p>Amazon has now leased 1.65 million square feet in Seattle across five buildings so far this year, according to the Broderick Group. The company has nabbed five of the seven biggest office leases in the city this year.</p> <p>The two other big leases? The Broderick Group reported this week that Oracle, a tech company based in Silicon Valley, is opening a 160,000-square-foot outpost downtown in the Russell Investments Center. And F5 took an entire downtown skyscraper earlier this year.</p> <p>Amazon occupies more than 8 million square feet in the city, up from 4 million square feet just 2½ years ago. No other company in any major U.S. city has that much space.</p>
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HEADLINE	10/17 State: ACA rates could rise up to 27%
SOURCE	https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/health/insurance-rates-could-rise-9-to-27-percent-for-some-aca-customers-washington-state-officials-say/
GIST	<p>Tens of thousands of Washingtonians buying health insurance through the Affordable Care Act will pay higher rates unless Congress acts, the Washington state insurance commissioner said Tuesday.</p> <p>Commissioner Mike Kreidler said people purchasing a Silver Plan from the Washington Health Benefit Exchange will see rates rise between 9 percent to 27 percent, depending on the insurer, after President Donald Trump’s decision last week to end federal subsidy payments, which are called cost-share reductions, or CSRs.</p> <p>“President Trump’s devastating refusal to pay federal funding that helps people afford health insurance leaves me no choice but to reluctantly allow health insurers to charge higher premiums for 2018. Not allowing the higher rates would cause further instability in our market,” Kreidler said in a statement.</p> <p>Congress could still act to fund the subsidies. If that happens the originally approved lower rates would be applied. Sen. Patty Murray, D-Wash., and Sen. Lamar Alexander, R-Tenn., said Tuesday they have the “basic outlines” of a bipartisan agreement to resume federal payments.</p> <p>A Democratic aide said the deal would ensure CSR payments that reduce consumers’ out-of-pocket costs would continue through 2019 and provide outreach money for the 2018 and 2019 enrollment periods. The Trump administration has drastically reduced the advertising budget for the ACA by 90 percent.</p> <p>At a news conference in Washington, D.C., Tuesday Murray said that families “are realizing that if the president is allowed to continue down the path he is headed on they are the ones who are going to pay the price. So I’m really glad that Democrats and Republicans agree that it’s unacceptable and that the uncertainty and dysfunction cannot continue.”</p> <p>Insurance companies and the state Office of the Insurance Commissioner had built in a provision to trigger higher rates in the Washington state exchange if the subsidies were to end.</p> <p>The rates were approved last month with an average increase of 24 percent for all plans with the subsidies intact — the largest hike since the ACA, also known as Obamacare, came online in 2013.</p>
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HEADLINE	10/17 LAPD yearlong program to test drones
SOURCE	http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-lapd-drones-20171017-story.html
GIST	<p>After months of often-heated debate, a civilian oversight panel Tuesday signed off on a yearlong test of drones by the Los Angeles Police Department, which will become the largest police department in the nation to deploy the controversial technology.</p> <p>The Police Commission’s 3-1 vote prompted jeers, cursing and a small protest that spilled into a downtown intersection just outside the LAPD’s glass headquarters — evidence of the opposition police have faced in recent weeks as they tried to reassure wary residents that the airborne devices would not be misused.</p> <p>The use of drones — or “small Unmanned Aerial Systems,” in police-speak — has become a contentious issue for law enforcement in Los Angeles, where the nation’s largest sheriff’s department has flown one since January.</p> <p>Advocates say camera-mounted drones could help protect officers and others by collecting crucial information during high-risk situations or searches without risking their safety. For many privacy advocates and police critics, however, the drones stir Orwellian visions of unwarranted surveillance or</p>

fears of militarized, weapon-toting devices patrolling the skies.

LAPD brass, along with police commissioners, tried to ease those concerns by promising careful restrictions on when the drones would be used and strong oversight of the pilot program. Weapons and facial-recognition technology will also be prohibited.

But some critics said they could not trust the department to follow its own rules, no matter how stringent.

“Mission creep is of course the concern,” said Jim Lafferty of the National Lawyers Guild Los Angeles. “The history of this department is of starting off with supposedly good intentions about the new toys that it gets ... only to then get too tempted by what they can do with those toys.”

The president of the union representing the LAPD’s rank and file praised the commission’s decision, calling drones “a tool that will protect both police officers and residents.”

"Whether it’s an active shooter at a school, or a suspect barricaded in a home in a Los Angeles neighborhood, this technology will help us save lives,” Craig Lally, the union’s president, said in a statement.

After the vote, LAPD Chief Charlie Beck said the department probably would purchase two drones — one to use and one for backup — and roll them out in about 30 days.

The debate over whether the LAPD should use drones began in 2014, when the department received two Draganflyer X6 drones from police in Seattle — devices the Washington agency unloaded after heavy criticism from the public.

The outcry continued in L.A., and the drones were grounded — and ultimately destroyed — before they were ever flown.

“I will not sacrifice public support for a piece of police equipment,” Beck said at the time.

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HEADLINE	10/18 Amnesty: Myanmar killing Rohingyas
SOURCE	https://www.cbsnews.com/news/rohingya-muslims-killed-myanmar-security-forces-amnesty-international/
GIST	<p>BANGKOK -- Myanmar security forces killed hundreds of men, women and children during a systematic campaign to expel Rohingya Muslims, Amnesty International said in a new report Wednesday that calls for an arms embargo on the country and criminal prosecution of the perpetrators.</p> <p>More than 580,000 refugees have arrived in Bangladesh since Aug. 25, when Myanmar security forces began a scorched-earth campaign against Rohingya villages. Myanmar's government has said it was responding to attacks by Muslim insurgents, but the United Nations and others have said the response was disproportionate.</p> <p>The continuing exodus of Rohingya Muslims has become a major humanitarian crisis and sparked international condemnation of Buddhist-majority Myanmar, which still denies atrocities are taking place.</p> <p>Based on interviews with more than 120 fleeing Rohingya, Amnesty International said at least hundreds of people were killed by security forces who surrounded villages, shot fleeing inhabitants and then set buildings alight, burning to death the elderly, sick and disabled who were unable to flee.</p> <p>In some villages, women and girls were raped or subjected to other sexual violence, according to the report.</p>

	<p>The witnesses repeatedly described an insignia on their attackers' uniforms that matched one worn by troops from Myanmar's Western Command, Amnesty International said.</p> <p>When shown various insignia used by Myanmar's army, witnesses consistently picked out the Western Command patch, it said.</p> <p>The 33rd Light Infantry Division and border police, who wear a distinctive blue camouflage uniform, were also frequently involved in attacks on villages, along with Buddhist vigilante mobs, witnesses said.</p> <p>Matthew Wells, an Amnesty crisis researcher who spent several weeks at the Bangladesh-Myanmar border, said the rights group plans to issue another report in the coming months examining individual criminal responsibility, including specific commanders and others that may be involved in abuses.</p>
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HEADLINE	10/17 Drug overdoses grim and growing toll
SOURCE	https://www.cbsnews.com/news/opioids-drug-overdose-killed-more-americans-last-year-than-the-vietnam-war/
GIST	<p>The opioid epidemic ravaging the United States is taking a grim and growing toll.</p> <p>The latest numbers from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention show that 64,070 people died from drug overdoses in 2016. That's a 21 percent increase over the year before. Approximately three-fourths of all drug overdose deaths are now caused by opioids — a class of drugs that includes prescription painkillers as well as heroin and potent synthetic versions like fentanyl.</p> <p>A new report from Police Executive Research Forum (PERF), an independent research organization that focuses on "critical issues in policing," puts those numbers into context.</p> <p>According to the report, more Americans died from drug overdoses in 2016 than the number of American lives lost in the entirety of the Vietnam War, which totaled 58,200.</p> <p>The group says it is focusing its efforts on the opioid epidemic because "despite the groundbreaking work that police and other agencies are doing, the epidemic is continuing to worsen."</p> <p>The report also showed that the year's 64,070 drug fatalities outnumbered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 35,092 motor vehicle deaths in 2015. • AIDS-related deaths in the worst year of the AIDS crisis, when 50,628 people died in 1995. • The peak year for homicides in the U.S., when 24,703 people were murdered in 1991. • Suicides, which have been rising in the U.S. for nearly 30 years and totaled 44,193 in 2015. <p>The data also shows that overdoses of synthetic drugs, such as fentanyl — which is 50 to 100 times stronger than the painkiller morphine — are driving the sharp increases in opioid overdose deaths.</p> <p>The CDC identified 15,466 deaths from heroin overdoses in 2016, while 20,145 deaths were caused by fentanyl or other synthetic opioids.</p> <p>Additionally, a survey conducted by PERF of its member police chiefs earlier this year found half of the respondents reported an increase in fatal heroin overdoses in their jurisdiction in 2016 compared to 2015, and 45 percent reported an increase in drug overdose deaths attributed to fentanyl during that time. Twenty-three percent reported an increase in fatal overdoses due to prescription opioid medications.</p> <p>This is consistent with research suggesting that many people who become addicted to prescription painkillers often move on to heroin or synthetic opioids when it becomes too difficult to or expensive to keep obtaining prescription pills.</p>

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HEADLINE	10/18 Oil refinery fire may impact gas prices
SOURCE	https://www.cbsnews.com/news/fire-at-huge-oil-refinery-may-impact-social-gas-prices/
GIST	<p>EL SEGUNDO, Calif. -- A fire has broken out at a huge Chevron oil refinery in the Los Angeles area.</p> <p>Police say the fire erupted late Tuesday night at the Chevron El Segundo Refinery.</p> <p>The fire sent smoke into surrounding residential neighborhoods, and police advised people to close their windows.</p> <p>Dramatic flames could be seen soon after the blaze broke out, but firefighters smothered it with foam, and within about a half-hour there was little visible flame. No injuries have been reported.</p> <p>"In addition to Chevron Emergency Response personnel, engine units from El Segundo, Hermosa Beach and Redondo Beach fire departments also responded. The fire was quickly contained and extinguished at approximately 11:18 p.m.," Chevron said in a statement.</p> <p>Fires at such refineries have had implications for gas prices, though it wasn't clear whether this one would.</p> <p>The largest refinery on the West Coast supplies 20 percent of gas to Southern California and 40 percent of jet fuel to nearby LAX Airport, reports CBS Los Angeles.</p> <p>Chevron was fined nearly \$1 million by the state of California for a major fire in 2012 at a refinery in the San Francisco Bay Area.</p>
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HEADLINE	10/17 Reversal \$72M verdict over talc products
SOURCE	http://www.reuters.com/article/us-johnson-johnson-cancer-lawsuit/johnson-johnson-wins-reversal-of-72-million-verdict-over-talc-cancer-risks-idUSKBN1CM2IF
GIST	<p>(Reuters) - Johnson & Johnson on Tuesday won the reversal of a \$72 million verdict in favor of the family of a woman whose death from ovarian cancer they claimed stemmed from her use of the company's talc-based products like Johnson's Baby Powder.</p> <p>The Missouri Court of Appeals, Eastern District said that given a recent U.S. Supreme Court decision that limited where injury lawsuits could be filed, the case over Alabama resident Jacqueline Fox's death should not have been tried in St. Louis.</p> <p>The February 2016 verdict for Fox's family was the first of four jury awards totaling \$307 million in state court in St. Louis to plaintiffs who accused J&J of not adequately warning consumers about the cancer risks of its talc-based products.</p> <p>J&J says it faces lawsuits by 4,800 plaintiffs nationally asserting similar claims over its talc-based products. Many of those cases are in Missouri, where J&J won one trial, and in California, where in August a jury awarded a woman \$417 million.</p> <p>The Missouri cases, which have largely been brought by out-of-state plaintiffs, have faced jurisdictional questions after the Supreme Court issued a ruling in June that limited where personal injury lawsuits could be filed.</p> <p>In a decision in a case involving Bristol-Myers Squibb Co, the Supreme Court said state courts could not hear claims by non-residents who were not injured in that particular state or if the defendant company was</p>

	<p>not based in that state.</p> <p>The three-judge Missouri appellate panel cited that decision in its ruling in the case of Fox, who died four months before trial and who was one of 65 plaintiffs in her specific lawsuit, only two of whom were Missouri residents.</p> <p>The cases of Fox and other plaintiffs from outside the state were joined with those of plaintiffs from Missouri, though each case resulting in a verdict has been tried individually.</p> <p>“The fact that resident plaintiffs sustained similar injuries does not support specific jurisdiction as to non-resident claims,” Judge Lisa Van Amburg wrote.</p> <p>Lawyers for Fox’s family say the Alabama resident died in 2015 at age of 62 after using J&J’s Baby Powder and Shower to Shower for more than 35 years. J&J sold Shower to Shower to Valeant Pharmaceuticals International Inc in 2012.</p> <p>J&J in a statement said it was pleased with the ruling. The \$72 million awarded to Fox by jurors included \$10 million in compensatory damages and \$62 million in punitive damages.</p>
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HEADLINE	10/18 Portugal minister resigns over wildfires
SOURCE	http://www.reuters.com/article/us-portugal-fire-minister/portugal-interior-minister-resigns-after-fire-disasters-idUSKBN1CN0XI?il=0
GIST	<p>LISBON (Reuters) - Portugal’s Interior Minister Constanca Urbano de Sousa resigned from her post after fires killed more than a hundred people in the country’s two worst disasters of recent times, the government said on Wednesday.</p> <p>The minister said in her resignation letter that after the fires of recent days “I considered that I didn’t have the political and personal conditions to continue in my post.”</p>
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HEADLINE	10/17 China president: ‘grim’ challenges ahead
SOURCE	http://time.com/4986947/china-congress-xi-jinping-economy-challenges/?xid=homepage
GIST	<p>(BEIJING) — Chinese President Xi Jinping on Wednesday urged a reinvigorated Communist Party to take on a more forceful role in society and economic development to better address "grim" challenges facing the country as he opened a twice-a-decade national congress.</p> <p>Speaking in the massive Great Hall of the People near Tiananmen Square, Xi laid out his vision of a ruling party that serves as the vanguard on everything from defending national security to providing moral guidance to ordinary Chinese.</p> <p>He struck a nationalistic line throughout his speech, calling for the party not only to safeguard China's sovereignty but also to revitalize Chinese culture, oppose "erroneous" ideology and promote religion that is "Chinese in origin."</p> <p>"The great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation is no walk in the park or mere drum-beating and gong-clanging. The whole party must be prepared to make ever more difficult and harder efforts," Xi told hundreds of delegates, mostly men in dark suits who applauded regularly as they read copies of his prepared remarks. "To achieve great dreams there must be a great struggle."</p> <p>He added that the party would have to take big risks and overcome "major resistance."</p>

Xi wields undisputed power and is expected to get a second five-year term as party leader at the gathering. Analysts say he has consolidated his power by sidelining his competitors in other intra-party cliques, including those surrounding his immediate predecessor Hu Jintao and former leader Jiang Zemin.

The Communist Party meetings will largely be behind closed doors and are accompanied by extraordinary security measures, such as restrictions on knife sales and greater monitoring of dissidents. But the congress will see powerful players emerge in new roles and is a chance for Xi to publicly lay out his political and economic vision over the next five years.

Xi, in his three-and-a-half-hour address, proclaimed his nation's prospects as bright but made a rare acknowledgement of severe economic challenges.

Other Chinese leaders have regularly warned since the 2008 financial crisis that China's economic growth faces "downward pressure" due to weak global demand that threatens export industries in the world's second-largest economy. But Xi's comments were unusual in a keynote speech meant to highlight the party's confidence and long-range vision.

Among the grave issues Xi said were insufficiently addressed are a widening income gap and problems in employment, education, medical care and other areas.

Xi hailed China's island-building efforts in the disputed South China Sea as well as his signature foreign-policy initiative, the "One Belt, One Road" infrastructure investment project aimed at improving connections between China, Europe and Africa.

He also praised the party's tightened grip over domestic security, saying that social stability had been maintained and national security strengthened.

Xi pledged that the party would have "zero tolerance" for corruption and said it would "continue to purify, improve and reform itself" — an indication that it would not allow outside checks on graft.

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HEADLINE	10/17 Puerto Rico takes steps to boost grid
SOURCE	https://www.nbcnews.com/storyline/puerto-rico-crisis/puerto-rico-takes-steps-boost-electric-power-next-week-n811561
GIST	<p>WASHINGTON — The Army Corps of Engineers hopes to have in place by next week — more than a month after Hurricane Maria made landfall in Puerto Rico — two 25-megawatt generators at a plant in San Juan, Puerto Rico, to help stabilize electricity there.</p> <p>The turbines were received Oct. 13, and the Army Corps wants the generators to be operational by Oct. 25, spokeswoman Catalina Carrasco said Tuesday.</p> <p>Carrasco said preparations to install the turbines at the Palo Seco Power Plant in San Juan were slowed by the continuous rains that Puerto Rico has been having. Once installed they will allow for customers to have consistent power while repairs are made.</p> <p>The generators should boost the share of customers with power from the grid from 13.7 percent to 30 percent, Fernando Padilla, project manager for the Corps told El Nuevo Día newspaper in Puerto Rico. The hope is to also make it more stable.</p> <p>Wednesday will mark one month since the hurricane began charging through the island, causing massive devastation to the island's power grid and infrastructure. As of Tuesday, 17.7 percent of the island's electric utility customers had power from the grid, though it's still not reliable. Others in Puerto Rico, though not all, have power through diesel-fueled generators, but only as long as the diesel lasts.</p>

	<p>Officials want to provide stable power to hospitals and water and wastewater treatment plants in the northern part of San Juan and then connect lines in the southern part of the capital. The Corps told El Nuevo Día it also is important to get power to pharmaceutical companies on the island because they are a key part of its economy.</p> <p>Puerto Rico Gov. Ricardo Rosselló has set a goal of re-establishing electricity to 30 percent of the island by the end of the month and 95 percent by Dec. 15.</p> <p>Carrasco said that as of Tuesday, the Corps has received \$577 million from the Federal Emergency Management Agency for power restoration, and that the figure is likely to rise.</p>
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HEADLINE	10/17 Riding high: Dow Jones hit 23,000 mark
SOURCE	https://www.nbcnews.com/business/markets/riding-high-dow-jones-just-hit-23-000-mark-n811486
GIST	<p>Just six weeks after smashing the 22,000 mark, the Dow Jones has hit another record high, topping 23,000 in midday trading on Tuesday.</p> <p>The 134-year-old index is on track for its fourth-fastest 1,000-point increase, if it closes at or above the 23,000-point level.</p> <p>"Every time we get a milestone like that, it seems like mainstream America pays more attention to financial markets," Art Hogan, chief market strategist at Wunderlich Securities, told CNBC.</p> <p>In addition to a strong quarter for corporate earnings plus solid global economic growth, the recent stock market rally has been attributed to President Donald Trump's business-friendly plans, including corporate tax breaks, deregulation, and infrastructure spending.</p> <p>The Dow Jones is up 26 percent since Trump's election in November 2016.</p>
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HEADLINE	10/18 NKorea plans more satellite launches
SOURCE	https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2017-10-18/north-korea-says-it-plans-to-launch-many-more-satellites
GIST	<p>United Nations (AP) -- North Korea's deputy U.N. ambassador said Tuesday the country plans to launch many more satellites and accused the United States of trying to block its efforts to help peacefully develop outer space.</p> <p>Kim In Ryong told a U.N. General Assembly committee meeting on "International Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space" that the country's five-year plan for 2016-2020 includes development of "practical satellites that can contribute to the economic development and improvement of the people's living."</p> <p>As a party to several space treaties, North Korea's space development activities are "all ground on legal basis in all aspects," Kim said.</p> <p>But he said the United States is "going frantic to illegalize our development of outer space," claiming the effort violates U.N. sanctions.</p> <p>"The U.S. is the country that launched the largest number of satellites and yet it claims that our launch of satellites is a threat to international peace and security," Kim said. "This is a preposterous allegation and extreme double standards."</p>

	The United Nations, the U.S. and other countries view the North's space launch development project as a cover for tests of missile technology, as ballistic missiles and rockets in satellite launches share similar bodies, engines and other technology. North Korea is also openly working on developing nuclear-armed missiles capable of striking the U.S. mainland.
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HEADLINE	10/18 Deadly wildfires ravage Portugal, Spain
SOURCE	https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/world/2017/10/18/deadly-wildfires-ravage-portugal-and-spain/774937001/
GIST	<p>Hundreds of fires have raged across Portugal and Spain since Sunday, devouring homes and killing 41 people in Portugal and four in northern Spain.</p> <p>Portugal's civil protection agency said that 71 people had been injured in the fires, 16 of them seriously. One person was still missing. Among the dead was a 1-month-old baby.</p> <p>Environmental factors are partly to blame for the spate of fires, says reporter Paul Ames in Lisbon, Portugal. "We've had a very bad drought, very high temperatures, and then of course we've had very strong winds pushed along" by Hurricane Ophelia, which helped fan and spread the flames.</p> <p>But poor land management, Ames said, has made Portugal especially vulnerable to forest fires. "Portugal is a major paper producer. And much of the country has been planted with fast-growing eucalyptus trees which feed into the paper industry."</p> <p>Eucalyptus can be harvested quickly — which the paper industry likes — but it also contains a highly flammable oil and "has this bark which flakes off," Ames explains. "If the forest isn't well-managed, there's an accumulation of dry strips of bark which build up underneath the trees and that's a very flammable mix."</p> <p>In Portugal, the fires have overwhelmed rescue services and the government is facing public criticism over its perceived slow response. An opposition party has even launched a motion of no confidence in the government. The fires themselves have died down on Tuesday, thanks to overnight rain, "but public anger is still burning fiercely here," says Ames.</p> <p>In Spain, Kotcherha Campora says the fires have left behind an otherworldly landscape. "There were lots of places that weren't burnt, so you have this contrast between autumn leaves changing and green pastures surrounded by these massive parcels of thousands of hectares of land that is just black, charred earth," he said. "It's a strange parallel world of beautiful autumn and total black destruction."</p>
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HEADLINE	10/18 Claim: Puerto Rico death toll higher
SOURCE	https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/world/2017/10/18/real-death-toll-puerto-rico-probably-450-much-higher-than-official-count/774918001/
GIST	<p>Three weeks after Hurricane Maria devastated Puerto Rico, we've seen images of the destruction and heard stories about the lack of electricity and basic supplies like food and water in some areas.</p> <p>But the main way we measure — and understand — the scope of any disaster is through the death toll.</p> <p>The official count is now 48 deaths. But the news site Vox thought that number seemed off.</p> <p>"We knew from reports on the ground, and investigative journalists who've also been looking into this, that this was very likely way too low of a number," said Eliza Barclay, an editor at Vox.</p>

So they dug into the numbers, cross-checking with news reports, and found that the number of casualties resulting from the hurricane was probably much closer to 450.

Two members of Congress have now announced they will request an audit of the official death toll.

Here are a few highlights from Vox's report:

- At the time of the report, the official death toll was 43.
- National and local news outlets reported an additional 36 deaths attributed to the hurricane.
- NPR reported an additional 49 bodies with unidentified cause of death sent to a hospital morgue since the storm.
- The Los Angeles Times reported 50 more deaths than normal in one region in the three days after the hurricane.
- Puerto Rico's Center for Investigative Reporting found 69 hospital morgues were at "capacity."
- According to El Vocero newspaper, 350 bodies are being stored at the Institute of Forensic Sciences awaiting autopsies, but it's not clear how many of them were there before the hurricane.

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HEADLINE	10/17 Def. chief: 19% military bases not needed
SOURCE	https://www.newsmax.com/newsfront/jim-mattis-brac-base-closures/2017/10/17/id/820394/
GIST	<p>An estimated 19 percent of U.S. military properties around the world might not be needed, and lawmakers need to take a closer look at shutting down excess facilities in the 2020s to save money, Defense Secretary Jim Mattis told Congress, according to a report in the Daily Caller.</p> <p>"Since the last BRAC round we have developed new methods of warfare, new technologies, and expanded needs for Warfighters training that require us to assess the military value and effectiveness of our domestic military infrastructure," Mattis wrote in a letter to Congress dated Oct. 6. "In addition, every unnecessary facility we maintain requires us to cut capabilities elsewhere. I must be able to eliminate excess infrastructure in order to shift resources to readiness and modernization."</p> <p>BRAC (Base Realignment and Closure) is a process by the federal government to close and consolidate military bases.</p> <p>Mattis' letter comes on the heels of a Pentagon report detailing an excess infrastructure capacity of 29 percent in the Army and 28 percent in the Air Force.</p> <p>The Pentagon for years has asked for a BRAC round, as the five past previous rounds resulted in \$1 billion of annual savings to the Department of Defense.</p> <p>Democratic Rep. Adam Smith, the ranking member of the House Armed Services Committee, expressed the same concerns.</p> <p>"We are wasting taxpayer money to maintain buildings and facilities that the military does not need, while we drain away funds for readiness and weaponry that could keep our service members safe and our country secure," Smith said.</p>
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HEADLINE	10/17 Puerto Rico: raw sewage in water
SOURCE	https://www.cbsnews.com/news/raw-sewage-contaminating-water-puerto-rico-hurricane-maria/
GIST	<p>CAGUAS, Puerto Rico — Raw sewage is pouring into the rivers and reservoirs of Puerto Rico in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria. People without running water bathe and wash their clothes in contaminated streams, and some islanders have been drinking water from condemned wells.</p>

	<p>Nearly a month after the hurricane made landfall, Puerto Rico is only beginning to come to grips with a massive environmental emergency that has no clear end in sight.</p> <p>"I think this will be the most challenging environmental response after a hurricane that our country has ever seen," said Judith Enck, who served as administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency region that includes Puerto Rico under President Barack Obama.</p> <p>With hundreds of thousands of people still without running water, and 20 of the island's 51 sewage treatment plants out of service, there are growing concerns about contamination and disease.</p> <p>"People in the U.S. can't comprehend the scale and scope of what's needed," said Drew Koslow, an ecologist with the nonprofit Ridge to Reefs who recently spent a week in Puerto Rico working with a portable water purification system.</p> <p>EPA officials said that of last week they still had not been unable to inspect five of the island's 18 Superfund sites — highly contaminated toxic sites targeted for cleanup because of risks to human health and the environment — including the former U.S. Navy bombing range on the island of Vieques.</p> <p>"I just wish we had more resources to deal with it," said Catherine McCabe, the EPA deputy regional administrator.</p>
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HEADLINE	10/17 Judge blocks latest travel ban
SOURCE	http://www.cnn.com/2017/10/17/politics/travel-ban-3-0-blocked/index.html
GIST	<p>(CNN)A federal judge in Hawaii has blocked President Donald Trump's revised travel ban one day before it was set to take effect.</p> <p>Judge Derrick Watson said the travel ban -- Trump's third version of the policy -- "plainly discriminates based on nationality."</p> <p>The President's executive order "suffers from precisely the same maladies as its predecessor: it lacks sufficient findings that the entry of more than 150 million nationals from six specified countries would be 'detrimental to the interests of the United States,'" Watson wrote.</p> <p>The second version of the travel ban, issued in March, had barred residents of six Muslim-majority countries -- Iran, Syria, Libya, Sudan, Somalia and Yemen. The new restrictions that were set to take effect Wednesday cover eight countries -- Chad, Iran, Libya, North Korea, Syria, Venezuela, Somalia and Yemen.</p>
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Cyber Awareness

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HEADLINE	10/18 Mysterious cyber espionage campaign
SOURCE	http://www.zdnet.com/article/mysterious-cyber-espionage-campaign-uses-torpedo-lure-to-trick-you-into-downloading-malware/
GIST	<p>An espionage group is launching cyber attacks against organisations in the maritime and defence sectors in what's highly likely to be an effort to steal confidential information and research data.</p> <p>Dubbed Leviathan, the group has been active since at least 2014 and takes particular interest in maritime industries, naval defence contractors and associated university research institutions as well as related government and legal agencies.</p>

Organisations targeted by the campaign are mostly in the US and Western Europe, with while some targets are active in the South China Sea.

Military and defence contractors are often the target of cyber attacks and researchers at Proofpoint recently detected new campaigns targeting US shipbuilding companies and a university research centre with military ties. Researchers dubbed the threat Leviathan due to its focus on organisations related to naval technology and maritime interests.

Phishing emails distributed in mid-September used references to job applications, resumes and a "Torpedo recovery experiment" in an effort to lure targets into messages containing malicious Microsoft Excel and Word documents laced with macros.

The malicious documents leveraged CVE-2017-8759, a parser code vulnerability which allows attackers to inject code to execute Visual Basic scripts containing PowerShell commands for the installation of malware. Researchers note that the zero-day was only discovered days before the campaign, indicating the attackers are quick to exploit new attack vectors.

In addition to the September campaign, researchers say the same attackers sent spear-phishing emails containing malicious URLs to multiple defence contractors in August. The messages contain lures ranging from fake Microsoft licensing agreements to phony messages purporting to be from companies involved with the building of military ships, submarines and other vessels.

This version of the campaign leveraged CVE-2017-0199, a remote code execution vulnerability in the way Microsoft Office and Wordpad parse specially crafted files, which can ultimately enable attackers to take full control of an infected system.

The attackers are also known to leverage NanHaiShu, a remote access Trojan which is able to send any information from an infected machine to command and control infrastructure run by attackers.

The Javascript backdoor has been used in various campaigns, including one targeting governments and private sector organisations involved in the dispute over territory and sovereignty in the South China Sea, a campaign which F-Secure linked to the Chinese government.

Proofpoint, on the other hand, haven't attributed the latest attacks against US defence and naval contractors to any particular actor on the basis there's not enough data to do so.

What researchers do say is the behaviour of this threat actor reflects the techniques of modern advanced threats, including narrow targeting with email lures and document themes relevant to intelligence gathering goals and the use of compromised infrastructure to launch additional attacks.

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HEADLINE	10/17 Online sex predator sting nets 20 arrests
SOURCE	http://www.theolympian.com/news/local/crime/article179398716.html
GIST	<p>A 30-year-old Shelton man was one of 20 men arrested in an online sexual predator sting, according to the Washington State Patrol.</p> <p>The suspects are accused of targeting children in Kitsap County, and were arrested as part of a multi-day operation, WSP wrote in a release Tuesday.</p> <p>The "Net Nanny" operation originated in Kitsap County in 2015, and eight more operations in Washington have been conducted since. Since "Net Nanny" began, 135 suspects have been arrested, and 22 victims have been identified and rescued.</p>

	<p>“The Internet has become a hunting ground for sexual predators that are targeting our vulnerable children,” WSP Chief John R. Batiste said in the release. “This multi-agency operation is taking dangerous individuals off the streets and making communities safer for families.”</p> <p>According to the release, undercover detectives communicated with suspects through various websites, generating hundreds of responses from individuals interested in participating in sexual encounters with children.</p> <p>They were arrested after traveling to meet detectives — who posed online as minors — with intent to engage in sexual activity.</p> <p>Eight of the 20 suspects arrested have access to children who are at risk, the release says, and follow-up investigations are ongoing to identify the children who may have been abused.</p> <p>The other 19 men arrested included three from Bremerton, three from Silverdale, two from Port Orchard, two from Olalla, and one each from Seattle, Port Gamble, Carson, Orting, Renton, Puyallup and Kent.</p> <p>The Kitsap Sun reported that among the 20 men arrested as part of the online sting was a Bremerton man who was arrested the last time the Washington State Patrol conducted the same sting in 2015.</p>
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HEADLINE	10/17 Report: NKorea embraces crypto-mining
SOURCE	https://www.infosecurity-magazine.com/news/cybercriminals-north-korea/
GIST	<p>A proliferation of mining malware here has started to make its presence known, leading to long-term, low-velocity crypto-mining operations becoming a go-to approach for cyber-criminals. In addition, according to threat intel company Recorded Future, North Korea seems to be getting in on the action.</p> <p>The firm found in an analysis that cyber-criminals are utilizing cryptocurrency mining as a way to maintain a steady income and avoid the inherent risks involved in running a large-scale ransomware campaign. This year, starting in May 2017, Recorded Future observed a rapid spike of mining malware alerts across a spectrum of analyzed sources. In all, it identified 62 different types of mining malware offered for sale across the criminal underground.</p> <p>Although some variants are sold for as high as \$850, the majority of available mining malware today is offered for less than \$50.</p> <p>Mining malware is readily available, affordable, and easy for a novice to deploy; however, indicators exist that provide a means to detect mining activity on a network,” the firm said.</p> <p>As for North Korea, while it has not identified any North Korea-specific cryptocurrency mining malware, Recorded Future said that North Korean threat actors have experience in altering publicly available tools, managing botnets and procuring cryptocurrency both legally and illegally.</p> <p>“North Korean threat actors have been conducting cyber operations to generate funds for the Kim regime likely since at least 2015, but appear to have become interested in Bitcoin and cryptocurrency only over the past six months,” Recorded Future said.</p> <p>Recorded Future analysis discovered in May that users in North Korea had begun to mine Bitcoin. Before then, there had been virtually no activity to Bitcoin-related sites or nodes, or utilizing Bitcoin-specific ports or protocols. Beginning on May 17, that activity increased exponentially, from nothing to hundreds per day.</p> <p>“The timing of this mining is important, because it began very soon after the May WannaCry ransomware attacks, which the NSA has attributed to North Korea’s intelligence service, the Reconnaissance General</p>

	Bureau (RGB), as an attempt to raise funds for the Kim regime,” analysts said. “It is not clear who is running the North Korean Bitcoin mining operations; however, given the relatively small number of computers in North Korea coupled with the limited IP space, it is not likely this computationally intensive activity is occurring outside of state control.”
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HEADLINE	10/18 Report: 88% Java apps vulnerable
SOURCE	https://www.infosecurity-magazine.com/news/java-apps-vulnerable-attacks/
GIST	<p>A new report from CA Veracode has exposed the pervasive risks companies face from vulnerable open source components.</p> <p>In its 2017 State of Software Security Report the firm reviewed application security testing data from scans of its base of 1400 customers, discovering that 88% of Java applications contain at least one vulnerable component, making them susceptible to widespread attacks.</p> <p>A cause of the problem, in part, is that fewer than 28% of companies carry out regular analysis to see which components are built into their applications, Veracode claimed.</p> <p>“The universal use of components in application development means that when a single vulnerability in a single component is disclosed, that vulnerability now has the potential to impact thousands of applications – making many of them breachable with a single exploit,” said Chris Wysopal, CTO, CA Veracode.</p> <p>There have been plenty of examples of high-profile Java app breaches caused by vulnerabilities in open source or commercial components in the last year, one such being the ‘Struts-Shock’ flaw affecting the Apache Struts 2 web application framework.</p> <p>“Development teams aren’t going to stop using components – nor should they, but when an exploit becomes available, time is of the essence,” Wysopal added. However, as evidenced in the report, the most severe flaws require significant time to fix (only 22% of very high severity flaws were patched in 30 days or less), with most attackers leveraging vulnerabilities within days of discovery.</p> <p>“We’ve now seen quite a few breaches as a result of vulnerable components and unless companies start taking this threat more seriously, and using tools to monitor component usage, I predict the problem will intensify.”</p>
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HEADLINE	10/18 Unpatched Microsoft flaws stolen 2013?
SOURCE	http://www.securityweek.com/unpatched-flaws-possibly-stolen-microsoft-2013-hack-report
GIST	<p>Hackers may have stolen information on unpatched vulnerabilities after breaching Microsoft’s systems and gaining access to a bug tracker back in 2013, Reuters reported on Monday.</p> <p>At the time of the breach, Microsoft informed customers that it had been targeted in an attack similar to the ones aimed at Facebook and Apple.</p> <p>“During our investigation, we found a small number of computers, including some in our Mac business unit, that were infected by malicious software using techniques similar to those documented by other organizations. We have no evidence of customer data being affected and our investigation is ongoing,” Microsoft said at the time.</p> <p>Reuters learned from five former Microsoft employees that the attackers also breached a database that stored information on unpatched flaws affecting Windows and other products. The database had been protected only with a password.</p>

While Microsoft fixed all the vulnerabilities within months of the intrusion and found no evidence of the flaws being exploited in other attacks, it's still possible that the malicious actor created exploits that it used in other campaigns.

The former employees said Microsoft analyzed breaches suffered by other organizations at the time, but found no clear evidence that the stolen vulnerability information had been abused.

However, three of the former employees claim the study had too little data and noted that Microsoft relied on automated reports generated by software crashes to find exploits. However, experts argued that sophisticated attacks may have not generated crashes that would tip off Microsoft. In fact, the company did observe attacks exploiting the vulnerabilities, but concluded that they could have been obtained elsewhere.

The hacker group that targeted Microsoft, Apple, Twitter and Facebook back in 2013 is known as Butterfly, Morpho and Wild Neutron. The threat actor, described as a financially motivated espionage group, is believed to have been active since at least 2011.

The hackers leveraged watering holes, Java zero-day exploits, and Windows and Mac backdoors to target the tech giants. The attackers went silent for nearly a year after these campaigns and reemerged in late 2013, when they started targeting organizations in the legal, real estate, investment, IT and healthcare sectors around the world. They also launched attacks on individual users and Bitcoin companies.

Microsoft is not the only company whose bug-tracking database has been breached. Back in 2015, Mozilla informed users that an attacker breached its Bugzilla bug tracker using stolen credentials and accessed information on 185 non-public vulnerabilities affecting Firefox and other products.

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HEADLINE	10/18 IRS: Equifax victims info stolen prior
SOURCE	http://www.securityweek.com/many-equifax-hack-victims-had-info-stolen-prior-breach-irs
GIST	<p>The U.S. Internal Revenue Service (IRS) believes the recent Equifax breach will not make a significant difference in terms of tax fraud considering that many victims already had their personal information stolen prior to the incident.</p> <p>IRS Commissioner John Koskinen told the press on Tuesday that 100 million Americans have had their personally identifiable information (PII) stolen by hackers, according to The Hill. He also advised consumers to assume that their data has already been compromised and act accordingly.</p> <p>The Equifax breach, which affected more than 145 million individuals, allowed cybercriminals to access social security numbers, dates of birth and other information. Despite this being one of the largest data breaches in history, Koskinen said it likely “won’t make any significantly or noticeable difference.”</p> <p>In prepared remarks, Koskinen said the IRS stopped 883,000 attempts to file tax returns using stolen information in 2016, which represents a 37% drop compared to the previous year. Another 30% decrease in fraud attempts was observed this year, when 443,000 instances were discovered throughout August.</p> <p>Koskinen also pointed out that the number of identity theft victims, based on reports received by the IRS, dropped by 46% in 2016 to 376,000. Another significant decrease in the number of identity theft reports was recorded this year.</p>
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HEADLINE	10/17 Experts: hacking container ships easy
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SOURCE	https://www.scmagazine.com/hacking-container-ships-is-dead-easy-warn-security-consultants/article/700884/
GIST	<p>At a shipping conference in Athens, Greece, Ken Munro, a security researcher at Pen Test Partners, said that maritime cybersecurity is facing similar challenges now to what industrial controls security in utilities started addressing several years ago.</p> <p>Munro said that ships are moved on from running industrial control systems on dedicated, isolated network with customer and arcane protocols to something much more complicated and connected.</p> <p>He said that these ships were now “always-on, connected through VSAT, GSM/LTE and even Wi-Fi. Crew internet access, mashed up with electronic navigation systems, ECDIS, propulsion, load management and numerous other complex, custom systems. A recipe for disaster.”</p> <p>Munro said in a blog post that a search of Shodan.io can unearth shipping equipment all over the world. He said that it was easy to find plenty of logins for Globe Wireless over plain text HTTP, also an earlier branding as ‘Rydex’.</p> <p>“Globe were bought out and rebranded as Inmarsat in 2013, so you can date the comm box by the brand alone. Most of these are very old, undoubtedly running dated firmware,” he said.</p> <p>Another problem found was with a satellite antenna called Cobham Sailor 900.</p> <p>“Now, in the absence of known exploits such as this one for the Sailor 900, to make changes or do malicious things, one needs to authenticate as an admin user. The default is admin/1234. I haven't and won't be checking these creds on someone else's terminal, but what chance someone forgot to change these during installation?” said Munro.</p> <p>He said that most of the maritime ‘hacking’ incidents reported in the press appear to be simple default/missing creds from comms terminals, then the ‘hacker’ clicking around a control system GUI. “That doesn't really count as a hack to my mind, though the consequence is the same,” he added.</p> <p>Another problem discovered was with KVH CommBox private network terminals which disclosed the name of the ship on the login page as well as a list of crew with access to the terminal. Munro was able to quickly find out where the ship was as well as a random crew member's Facebook page in subsequent investigations.</p> <p>“This poor chap is ripe for phishing – we know pretty much everything about him. Simple phish, take control of his laptop, look for a lack of segregation on the ship network and migrate on to other more interesting devices. Or simply scrape his creds to the commbox and take control that way,” said Munro.</p> <p>Munro said that ships need to bring in basic security policies as soon as possible. “TLS needs to be in place on satcom boxes. How can this be still missing on live devices today? Password complexity is a must, particularly for high privilege accounts.”</p> <p>He said these devices must be updated as a matter of urgency. “It's simply not acceptable to leave vanilla firmware in place.”</p> <p>“There are many routes on to a ship, but the satcom box is the one route that is nearly always on the internet. Start with securing these devices, then move on to securing other ship systems,” warned Munro.</p> <p>Thomas Fischer, threat researcher and security advocate at Digital Guardian, told SC Media UK that one of the challenges when talking about implementing security standards in these kinds of environments is understanding who is ultimately responsible: the service provider (eg Inmarsat), or the shipping company?</p>
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HEADLINE	10/17 Claim: Facebook kids game 'go missing'
SOURCE	http://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/health-and-families/48-hour-challenge-game-facebook-children-go-missing-for-days-hide-parents-warning-social-media-a8004851.html
GIST	<p>A worrying 'game' called the 48-Hour Challenge is circulating on Facebook which encourages children to go missing for up to two days at a time.</p> <p>The sick viral trend also says points are awarded for every social media mention while they're missing, meaning that frantic friends and family who post appeals to find them are welcomed.</p> <p>It's a copycat version of the Game of 72 which circulated in Western Europe several years ago, in which children tried to go missing for up to 72 hours.</p> <p>One County Derry mum told Belfast Live that her family was left with "unspeakable" anxiety from the "sick" competition.</p> <p>She said her child, along with others, left the County Down and County Antrim areas and were found 55 hours later in Ballymena.</p> <p>"I was terrified they were dead or would be raped, trafficked or killed," she said. "But these kids just think it's funny. There was not even a moment of remorse when my child was taken into police custody and when the police brought my child home, I could see posts of selfies from the police car."</p> <p>As a result of their lengthy disappearance, she said she'd since discovered that her children are in the lead on the game within their social circle.</p>
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HEADLINE	10/17 For sale: malware to empty ATMs
SOURCE	https://thehackernews.com/2017/10/atm-malware-hacking.html
GIST	<p>Hacking ATM is now easier than ever before.</p> <p>Usually, hackers exploit hardware and software vulnerabilities to hack ATMs and force them to spit out cash, but now anyone can simply buy a malware to steal millions in cash from ATMs.</p> <p>Hackers are selling ready-made ATM malware on an underground hacking forum that anybody can simply buy for around \$5000, researchers at Kaspersky Lab discovered after spotting a forum post advertising the malware, dubbed Cutlet Maker.</p> <p>The forum post provides a brief description and a detailed manual for the malware toolkit designed to target various ATMs models with the help of a vendor API, without interacting with ATM users and their data.</p> <p>Therefore, this malware does not affect bank customers directly; instead, it is intended to trick the bank ATMs from a specific vendor to release cash without authorisation.</p> <p>The manual also mentions an infamous piece of ATM malware, dubbed Tyupkin, which was first analysed in 2014 by Kaspersky Lab and used by an international cybercrime gang to conduct Jackpotting attack and make Millions by infecting ATMs across Europe and beyond.</p>
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HEADLINE	10/17 US tech giants face European rules
SOURCE	https://www.cbsnews.com/news/facebook-google-europe-hate-speech-content-restrictions/
GIST	LONDON - Silicon Valley is a uniquely American creation, the product of an entrepreneurial spirit and

no-holds-barred capitalism that now drives many aspects of modern life.

But the likes of Facebook (FB), Google (GOOG) and Apple (AAPL) are increasingly facing an uncomfortable truth: it's Europe's culture of tougher oversight of companies, not America's laissez-faire attitude, that could soon rule their industry as governments seek to combat fake news and prevent extremists from using the internet to fan the flames of hatred.

While the U.S. has largely relied on market forces to regulate content in a country where free speech is revered, European officials have shown they're willing to act. Germany recently passed a law imposing fines of up to 50 million euros (\$59 million) on websites that don't remove hate speech within 24 hours. British Prime Minister Theresa May wants companies to take down extremist material within two hours. And across the EU, Google has for years been obliged to remove search results if there's a legitimate complaint about the content's veracity or relevance.

"I anticipate the EU will be where many of these issues get played out," said Sarah T. Roberts, a professor of information studies at UCLA who has studied efforts to monitor and vet internet content. Objectionable content "is the biggest problem going forward. It's no longer acceptable for the firms to say that they can't do anything about it."

How closely to manage the massive amounts of content on the internet has become a pressing question in the U.S. since it was revealed that Russian agencies took out thousands of ads on social media during the presidential campaign, reaching some 10 million people on Facebook alone.

That comes on top of the existing concerns about preventing extremist attacks. This month, three men were arrested after allegedly using smartphone messaging apps to plot attacks on the New York City subway and Times Square from their homes in Canada, Pakistan and the Philippines. The plot was thwarted by an undercover officer, not technology.

In some ways it goes to a question of identity. Social media companies see themselves not as publishers but as platforms for other people to share information, and they've traditionally been cautious about taking down material.

But the pressure is on to act. Facebook, Google, Twitter (TWTR) and YouTube in June created the Global Internet Forum to Combat Terrorism. The group says it's committed to developing new content-detection technology, helping smaller companies combat extremism and promoting "counter-speech," content meant to blunt the impact of extremist material.

Proponents of counter-speech argue that rather than trying to take down every Islamic State group post, internet companies and governments should do more to promote content that actively refutes extremist propaganda. This approach will unmask the extremist message of hate and violence in the "marketplace of ideas," they argue, though critics see it as just another form of propaganda.

The U.S. government response has been more focused on policing than regulation, with security services authorized to sweep up huge amounts of electronic data to help them identify violent extremists and thwart attacks. Beyond that, authorities have mostly relied on the market to drive change amid fears that heavy-handed regulation could interfere with the First Amendment rights of law-abiding citizens to speak out and exchange information.

European courts have had no such qualms, balancing freedom of expression against the right to privacy and community cohesion.

For example, the European Court of Justice in 2014 ruled that people have the "right to be forgotten," permitting them to demand removal of personal data from search results when they can prove there's no compelling reason for it to remain. As far back as 2000, a French court ordered Yahoo to prevent French internet users from buying Nazi memorabilia on its sites.

The European Union's executive has been most active in matters of antitrust. This year it leveled a huge 2.4 billion euro (\$2.8 billion) fine on Google and ordered it to change the way it does business, for example, how it shows search results.

"There's a real cultural divide," said Edward Tenner, author of the upcoming book "The Efficiency Paradox: What Big Data Can't Do." "European governments have been more committed to incorporating the ideas of social justice, and the Americans have been much more on the libertarian side."

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HEADLINE	10/16 Russian admits meddling US election
SOURCE	http://abcnews.go.com/International/russian-helped-meddle-us-election-studied-hit-show/story?id=50508223
GIST	<p>Russian "trolls" working for a company that allegedly used fake social-media accounts to try to influence U.S. voters in the 2016 election were required to watch the political thriller TV show "House of Cards" to increase their understanding of American politics, according to an interview broadcast in Russia.</p> <p>In an interview aired Sunday by independent Russian station TV Rain, a man identified only as "Maksim" says he worked for the English-language department of a so-called "troll factory" that U.S. officials say was involved in an information campaign on American social media during the election.</p> <p>Maksim, who said he worked for the company around 18 months and quit in early 2015, said his department was tasked with stirring up dissatisfaction against the U.S. government and harming the election chances of Democrat Hillary Clinton by writing in the comment sections of major American media outlets, such as The New York Times and The Washington Post. He said they tried to drive discussion toward specific topics, such as past alleged scandals around the former secretary of state and her husband, former President Bill Clinton.</p> <p>"About her it was always bad," said Maksim, whose face was concealed during the broadcast. "The basic message was: 'Aren't you tired, my American brothers, of the Clintons?'"</p> <p>He added that more broadly "our goal was to set Americans against their government ... to provoke riots, to provoke dissatisfaction. There was a goal to influence opinion, to drive the discussion."</p> <p>The troll factory, located in an innocuous-looking building on the edge of St. Petersburg's city center, first attracted wide notice after a 2015 article in The New York Times magazine said the company's workers were pumping out pro-Kremlin messaging on social media and comment sections largely for a Russian-speaking audience. The article said the company has gone by different names but is best known as the Internet Research Agency.</p> <p>Attention has focused on the company again since Facebook said last month that the Internet Research Agency spent \$100,000 on U.S. political ads on the social network during the 2016 election.</p> <p>Facebook handed over 3,000 ads it said purchased by the company to the Senate and House intelligence committees that are investigating Russia's alleged interference in the election. The ads were purchased between June 2015 and May 2017, according to Facebook.</p> <p>Maksim told TV Rain his department had been ordered to study American media to identify divisive topics. Employees were told to read through thousands of posts in the comments sections of U.S. news outlets before commenting themselves, Maksim said, with success measured in how many "likes" a post attracted from other users.</p> <p>"You had to know all the basic problems of the United States of America. Tax problems, problems with the gays, sexual minorities, weapons," he said. Inserting crude comments about homosexual men, he said, was viewed as a reliable technique for attracting "likes."</p>

	<p>Employees were required to watch "House of Cards" as a way to learn about American politics and to improve their English.</p> <p>“At the beginning, they made us watch 'House of Cards' in English,” Maksim said.</p> <p>He said he and others in his department were ordered not to refer to Russia in their posts or to try to promote Moscow's viewpoint.</p> <p>"We didn't have the goal to turn Americans toward Russia," he said. "You couldn't mention Russia, nor Putin. Because Americans don't talk about that. They basically don't care about Russia and Putin."</p> <p>Maksim's account follows reports from Facebook, an independent Russian journalist and comments from one of the leaders of the Senate Intelligence Committee about the Internet Research Agency.</p>
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HEADLINE	10/17 DOL warns customers of bogus sites
SOURCE	http://q13fox.com/2017/10/17/dol-warns-of-bogus-sites-deceiving-customers/
GIST	<p>SEATTLE — Renewing your driver’s license may not be as easy as clicking an online link.</p> <p>The Washington Department of Licensing (DOL) is warning users to make sure they’re on the correct website when doing any DOL business. The site, www.dol.wa.gov is the official provider for any license documents for the state of Washington.</p> <p>One customer reports that she tried to renew her license on what she thought was the department of licensing website.</p> <p>She said she filled out all the information requested and submitted her credit card information. It wasn’t until she got an email receipt that she learned she ended up buying a road atlas and never actually renewed her license.</p> <p>The Department of Licensing said it’s aware of third-party sites that can easily lead customers in the wrong direction.</p> <p>“In an online search for ‘DMV’ or ‘DOL’ some search engines will return advertisements in the form of ‘sponsored links,’ which can lead users to sites that aren’t what they think they are,” wrote Jessie Knudsen, a spokesperson for the Department of Licensing.</p> <p>The DOL said it’s important for users to use caution when entering their personal information on any website.</p> <p>The only official way to get licensing forms is through the Department of Licensing. That can be done in person at a licensing office, online at www.dol.wa.gov, or by standard mail.</p> <p>A DOL spokesperson says those bogus sites are getting more sophisticated and are starting to copy a lot of the same features found on the real DOL website.</p>
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HEADLINE	10/18 Group: GPS watches harmful to children
SOURCE	https://www.cbsnews.com/news/gps-watches-for-kids-are-easily-hacked/
GIST	Helicopter parenting is reaching ever-loftier heights, thanks to GPS-connected gadgets that allow parents to track their child's every movement. But putting a tracker on your kid could be a bad idea for reasons

besides the psychological, consumer advocacy groups claim.

Some smart watches aimed at kids, in particular, are susceptible to being hacked, allowing strangers to track children and even communicate with them without parents' knowledge. That's according to a report from the Norwegian Consumer Council, which commissioned extensive testing on four models of GPS kids watches.

US consumer groups are now warning parents not to buy the devices, and they're asking the government to investigate if the devices run afoul of laws concerning privacy and consumer protection.

"You have a watch that's being marketed as keeping children safe and a way for people to keep tabs on their children, [but] that's actually putting children at risk," said Josh Golin, executive director of the Campaign for a Commercial-Free Childhood. His organization, along with the Electronic Privacy Information Center, the Consumers Federation of America, Public Citizen and other groups, laid out their concerns in a letter to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) Wednesday.

Kids' smart watches, while a relatively niche item, appeal to busy parents who may have concerns about getting their child a full-featured and expensive smartphone. Location monitoring is the watches' main purpose, but many also allow a parent to call or text a child. Some send an alert when a child leaves a designated geographical area, a feature known as geo-fencing. And some have cameras that let a parent see what their child is up to.

In the Norwegian report, researchers tested four watches and found that three didn't meet basic security safeguards. The resulting "leakage of customer data" allowed a stranger to find information about a child or children and even contact them without the parent's knowledge.

"It was so easy to circumvent the security. That was sad and one of the most surprising things," said Finn Myrstad, director of digital policy for the Norwegian Consumer Council.

Testers were also able to monitor a user's location while sending different location information to the app - mimicking a scenario in which a hacker misleads a parent about their child's location.

None of the four watches "handle data privacy and security particularly well," the report found. It was impossible for a user to delete information from the app. Deleting an account only stopped the app from collecting more information -- it did nothing with the data already stored.

The models tested were the Gator 2 watch (also called Caref), watches using the SeTracker series of apps and the Xplora watch. A fourth model, the Tinitell, did not have major security flaws but also didn't have clear privacy protections, the report found. (All models except for Xplora are on sale in the US.)

"I suspect this is a very widespread problem," said Golin. "This is something we see with internet-connected devices. ... In a rush to get a competitive advantage and get these products out early, they're not paying attention to security and privacy."

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HEADLINE	10/17 #MeToo generates 12M posts in 24hrs
SOURCE	https://www.cbsnews.com/news/metoo-more-than-12-million-facebook-posts-comments-reactions-24-hours/
GIST	NEW YORK -- Alyssa Milano was in bed with her two young children when a friend of a friend on Facebook suggested something that struck her as a great way to elevate the Harvey Weinstein conversation. She took the idea to Twitter, posting: "If you've been sexually harassed or assaulted write 'me too' as a reply to this tweet." That was Sunday night. By Monday night, more than 53,000 people had left comments and thousands of

women had declared "Me Too," sharing their stories of rape, sexual assault and harassment across social media, including some for the first time.

The hashtag was tweeted nearly a million times in 48 hours, according to Twitter. Some left it at simply, "Me Too," without explanation, while others opened up in wrenching detail about abuse they had never before shared in public.

Milano said the idea was to elevate the Harvey Weinstein conversation, placing the emphasis on victims rather than perpetrators and offering a glimpse into the number of women who continue to be victimized. The disgraced film mogul has been accused by more than three dozen women of harassment or abuse including rape.

"My hope is people will get the idea of the magnitude, of just how many people have been affected by this in the world, in our lifetimes, in this country," Milano said in a phone interview with The Associated Press on Monday. "The most important thing that it did was to shift the conversation away from the predator and to the victim."

The posts have gathered steam beyond Twitter. On Facebook, there were more than 12 million posts, comments and reactions in less than 24 hours, by 4.7 million users around the world, according to the company. In the U.S., Facebook said 45 percent of users have had friends who posted "me too."

A similar social media trend emerged in 2014. "Yesallwomen" posts also had women talking about their experiences with sexual harassment and sexism. While Twitter had fewer users in 2014, this hashtag was tweeted 1.2 million times in four days.

Even before that, Tarana Burke, a youth activist, started a "Me Too" campaign in 2007 to let other sex abuse survivors know that they were not alone. Milano later credited Burke for her "inspiring" work.

In response to the outpouring of emotional stories, a small contingent of men posted: "I Have," noting shock at the groundswell and remorse for their own past misdeeds.

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HEADLINE	10/17 Twitter cracks down on abusive tweets
SOURCE	https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2017-10-17/twitter-tries-to-crack-down-on-harassing-abusive-tweets
GIST	<p>Twitter Inc. is introducing new policies to combat harassment and unwanted sexual advances on the social media site after a recent decision to disable the account of a famous actress sparked an uproar.</p> <p>The company said it will immediately and permanently suspend any account that clearly harasses someone or posts nude images without the consent of the subject. The new policy also takes a tougher stance on unwanted sexual advances on the service by improving ways for bystanders to report inappropriate behavior.</p> <p>“A more aggressive policy and enforcement approach will result in the removal of more content from our service,” Twitter said Tuesday in a statement. “We have to do a better job explaining our policies and setting expectations for acceptable behavior on our service.”</p> <p>Twitter came under fire last week for temporarily disabling the account of actress and director Rose McGowan. She had used the social media platform to name and shame alleged offenders in the entertainment industry following sexual-assault allegations directed toward Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein. Twitter at the time said her account was temporarily locked for posting a private phone number.</p> <p>Women boycotted the site for a day to protest, and some complained that Twitter’s swift action in</p>

	suspending McGowan’s account contrasted with the company’s usual ambivalence in policing users who troll women with sexual and violent content. Some tweeted that silencing a sexual assault victim discourages other women from reporting their experiences.
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HEADLINE	10/17 Facebook challenge: donuts, arrest
SOURCE	https://www.nbcnews.com/news/crime-courts/michigan-man-turns-himself-after-police-complete-his-facebook-challenge-n811526
GIST	<p>A man wanted on two probation violations followed through Monday on his unusual promise to police in Redford Township, Michigan: Get 1,000 shares on their next Facebook post and he'd hand himself over, along with donuts and a promise to clean up litter around public schools.</p> <p>"Yeah I'm not worried about it," Michael Zaydel, 21, wrote in what appeared to be a private Facebook message sent to the department. Redford police used a screenshot of his message as a Facebook post earlier this month. It had been shared more than 4,000 times by midday Wednesday.</p> <p>In the Oct. 6 post accepting the challenge police wrote, “Donuts!!!! He promised us donuts! You know how much we love Donuts!”</p> <p>Police announced Zaydel arrived at approximately 6:30 p.m. Monday with donuts in hand. They thanked the public for supporting the search in a Facebook post.</p> <p>"We would again like to express our gratitude for the support of all who followed this, shared it, and left us positive feedback," police wrote.</p> <p>Zaydel was charged with misdemeanors for two probation violations, one for operating a vehicle impaired and another for attempted assault, police told NBC news.</p>
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Terror Conditions

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HEADLINE	10/17 The terror group as brutal as ISIS
SOURCE	http://nypost.com/2017/10/17/the-terror-group-as-brutal-as-isis/
GIST	<p>A young girl accused of adultery is forced into a hole in the ground and buried up to her neck in front of about 1,000 spectators who have come to the football stadium to watch her death.</p> <p>Aisha Ibrahim Duhulow, 13, pleads for her captors to “don’t kill me” before a truckload of stones is rolled in and about 50 fighters from the al-Shabaab militia start to hurl them towards her.</p> <p>She’s being punished for reporting that three men had raped her in the southern port city of Kismayo in Somalia.</p> <p>After about 10 minutes of being violently struck by stones, two nurses are instructed to dig up Duhulow and check if she’s still alive. She is. Barely. So they put her back into the hole and the men continue to pelt stones at her until she is dead.</p> <p>“This child suffered a horrendous death at the behest of the armed opposition groups,” Amnesty International’s Somalia campaigner David Copeman said at the time.</p> <p>It was October 27, 2008, and the terror group responsible for the killing was relatively new but since then it has grown bigger and deadlier.</p>

Al-Shabaab — a terror group lesser known than ISIS but just as brutal — imposes its own version of Islamic law, which includes dress regulations and public mutilations, and has an estimated 7,000 to 9,000 fighters. The name translates to “The Youth” in Arabic.

It’s been responsible for the deaths of thousands of people in a string of guerrilla-style terror attacks, making it Africa’s deadliest Islamic extremist group.

The group is suspected to be responsible for the deadly truck bombing which killed at least 276 people and injured 300 on a crowded Mogadishu street on Saturday.

The blast occurred in Hodan, a bustling commercial district which has many shops, hotels and businesses in the city’s northwest.

Several experts said the truck was probably carrying at least 1,100 pounds of explosives. A second car bomb exploded two hours later, injuring two people.

Somalia’s government blamed the al-Qaeda-linked al-Shabaab extremist group for what it called a “national disaster.”

However, al-Shabaab, which often targets high-profile areas of the capital, is yet to comment. The group has a history of not claiming attacks where the scale provokes massive public outrage.

Al-Shabaab carries out regular suicide bombings in Mogadishu in its bid to overthrow Somalia’s internationally-backed government. It has already killed more than 4,281 people, according to data from the Armed Conflict Location and Event Dataset.

It has also been known to cut off the hands of alleged thieves and regularly stones those accused of adultery to death.

Somalia has been battling al-Shabaab insurgents since 2007 with the help of 22,000 troops from the African Union and a US counter-terrorism campaign.

The militants emerged out of a bitter insurgency fighting Ethiopia, whose troops entered Somalia in a US-backed invasion in 2006 to topple the Islamic Courts Union that was then controlling Mogadishu.

Al-Shabaab militants were pushed out of Mogadishu and other major towns across Somalia by African Union and Somali troops in 2011. But the al-Shabaab militants maintained control of rural areas and have continued to launch attacks on military, government and civilian targets in Somalia, as well as terrorist raids in neighboring Kenya and Ethiopia.

The Garissa University massacre in Kenya, which took place near the border with Somalia, was the bloodiest attack in the region prior to the truck bombing last weekend.

A total of 148 people died in 2015 when gunmen stormed the university at dawn and targeted Christian students.

It followed an attack on Nairobi’s Westgate shopping center in 2013, in which at least 68 people were killed. In Westgate and other attacks, the militants spared Muslims, while killing those unable to recite verses from the Koran.

According to the Nairobi-based Sahan think tank, at least 723 people were killed and over 1,000 injured in bomb attacks during 2016 in Somalia.

Prior to last weekend, there hadn’t been a major terrorist attack in the country since Somalia’s presidential election in February. But the latest explosion has shattered hopes of recovery in an impoverished country left fragile by decades of conflict and again raised doubts over the government’s ability to secure the

	<p>seaside city of more than two million people.</p> <p>The recent attacks in Somalia came after the new government threatened to renew efforts to tackle radical Islamic terror in the region and the US military stepped up its focus on the extremist group.</p> <p>In a mysterious move, Somalia’s defense minister Abdirashid Abdullahi Mohamed and army chief General Ahmed Jimale Gedi both resigned last week, without an explanation.</p> <p>The Aamin Ambulance group, an independent organization based in Mogadishu, said the attack was a grim new milestone in the war.</p> <p>“In our 10-year experience as the first responder in #Mogadishu, we haven’t seen anything like this,” it tweeted.</p> <p>Earlier this year, the country teetered on the brink of famine, in large part because of the effect of fighting on agriculture and the distribution of humanitarian aid.</p>
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HEADLINE	10/17 Malaysia: arrests in festival bomb plot
SOURCE	https://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2017/10/17/three-arrested-in-malaysia-for-suspected-beer-festival-bomb-plot/
GIST	<p>Malaysian police arrested three people, including a teenager, suspected of planning to detonate a bomb at an annual beer festival in the capital, the police chief said on Tuesday.</p> <p>The two-day “Better Beer Festival” was cancelled last month following objections from an Islamist party, which said the event could lead to rape and other crime and free sex.</p> <p>A construction contractor, a former soldier and a 19-year-old student with links to the Islamic State militant group were arrested in the northern state of Kelantan last Tuesday on suspicion of planning the attack, Inspector-General of Police Mohamad Fuzi Harun told reporters.</p> <p>“The suspects had plans to attack the beer festival, houses of worship and entertainment outlets in Kuala Lumpur and surrounding areas,” he said. The former soldier, 34, had provided funds to the student that were used to produce and test improvised explosive devices (IEDs) for use in the attacks, Mohamad Fuzi said. Police had seized materials used for making three IEDs with an estimated blast radius of 30 metres, he said.</p> <p>“It’s a big area,” he said. “It would have caused a lot of deaths if set off at the beer festival.”</p> <p>The contractor, a 25-year-old man, was suspected to be linked to a militant cell that had carried out a grenade attack on a bar on the outskirts of the capital last year, Mohamad Fuzi said. The attack on the Movida bar, which wounded eight people, was ordered by a Syrian-based Malaysian militant and is considered to be the first successful attack by the Islamic State in the country.</p> <p>Police were still investigating whether the three suspects had received orders from other parties. Around 6,000 people had been expected to attend the “Better Beer Festival”, showcasing craft beers from at least 11 countries, according to the event’s organisers. Protests against events considered ‘Western’ and unIslamic are common in Muslim-majority Malaysia and are usually led by the opposition Pan-Malaysian Islamic Party (PAS) and conservative Islamist NGOs.</p>
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HEADLINE	10/18 Philippines: widow recruited militants
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SOURCE	http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/philippines-militants-widow-recruited-foreign-fighters-50550982
GIST	<p>Philippine authorities said Wednesday they have arrested a militant leader's widow who recruited foreign fighters and spread extremist propaganda related to the siege of a southern city by fighters linked to the Islamic State group.</p> <p>Complaints for 14 counts of inciting to rebellion have been filed before the Department of Justice against Filipina Karen Aizha Hamidon, who was presented at a news conference by Justice Secretary Vitaliano Aguirre II.</p> <p>She was arrested on Oct. 11 and was said to have been married to Mohammad Jaafar Maguid of the small but violent Islamic group Ansar Khalifa Philippines who was killed in January in a clash with police in southern Sarangani province.</p> <p>"She gained international notoriety in the middle of 2016 when she successfully recruited several Indian nationals to come to the Philippines and join the radical Islamic extremist groups in Mindanao," Aguirre said.</p> <p>On the day of her arrest, she allegedly posted a message on her Telegram instant messaging app inviting Muslims to join IS-linked militants who have laid siege on southern Marawi city. Forensic examinations on her cellphone showed 296 posts of the same message promoting rebellion in Marawi, the National Bureau of Investigation said.</p> <p>The NBI, an agency under the Department of Justice, said Hamidon was also the ex-wife of a Singaporean, Muhammad Shamin Mohammed Sidek, detained there for alleged ties to the IS group. The agency also said she is being investigated in other countries for possible links to international terrorist financing.</p>
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HEADLINE	10/18 Al Qaeda set to gain as ISIS disintegrates
SOURCE	https://apnews.com/465085127cbd428fbac51d52732a5c8e/Al-Qaida-set-to-gain-as-Islamic-State-disintegrates
GIST	<p>BEIRUT (AP) — Over several nights in September, some 10,000 men, women and children fled areas under Islamic State control, hurrying through fields in northern Syria and risking fire from government troops to reach a province held by an al-Qaida-linked group.</p> <p>For an untold number of battle-hardened jihadis fleeing with the civilians, the escape to Idlib province marked a homecoming of sorts, an opportunity to continue waging war alongside an extremist group that shares much of the Islamic State's ideology — and has benefited from its prolonged downfall.</p> <p>While the U.S.-led coalition and Russian-backed Syrian troops have been focused on driving IS from the country's east, an al-Qaida-linked insurgent coalition known as the Levant Liberation Committee has consolidated its control over Idlib, and may be looking to return to Osama bin Laden's strategy of attacking the West.</p> <p>Syrian activists with contacts in the area say members of the Levant Liberation Committee vouched for fleeing IS fighters they had known before the two groups split four years ago and allowed them to join, while others were sent to jail. The activists spoke on condition of anonymity because they still visit the area and fear reprisals from the jihadis.</p> <p>IS has lost nearly all the territory it once controlled in Syria and Iraq, including the northern Iraqi city of Mosul — the largest it ever held — and the northern Syrian city of Raqqa, which once served as its de facto capital. Tens of thousands of its fighters have been killed on the battlefield, but an untold number</p>

have escaped. As it gradually disintegrates, theological splits have also emerged within the organization, including the rise of a faction that blames its leader, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, for the setbacks.

“Al-Qaida will welcome ISIS members with open arms, those are battle-hardened with potent field experience,” said Fawaz Gerges, a professor at the London School of Economics and the author of “ISIS: A History.”

The two groups both sprang from al-Qaida in Iraq, which emerged in the years after the 2003 U.S.-led invasion, but split over ideology and leadership in 2013 and battled each other across northern Syria. Earlier this month, IS attacked the Levant Liberation Committee again, in what was seen as a revenge attack after the defections.

While IS went on to carve out a proto-state in large parts of Syria and Iraq and declared an Islamic caliphate in 2014, the al-Qaida militants allied themselves with other Syrian insurgent groups and cultivated grass-roots support by providing aid and other services to civilians. They remained focused on the war against Syrian President Bashar Assad’s forces, although they’ve also crushed several small U.S.-backed rebel factions.

But despite formally severing ties with al-Qaida last year and repeatedly changing its name, the group is still widely seen as a loyal affiliate of the global network that carried out the Sept. 11 attacks. Brett McGurk, the top U.S. envoy for the coalition battling the Islamic State group, has said Idlib is the largest al-Qaida haven since bin Laden’s days in Afghanistan.

Two Iraqi intelligence officials told The Associated Press in Baghdad that bin Laden’s successor, Ayman al-Zawahri, sent an envoy to Syria to convince IS fighters to defect and join his group. The officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to brief reporters, said this might have been the reason behind an audiotape released by IS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi on Sept. 28, in which he ordered his fighters not to “retreat, run away, negotiate or surrender.”

While al-Qaida may yet regain the mantle of worldwide jihad, it could also come under increasing threat in its bastion in northwestern Syria, as the forces arrayed against IS shift their focus to a new potentially worldwide threat.

“The honeymoon period for al-Qaida, in which the so-called Islamic State absorbed most of the counterterrorism focus while al-Qaida’s affiliates grew stronger, is coming to an end,” according to an analysis by the Soufan Group security consultancy.

“It now appears Zawahiri is seeking to consolidate the terror network and return the group to its heyday as the vanguard of a global movement,” it added. That could place the militants in the crosshairs of the international coalition.

Turkey launched a limited military operation in Idlib last week aimed at imposing a “de-escalation zone,” one of several set up across Syria under an agreement between Turkey, Iran and Russia. The Turkish troops have yet to confront al-Qaida, but that could change if it comes to be seen as a regional or international threat.

Meanwhile, Assad’s forces, fresh from victories against IS in eastern Syria, may switch their focus to Idlib, the largest remaining insurgent bastion in the country. Russia, which has been waging an air campaign in support of Assad since 2015, struck an al-Qaida gathering in Idlib earlier this month, and claimed to have killed several militant commanders.

The U.S.-led coalition has targeted al-Qaida militants on several occasions in recent years, aiming to disrupt what U.S. officials say is a secretive cell known as the Khorasan group that is planning external attacks. A U.S. airstrike killed al-Qaida’s second in command, former bin Laden aide Abu al-Kheir al-Masri, in Syria earlier this year.

HEADLINE	10/17 US to Pakistan: rescue or SEALs will
SOURCE	https://www.nytimes.com/2017/10/17/world/asia/hostage-rescue-pakistan-navy-seals.html? r=2&referer=
GIST	<p>WASHINGTON — A C.I.A. drone was circling a remote valley in northwest Pakistan last month when it picked up an unusual sight: a young woman and children in a militant camp. To intelligence analysts, she appeared to be an American abducted five years earlier while backpacking in Afghanistan with her Canadian husband.</p> <p>The grainy images were a breakthrough. Military planners mobilized members of the Navy’s SEAL Team 6, an elite group of commandos, to mount a rescue, according to senior American officials. But the operation was called off amid concerns, and days later, the C.I.A. watched in alarm as militants drove the family out of the camp and across Pakistan’s lawless tribal lands.</p> <p>The top American diplomat in Pakistan, Ambassador David Hale, turned to his host country, one of the officials said, delivering an urgent message to the Pakistani government: Resolve this, or the United States will.</p> <p>The implication was clear. If the Pakistanis did not act decisively, the United States would set aside its unease and launch a raid deep inside the country to free the family. It would be another humiliating episode for the Pakistani government, reminiscent of the operation that killed Osama bin Laden in 2011, conducted by the same elite Navy SEAL commandos well into Pakistan without its government’s knowledge. And a failure to act would underscore American officials’ belief that the Pakistani government gives safe haven to the Taliban-linked Haqqani network that had kidnapped the family.</p> <p>Pakistani officials said they acted within hours. With assistance from American intelligence, they located the vehicle and rescued the family last week in a dramatic confrontation with its captors. Inside the car were Caitlan Coleman, 31; Joshua Boyle, 34, her Canadian husband; and their three children.</p> <p>The rescue ended an intensive effort by American intelligence officials to locate the couple — who had been taken hostage in October 2012 — and their children. When she and Mr. Boyle were kidnapped, Ms. Coleman was seven months pregnant; she gave birth four times in captivity.</p> <p>The C.I.A. declined to comment. Trump administration officials cast the rescue as a win for Pakistan without publicly acknowledging that officials there had to be pressured into conducting the operation.</p> <p>“This is a positive moment for our country’s relationship with Pakistan,” President Trump said in a statement.</p> <p>Efforts to free the family had stalled repeatedly, and the family’s time as hostages was harsh. Mr. Boyle has said that his wife was raped and that the Taliban killed one of their children shortly after birth, an allegation the militants have denied.</p> <p>But last month, the American intelligence community caught a break. The C.I.A. had positioned the drone over a Haqqani encampment in the Kurram Valley, a region near Pakistan’s border with Afghanistan. It spotted the woman believed to be Ms. Coleman among the armed fighters.</p> <p>The commandos of SEAL Team 6, tapped to rescue the family, started rehearsing. The raid was to take place not far from where the C.I.A. had originally spotted the family, according to one military official.</p> <p>But the risky operation planned on Pakistani soil was called off because some in the United States government were not certain that the people spotted by the drones were Ms. Coleman, Mr. Boyle and their children, according to the officials. Others voiced worries about the difficult terrain and the moon — it was too bright for a nighttime airborne raid.</p>

Why the Haqqanis decided to move the family is not clear. But on Oct. 11, as they headed toward Kohat, a city farther inside Pakistan, American intelligence officials realized they could not let the opportunity to save the family slip by — the United States had to act.

American officials formed a plan to press the Pakistani government. Mr. Trump was briefed, and Defense Secretary Jim Mattis and Secretary of State Rex W. Tillerson both backed the idea that should the Pakistani government decline to try to rescue the family, the Navy SEALs would go in.

Officials said that as Mr. Hale, the ambassador, conveyed the Trump administration's demands, other senior officials, including Gen. Joseph L. Votel, who oversees American military operations in the Middle East and southwest Asia as head of the United States Central Command, were also applying pressure.

The push worked. American officials said the Pakistanis acted quickly, intercepting the vehicle with Ms. Coleman and her family. According to Pakistani security officials, they were able to shoot out the tires of the vehicle, but the captors manage to flee.

Mr. Boyle has said a gun battle ensued before he and his family were freed, but American officials remained skeptical and a Pakistani military spokesman has said only that the vehicle's tires were blown out.

In an interview after he was freed, Mr. Boyle praised the Pakistanis: "Our gratitude is boundless."

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HEADLINE	10/17 Fall of Raqqa and future of ISIS
SOURCE	https://www.usnews.com/news/world/articles/2017-10-17/the-fall-of-raqqa-and-the-future-of-isis
GIST	<p>The Islamic State group has all but lost the capital of its so-called caliphate in the Syrian city of Raqqa, U.S. defense officials confirm, dealing a major strategic and symbolic blow to the apocalyptic extremist network that experts and officials fear will now evolve.</p> <p>Roughly 100 fighters from the Islamic State group, also known as ISIS, remain in the city in north-central Syria that was once home to a few hundred thousand citizens and just three years ago was the epicenter of some of the extremist group's most gruesome public displays, including mass executions and other acts of brutality.</p> <p>The Islamic State group is "on the verge of a devastating defeat," U.S. Army Col. Ryan Dillon, a spokesman for the headquarters overseeing the war, said Tuesday morning from Baghdad. He described Islamic State group-held territory as "a cesspool of brutal lies, torture and oppression."</p> <p>The city is in ruins following a devastating U.S.-led air campaign. A force of U.S.-backed Syrian rebels — predominantly Arab but reportedly led by some Kurdish officers — continues to root out the remaining extremists. The coalition, Dillon says, is now focused on the remaining Islamic State group strongholds, centered on the Euphrates River valley in eastern Syria and western Iraq, as well as the Syrian city of Deir Ezzor.</p> <p>He took caution not to celebrate the demise of the Islamic State group, which "remains a very real threat here in Iraq," and cited the roughly 6,500 fighters that still occupy the region.</p> <p>Symbolically, the Islamic State group has lost the jewel of the empire at the center of its propaganda claims that it had created a haven of pure Islam for believers willing to travel there and fight for its cause.</p> <p>But tactically, the group remains viable. In the early stages of the campaign to liberate Raqqa, intelligence sources marked the departure of its centralized decision-making cells and senior leadership, leaving behind a band of loyal fighters prepared to fight to the death. This has become a common pattern seen in other</p>

cities to which the U.S.-led coalition laid siege, including Mosul and Fallujah in Iraq.

The Islamic State group remains capable of recruiting foreign fighters and directing them to carry out attacks. And just because it continues to cede ground doesn't necessarily mean it's lost its ability to rally disaffected locals in Iraq and Syria, experts say.

The narrative of the Islamic State group is that it put up a strong defense on behalf of the local Sunni Muslim population in the countries where it operates against what it has characterized as a global conspiracy, underwritten by an axis of the U.S., Iran, Russia and the Kurdish separatist militia known as the PKK.

"That narrative is very powerful because it actually appears [to Syrians and Iraqis] to be true," says Jennifer Cafarella, lead intelligence planner at the Institute for the Study of War, which tracks the movements of the Islamic State group and the territory it controls, along with that of U.S. backed forces and the other fighting groups in the region, such as Iran-sponsored proxy militias and Syrian forces backed by the Russian government.

"The U.S. has not taken any action meaningfully against the Assad regime, has not taken any action meaningfully to constrain Iran's role in either Syria or Iraq, much less Russia's role," Cafarella says. "We shouldn't underestimate the resonance of that narrative."

The U.S. has not countered that narrative, and indeed defense officials have openly embraced the idea of Iranian, Russian or Syrian government forces operating in Syria provided they focus on the common goal of defeating the Islamic State group.

"If Russia or any other actors want to target ISIS, that is very welcome and is something that we are OK with," Dillon told reporters from Baghdad on June 23.

The U.S. maintains an open line with the Russian military to "deconflict" their respective air wars, and in recent months officials from both sides have begun meeting in person to discuss the positions of their respective forces.

Dillon's statement not only plays into the Islamic State group's propaganda but also highlights to some with experience in the region how unprepared the U.S. government has been – for years – to handle the inevitable security quagmire that will exist in Syrian territory formerly occupied by the Islamic State group once each of these well-armed, well-financed fighting forces doesn't have a common enemy to unite their cause.

The Islamic State group has already proven its ability to lie in wait for an opportunity to capitalize on regional instability, as it did following its decimation as al-Qaida in Iraq in 2011 only to rise again under its current brand in 2013. The components are already in place for a similar security nightmare to exist once again.

"The Assad regime and Iranian-led militia are absolute poison to any concept of stabilizing an area with something that looks like legitimate governance," says Frederic Hof, a former top adviser to the Obama administration on Syria policy until 2012, now director of the Rafik Hariri Center for the Middle East at the Atlantic Council.

Hof believes Dillon's statement in June reflects a lack of any policy guidance from the White House for stabilizing Syria in the aftermath of conflict against the Islamic State group. This void began under President Barack Obama, who, Hof says, never really invested in developing networks of locals that would take over to govern liberated parts of eastern Syria and "seal the victory."

Dillon said Tuesday that the Syrian commander selected to oversee security for Raqqa once it is liberated was killed by an improvised explosive device on Monday, as were members of 10 families trying to return to their homes.

"I have very little confidence that there is anything resembling an executable, post-combat stabilization plan for eastern Syria. I have heard senior American military officers say that one does not exist," Hof says.

Leaders of the Islamic State group now only need places to hide and an amorphous network of cyber operatives through which they can recruit, raise money, plan attacks and foment anger at the Shiite Muslim-led governments in Iraq and Syria as well as their international backers.

The Islamic State group's attempted transplantation into Libya was well documented last year, as has been the U.S.-led effort to oust it from strongholds like the port city of Sirte. But reports have also emerged of Islamic State group cells operating in Turkey and Lebanon, in Afghanistan, where rumors of an alliance with the Taliban persist, and as far away as the Philippines or other hotspots for Islamic extremism in southeast Asia.

"Given the fact that ISIS has become something of a decentralized franchise operation," Hof says, "it's clear that the victory in Raqqa does not spell the end of ISIS, per se."

As for whether the Islamic State group believes it can once again rise and retake territory, Cafarella says, "absolutely."

"It's a matter of timing. These guys don't give up," she says. "That's why I'm very worried about making sure we don't overestimate the significance of these tactical gains against ISIS, because ISIS is an extraordinarily resilient organization and it has come back from worse in a relatively short time frame."

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HEADLINE	10/17 ISIS caliphate dissolves; ideology spreads
SOURCE	http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2017/oct/17/isis-to-spread-ideology-operations-around-world-af/
GIST	<p>With the Islamic State's two main pillars of its so-called caliphate now in the hands of the U.S.-backed coalition, the terrorist group is looking to decentralize and expand its operations through outposts in Libya, Afghanistan and the Philippines as it attempts to recoup its battlefield losses in Iraq and Syria.</p> <p>Tuesday's liberation of the Islamic State's self-proclaimed Syrian capital of Raqqa represents the high-water mark of success for the U.S.-led coalition against the terrorist group since Washington and its allies in Iraq and Syria began to roll back its territorial gains three years ago.</p> <p>Raqqa was one of the first major metropolitan areas to fall under the Islamic State banner when the group began its violent campaign across Syria and northern Iraq, and it had been the group's spiritual home and main hub for planning and executing attacks around the globe.</p> <p>The city's liberation by coalition forces has crippled Islamic State's ability to recruit fighters, raise money and carry out attacks against the West, Army Col. Ryan Dillon, the top U.S. military spokesman in Iraq, told reporters Tuesday at the Pentagon.</p> <p>Islamic State revenue from illegal oil sales have been slashed by 90 percent, Col. Dillon said during a briefing from coalition headquarters in Baghdad. The flow of foreign fighters to the region, which had topped 1,500 individuals a month, is "down to near zero today," he added.</p> <p>Leaders of the Syrian Democratic Forces, the loose collection of Arab and Kurdish paramilitaries battling Islamic State in Syria, said Tuesday they had taken control of Raqqa's government center, municipal stadium and Paradise Square — where the terrorist group would conduct public executions.</p> <p>The majority of Syrian fighters loyal to Islamic State fled the advancing SDF assault this week, with the</p>

remaining cadre of local jihadis escaping the onslaught Monday night, according to local reports. A handful of foreign fighters remain scattered throughout Raqqa, representing a shadow of what was once the crown jewel in Islamic State's "caliphate" in the Middle East.

"Everything is finished in Raqqa. Our forces have taken full control of Raqqa," SDF spokesman Talal Sello told Agence France-Presse. Militiamen, backed by U.S. air power, continue to clear pockets of Islamic State resistance in the city.

But Col. Dillon warned that even with the caliphate in shambles, the virulent ideology and fanaticism that spurred Islamic State's meteoric rise in the Middle East remains.

"Even after the defeat, the military defeat of ISIS there's still going to be work to be done," said Col. Dillon. "ISIS will be defeated militarily, but we know that there still is going to be the ideology and the continued insurgent activity as they devolve into that."

The Islamic State's loss of Raqqa and Mosul, the northern Iraqi city that served as its main stronghold in the country and where leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi announced the creation of the group's caliphate, sounds the death knell for the group's goal of creating a radical state in the Middle East.

But Islamic State's extremist core beliefs have spread into contested territories in Southwest Asia and North Africa, and have metastasized into previously untouched regions such as the Pacific.

"While their territory continues to shrink, they remain a credible terror threat both at home and abroad, so we must continue to fight against the affiliate groups and their networks that carry out and inspire terror around the globe," Rep. Michael T. McCaul, Texas Republican and chairman of the House Homeland Security Committee, said in a statement Tuesday.

Backed by U.S. air power and heavy artillery, Arab and Kurdish militias tied to the SDF were in the midst of the four-month campaign to wrest Raqqa from Islamic State control — but the group already was shifting its focus to reclaiming territory in war-torn Libya.

U.S.-backed militias had largely crushed Islamic State's Libya operation in late 2015, but signs that the group is gaining a new foothold in the North African nation began emerging last month. Images of Islamic State fighters moving through the vast deserts around their former stronghold in Libya's northern coastal city of Sirte circulated through the terrorist group's social media and online propaganda sites in mid-September.

While the Trump White House for months has publicly resisted a major U.S. military role in Libya, the Pentagon wasted little time responding to the flurry of Islamic State activity there. On Sept. 22, military officials announced that American fighter jets had been dispatched to pound an Islamic State encampment roughly 150 miles south of Sirte.

Sleeper cells reportedly are terrorizing neighborhoods and villages surrounding Sirte, and their ranks will likely expand over the coming weeks and months as veterans of the wars in Iraq and Syria will be absorbed into the group's North African wing, national security sources say.

In May, Marine Gen. Joseph Dunford, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told reporters that the U.S. military's "strategic approach" centers on severing the "connectivity between ISIS affiliates" and the remnants of the group's leadership currently dug into safe havens in Syria's Deir-e-Zour region.

"We're doing this," Gen. Dunford said at the time, "in Libya, Somalia and Syria, Yemen and Afghanistan."

In Afghanistan, the group's faction known as Islamic State in Iraq and Syria — Khorasan Group, or ISIS-K, continued to bludgeon the country's security forces from bases in eastern Afghanistan's Nangarhar province and areas along the border with Pakistan.

	<p>Most recently, U.S. counterterrorism forces in Afghanistan launched a drone strike against suspected Islamic State targets in the Kunar province, reportedly killing 14 militants, The Associated Press reported Saturday. The strike targeted a suspected meeting of ISIS-K commanders in the Chawkay district of Kunar, Abdul Ghani Musamim, spokesman for the provincial governor Wahidullah Kalimzai, told the AP.</p> <p>The strike comes as ISIS-K operatives increasingly have targeted the country's capital of Kabul, claiming responsibility for a Sept. 29 bombing of a Shiite mosque in the heart of the city that killed five and wounded scores of civilians.</p> <p>The rise of Islamic State in Afghanistan comes as U.S. forces are entering their 17th year of war in the country. Another country with a long and storied history of military ties to the U.S., the Philippines, also is dealing with its own Islamic State insurgency.</p>
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HEADLINE	10/17 ISIS illustrates threat to World Cup 2018
SOURCE	http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/world-news/isis-vow-target-2018-world-11355735
GIST	<p>Islamic State terrorists have issued a chilling threat to attack the 2018 World Cup in Russia.</p> <p>They have swamped social media with an image of a rifle-carrying Jihadi and a bomb bearing the regime's infamous black flag.</p> <p>It stands in front of Volgograd Arena in Southern Russia football stadium.</p> <p>An official symbol of the finals is also included in the alarming promise to bring mayhem to the tournament.</p> <p>The 2018 FIFA World Cup will be played across 11 cities in Russia from 14 June to 15 July, when the final will be played at the Luzhniki Stadium in Moscow.</p> <p>Tens of thousands of England fans are expected to base themselves in St Petersburg for the month-long finals.</p> <p>Russia's second largest city was scene of an horrific ISIS attack when a briefcase bomb detonated on the underground in April, killing 14 people.</p> <p>The blast was in retaliation to Russia's airstrikes in Syria that have helped bring the regime to its knees.</p>
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HEADLINE	10/18 Germany extends Afghan, Mali deployments
SOURCE	http://www.foxnews.com/world/2017/10/18/germany-approves-extension-afghanistan-mali-deployments.html
GIST	<p>BERLIN – Chancellor Angela Merkel's Cabinet has approved extending Germany's military deployments in Afghanistan, Mali and several other nations — but only for three months as she seeks to form a new government.</p> <p>The dpa news agency reported Wednesday the Cabinet also approved continuing reconnaissance flights in support of the fight against the Islamic State in Syria and Iraq, training Kurdish militias in northern Iraq, and other missions.</p> <p>Extending the deployments still needs parliamentary approval but the move is not expected to be contentious.</p>

Germany normally extends such missions for a year but after winning September's election Merkel is now seeking to form a new government. The three-month extension is expected to give her enough time to do that, and after that the new government will have to readdress the issue.

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HEADLINE	10/17 ISIS defeat Raqqa; wider struggle for US?
SOURCE	http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-raqqa-usa-analys/defeat-of-islamic-state-in-raqqa-may-herald-wider-struggle-for-u-s-idUSKBN1CM39L
GIST	<p>WASHINGTON (Reuters) - The defeat of Islamic State in its de facto capital Raqqa may only be the start of a wider struggle by the United States to contain any insurgency launched by the militant group and to stabilize the region, as Washington grapples with defining a comprehensive strategy in Syria.</p> <p>U.S.-backed militias declared victory over Islamic State in Raqqa on Tuesday, raising flags over the last jihadist footholds after a four-month battle. The Sunni militant group often referred to as ISIS, overran Raqqa in January 2014, seizing control from rebel factions opposed to the rule of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad.</p> <p>“While recapturing Raqqa is important symbolically, talk about almost a pyrrhic victory,” said Bilal Saab, a senior fellow at the Middle East Institute. “Addressing the economic, political grievances of the Sunnis so that another ISIS doesn’t come about will be as important as the military fight.”</p> <p>Raqqa was the first big city Islamic State captured, before its rapid series of victories in Iraq and Syria brought millions of people under the rule of its self-declared caliphate, which passed laws and issued passports and money.</p> <p>Islamic State has lost much of its territory in Syria and Iraq this year, including its most prized possession, the Iraqi city of Mosul. In Syria, it has been forced back into a strip of the Euphrates valley and surrounding desert.</p> <p>Middle East analysts said that among the wide array of problems exposed after Islamic State’s ouster from Raqqa were where to find money to help rebuild the shattered city, how to support fledgling local government in the face of a likely insurgency and how to keep Assad, backed by Iran and Russia, from trying to regain control.</p> <p>“The real challenge is that ISIS will turn into a vengeful ghost, will try to stalk and to wreak havoc on the post-conflict security and governance and administration in order to undermine the U.S. and its partners,” said Nick Heras of the Center for a New American Security.</p> <p>A U.S. State Department official said Washington remained committed to a peace process in Geneva and supported the “broadest possible group of Syrian representatives in those discussions.”</p> <p>The official said that the United States and allies would continue to provide humanitarian assistance and support efforts to stabilize areas freed from Islamic State rule “to include continuing the removal of IEDs and other explosives ... restoring basic services and refurbishing schools.”</p> <p>The official said the U.S. goals included “supporting local governing bodies that are representative of the area, civilian-led, and credible in the eyes of the populations.”</p> <p>Assad’s use of force to crush an initially peaceful uprising against his family’s more than four-decade rule triggered the country’s civil war in 2011. The conflict helped create a vacuum that Islamic State eventually filled by seizing parts of Syria. Russia stepped in with military support for Assad in 2015.</p> <p>“The greatest challenge for Raqqa and local Syrian partners that are trying to rebuild Raqqa is the</p>

	<p>ambiguity of Trump administration Syria policy,” Heras said.</p> <p>“A signal needs to be sent that the U.S. intends to keep a residual force in the areas that it has conquered from ISIS in order to oversee the stabilization mission and to have the broader, publicly unstated aim, to constrain Iran’s ability to reconquer all of the country in the name of Assad,” he said.</p> <p>Several analysts said the United States does not appear to have a durable strategy to stabilize the region, let alone to revive the moribund U.N. talks in Geneva aimed at ending the civil war.</p> <p>A U.S. official who spoke on condition of anonymity said “If the Russians truly want to ... have something that will really put Syria back together, we will see if they are willing to return to the Geneva process.”</p> <p>Saab, of the Middle East Institute, suggested U.S. influence in Syria may be too slight to shape events.</p> <p>“Our investment has always been and will always be quite limited,” he said. “We have ceded the terrain to Russia and the Iranians and it’s almost too late now, for us, to get involved effectively, you have to have some skin in the game.”</p>
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HEADLINE	10/17 Pakistan: suicide bomber rams truck; kills 7
SOURCE	http://www.reuters.com/article/us-pakistan-blast/pakistani-taliban-suicide-bomber-rams-police-truck-kills-seven-idUSKBN1CNOFE?il=0
GIST	<p>QUETTA, Pakistan (Reuters) - A Pakistani Taliban suicide bomber rammed a car into a police truck in the southwestern city of Quetta on Wednesday, killing at least seven people, police said.</p> <p>The attack killed five police officials and two passers-by on the outskirts of the volatile frontier city, Quetta police chief Abdur Razzaq Cheema said. He said another 22 people were wounded, eight of them critically.</p> <p>Sarfraz Bugti, the home minister of Baluchistan province, told Reuters: “It was a suicide blast.” Quetta is the capital of Baluchistan province and lies about 100 km (60 miles) east of the border with Afghanistan.</p> <p>Bugti said the truck carrying the police officials was on its way to the city to drop them at their posts when the suicide bomber rammed into the vehicle, ripping it apart. Television pictures showed the burnt wreckage of the vehicles.</p> <p>The Pakistani Taliban, an umbrella of various militant groups within Pakistan and loosely allied to the Afghan Taliban, issued a statement claiming responsibility for the attack.</p>
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HEADLINE	10/17 Somalia bomb attack killed 2 Americans
SOURCE	https://www.nbcnews.com/news/world/somalia-bomb-attack-killed-two-u-s-citizens-state-department-n811681
GIST	<p>At least two U.S. citizens were among the 276 people killed in a huge truck bomb blast last weekend in Mogadishu, Somalia's capital, the State Department said Tuesday.</p> <p>It is believed to be the single deadliest attack ever in the Horn of Africa nation. At least 300 people were wounded in the blast Saturday, which occurred on a busy street near key ministries.</p> <p>"We want to extend our deepest condolences to all Somalis, especially those who lost their friends and family in the senseless and barbaric attacks, including at least two U.S. citizens who were killed," State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert said. "We further wish for a speedy recovery for all of those</p>

	<p>who were injured."</p> <p>A U.S. military plane carrying medical and other supplies landed in Mogadishu on Tuesday, the State Department said. The supplies were being distributed to Somali hospitals and trauma centers responding to the attack.</p> <p>The U.S. Agency for International Development's Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance also arranged for the delivery of emergency medical supplies, along with the deployment of emergency medical teams, the State Department said.</p>
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HEADLINE	10/17 Britain MI5: 500+ terror investigations
SOURCE	http://www.newsmax.com/Newsfront/MI5-impending-terror-attacks/2017/10/17/id/820323/
GIST	<p>Britain is currently running more than 500 terror investigations, with its intelligence services operating on a bigger scale due to the increase in threats, the head of MI5 said Tuesday.</p> <p>"The scale at which we are operating is greater than ever before," said Andrew Parker, head of Britain's domestic intelligence agency, in a speech in London.</p> <p>"We are now running well over 500 live operations involving around 3,000 individuals known to be currently involved in extremist activity in some way."</p> <p>British security forces are confronted by an increasing number of attack plots and have managed to foil 20 over the past four years, the MI5 chief said.</p> <p>"Just in the last seven months, we and the police have thwarted seven terrorist plots by Islamist extremists" of the total 20.</p> <p>Britain has been struck by five terror attacks so far this year, four in London and one in Manchester. They included bombings and deadly violence with vehicles and knives.</p> <p>Some of the assailants were among the 20,000 people known to security services.</p> <p>Parker said the threat is "more diverse than I've ever known" and involves "extremists of all ages, genders and backgrounds".</p> <p>And he warned the plots could be carried out very quickly.</p> <p>"Attacks can sometimes accelerate from inception through planning to action in just a handful of days," he said.</p> <p>"This pace, together with the way extremists can exploit safe spaces online can make threats harder to detect and give us a smaller window to intervene."</p> <p>Plots are developed both within the UK, abroad and online, he said, warning of the ease with which potential attackers can learn how to build a bomb on the internet.</p> <p>"We can't hope to stop everything," he admitted, despite a record 379 terror-related arrests in the 12 months to June.</p>
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HEADLINE	10/17 ISIS defeated in Iraq, Syria?
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SOURCE

<http://www.foxnews.com/world/2017/10/17/is-isis-defeated-in-iraq-and-syria.html>

GIST

The Islamic State, in the death throes of its hold on the Syrian city of Raqqa, is losing its foothold in the two nations where it established its bloody roots.

Once the owner -- or captor -- of a swath of land in Syria and Iraq, the militant group has lost control of its two key cities -- and half of the original territory it once brazenly terrorized.

Now, ISIS is reportedly "regrouping and recruiting" in other chaos-torn nations as its leader, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, resurfaces in cryptic audio messages, urging "soldiers of Islam and caliphate supporters" to remain focused on their victory.

ISIS was dealt a massive blow Tuesday when most of Raqqa was liberated from the militant fighters' hold by U.S.-backed Syrian troops. A U.S. military spokesperson told Fox News the city, once considered the capital of the terrorists' so-called caliphate, has been 90 percent recaptured, with fighting remaining only in a few select pockets where hardline militants have holed up.

It's unclear how -- or if -- Baghdadi plans to maintain or recapture ISIS' lost territory in Syria and Iraq. The leader's establishment of a "caliphate" after seizing control of Mosul in 2014 signaled the group plan to branch into other countries. ISIS is reportedly operational in 18 countries, including Afghanistan, Pakistan and Libya, the U.S. National Counterterrorism Center said in an August 2016 report. It also has "aspiring branches" in Bangladesh, Indonesia and the Philippines.

More fighters are expected to flow to Libya after the recent losses in Syria and Iraq. One U.S. official affiliated with the GNA, who requested anonymity, told Fox News in July the "political and security vacuum" that existed in Libya after longtime leader Muammar Qaddafi's death in 2011 "allowed ISIS to take root."

"ISIS still poses a threat not just to Libya," the U.S official added. "But to its neighbors, Europe and the United States."

Libya has been marred by conflict after 2011. The country also has Africa's largest reserves. Its oil fields and reserves are located south of Sirte.

Joseph Fallon, Islamic Extremism expert and U.K. Defense Forum research associate, also told Fox News "ISIS has retreated south of Sirte to regroup" and that its global threat cannot be underestimated.

But the group's first success was in the taking of Raqqa.

The terror group seized the city on the banks of Euphrates River from Syrian rebels in January 2014. It was the first Syrian city to fall under the group's control and helped to establish its power as ISIS began a reign of terror that included beheading, shooting, burning and drowning its opponents and hatching plots to export its brand of terror globally.

By June 2014, Iraq's second-largest city, Mosul, also fell under ISIS control. The militants pushed Iraqi forces out and captured Tikrit, former Iraqi Dictator Saddam Hussein's hometown, shortly after.

But after more than three years, ISIS lost control of the Iraqi city in July when a massive operation undertaken by U.S.-backed Iraqi forces squeezed the terrorists out. The city was declared "liberated" from ISIS' grip, but the destruction, after three years of brutal and bloody control, had a more lasting effect.

ISIS' days in Iraq and Syria appear numbered. At its peak, ISIS held territory in which 10 million people lived. On Tuesday, its presence in Iraq was down to a sliver of land along the Euphrates river valley bordering Syria, the BBC reported through information released by the HIS Conflict Monitor.

The group still holds about 81 miles of the Euphrates River Valley inside eastern central Syria. The war on ISIS has already shifted to the Deir el-Zour province that holds much of Syria's oil and gas resources —

which has been a key component of ISIS' success in maintaining power and funding its barbaric reign.

Despite losing significant territory, Baghdadi reportedly surfaced to address supporters in a 46-minute audio recording in September. It's unclear when the message was recorded, but that it purported to be from Baghdadi seemed to quash rumors the ISIS leader had been killed.

For the majority of the speech, Baghdadi attempted to appeal to ISIS supporters worldwide, according to an analysis Fox News obtained from MEMRI Jihad and Terrorism Threat Monitor. The global message may have been a nod to ISIS' dwindling territory in Syria and Iraq.

"Oh soldiers of Islam and caliphate supporters everywhere, intensify the successive attacks, and include the unbelievers' media headquarters and the ideological war centers among [your] targets," a voice believed to be Baghdadi said.

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HEADLINE	10/17 Lawsuit: firms bribes funded Iraq militia
SOURCE	https://www.nbcnews.com/news/mideast/suit-u-s-firms-bribes-funded-iraq-militia-attacks-americans-n811441
GIST	<p>WASHINGTON — A group of American veterans filed a federal lawsuit Tuesday against U.S. and European drug companies and medical device makers, accusing them of supporting an Iran-backed Iraqi militia that killed and wounded hundreds of Americans.</p> <p>The suit is filed under a law that allows Americans injured by terrorism overseas to seek civil damages. The more than 100 plaintiffs include injured U.S. Iraq war veterans and their families. The defendants are either parent companies or subsidiaries of AstraZeneca plc (AZN); Johnson & Johnson (JNJ); Pfizer Inc. (PFE); Roche Holding AG (RHHBY); and the General Electric Company (GE).</p> <p>The 203-page lawsuit accuses the companies of paying bribes to officials of Iraq's health ministry that benefited the Mahdi Army, an Iranian-backed militia that the suit says worked closely with Hezbollah, a Lebanese group that has been designated a terrorist organization by the U.S. government.</p> <p>The companies sold Iraq's government-run healthcare system millions of dollars worth of drugs and medical devices, and paid the bribes, the suit alleges, as a cost of doing business.</p> <p>After the U.S. invasion, Iraq's political factions divvied up government departments under a political spoils system, and the Mahdi Army's political wing took control of the health ministry. The state-owned drug purchasing monopoly, Kimadia, demanded a 20 percent "religious tax" from the vendors on every contract, the lawsuit said.</p> <p>"That policy required, as a general matter, companies doing business with Kimadia to pay commissions of at least 20 percent on every contract, the lawsuit says. "This was sometimes paid in the form of in-kind bribes but was often paid in cash as well. Such cash payments were typically called 'commissions' — the Iraqi euphemism for bribes. From 2004-2013, it was standard practice for companies dealing with (the Ministry of Health) to pay 'commissions' on every major sales contract."</p> <p>The in-kind bribes were in the form of what were known as "free goods," including drugs and medical devices, that Iraqi officials would sell on the black market, says the lawsuit, which specifically accuses each defendant of paying such bribes.</p> <p>The suit says the defendants paid the bribes even though they knew or should have known that the money was going to a dangerous armed faction.</p> <p>"Defendants knew or recklessly disregarded that their transactions helped fund Jaysh al-Mahdi attacks on Americans," the suit says, using an Arabic term for the Mahdi Army.</p>

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HEADLINE	10/17 Taliban launch wave of Afghan attacks
SOURCE	http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/afghan-officials-taliban-attacks-kill-10-policemen-50525614?cid=clicksource_76_4_article%20roll_articleroll_hed
GIST	<p>The Taliban unleashed a wave of attacks across Afghanistan on Tuesday, targeting police compounds and government facilities with suicide bombers in the country's south, east and west, and killing at least 74 people, officials said.</p> <p>Among those killed in one of the attacks was a provincial police chief. Scores were also wounded, both policemen and civilians.</p> <p>Afghanistan's deputy interior minister, Murad Ali Murad, called the onslaught the "biggest terrorist attack this year."</p> <p>Murad told a press conference in Kabul that attacks in Ghazni and Paktia provinces killed 71 people.</p> <p>In southern Paktia province, 41 people — 21 policemen and 20 civilians — were killed when the Taliban targeted a police compound in the provincial capital of Gardez with two suicide car bombs. Among the wounded were 48 policemen and 110 civilians.</p> <p>The provincial police chief, Toryalai Abdyani, was killed in the Paktia attack, Murad said.</p> <p>The Interior Ministry said in a statement earlier Tuesday that after the two cars blew up in Gardez, five attackers with suicide belts tried to storm the compound but were killed by Afghan security forces.</p> <p>Health Ministry spokesman Waheed Majroo said the Gardez city hospital reported receiving at least 130 wounded in the attack.</p> <p>In southern Ghazni province, the insurgents stormed a security compound in Andar district, using a suicide car bomb and killing 25 police and five civilians, Murad said. At least 15 people were wounded, including 10 policemen, he added.</p> <p>Arif Noori, spokesman for the provincial governor in Ghazni, said the Taliban attack there lasted nine hours. By the time the attackers were repelled, there were 13 bodies of Taliban fighters on the ground, Noori added.</p> <p>And in western Farah province, police chief Abdul Maruf Fulad says the Taliban attacked a government compound in Shibkho district, killing three policemen.</p> <p>The Taliban claimed responsibility for all three attacks.</p> <p>Despite the staggering numbers, Murad said Afghan forces are confident in their "readiness to fight terrorists and eliminate them from Afghanistan." He said the Taliban have suffered heavy defeats over the past six months at the hands of Afghan forces and were seeking revenge.</p> <p>Later on Tuesday, an Afghan official said drone strikes killed 35 Taliban fighters in the country's east, near the border with Pakistan.</p>
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HEADLINE **10/17 France: arrests in far-right terror plot**

SOURCE <http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/france-10-held-probe-alleged-terror-plot->

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GIST	<p>French counterterrorism police have arrested 10 people allegedly linked to a far-right extremist who already was in custody on suspicion of planning attacks against mosques, politicians and migrants.</p> <p>A French judicial official told The Associated Press that officers investigating the militant held the people detained on Tuesday under a possible charge of criminal terrorist association.</p> <p>The suspected extremist only has been identified as Logan N. He was arrested in June and given preliminary charges after intelligence agents learned of his alleged attacks. They claim he maintained a Facebook page glorifying Anders Behring Breivik, a convicted far-right Norwegian terrorist who killed 77 people.</p> <p>The police are questioning the 10 suspected associates to find out what they knew about Logan N.'s plans.</p>
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HEADLINE	10/17 Data: ISIS arrests, US travel ban
SOURCE	http://www.cnn.com/2017/10/17/politics/isis-arrests-travel-ban-countries-numbers/index.html
GIST	<p>(CNN)They called it the "US Project." Their goal, allegedly, was to carry out an ISIS terror attack on New York during Ramadan that would "show them what they hadn't seen in 2001."</p> <p>"NY needs to fall," wrote Talha Haroon to an undercover FBI agent. "It's a must."</p> <p>The three participants discussed planting explosives on subway trains, detonating a car bomb in Times Square and gunning down concertgoers in a mass shooting, according to recently unsealed court records.</p> <p>They even looked at concert listings for shows at indoor venues far from police stations.</p> <p>"I'm mad excited," Haroon wrote, according to the criminal complaint. "And may Allah cause great destruction to the filthy kuffars (non-believers) by our hands."</p> <p>They all lived outside the United States, so one of them rented a cabin near New York where they could build bombs, practice target shooting and coordinate logistics.</p> <p>"I wanna kill them in the thousands," Haroon wrote, according to the complaint. "We have to make an ocean out of their blood ... I wish we had someone to record their terrified screams."</p> <p>Stories like these, coupled with a wave of terror attacks in Europe, have heightened the fear that ISIS militants around the globe could be prepping to execute attacks on US soil.</p> <p>One of President Donald Trump's first major actions after taking office was signing an executive order placing temporary travel restrictions on seven Muslim-majority countries and suspending refugee admissions for 120 days. The executive order has been repeatedly revised in response to court challenges.</p> <p>On Wednesday, the new iteration of the travel ban goes into effect. People from eight countries -- six of them Muslim-majority nations -- will either be prohibited from entering the United States or will face enhanced background checks.</p> <p>The Trump administration says the policy will keep Americans safe from terrorism. But plots like the US Project illustrate the complexity in combating ISIS and other jihadist organizations. The travel ban would not have stopped the conspirators from coming to the United States. None of them are from the travel ban countries. Abdulrahman El Bahnasawy is a Canadian citizen, Haroon is an American citizen living in Pakistan and the Russel Salic is from the Philippines, according to court records.</p> <p>Federal law enforcement foiled the plot in 2016. The undercover FBI agent posed as an ISIS sympathizer</p>

and recorded their communications. El Bahnasawy, the Canadian, was arrested in New Jersey and pleaded guilty last year while the two others have been detained outside the US and are awaiting extradition.

There have been no domestic ISIS attacks carried out by individuals from the travel ban countries since the Supreme Court allowed portions of Trump's executive order to be implemented in June. Does that mean the policy has reduced the domestic terror threat? In fact, since 1975 there hasn't been a terror attack that cost US lives on US soil by someone from one of the original travel ban countries, according to a study by the libertarian Cato Institute. But this CNN analysis is concerned specifically with ISIS-related arrests, in particular after the travel ban was enacted.

The cause-effect relationship is unclear. About 91% of the people arrested for ISIS-related offenses in the US since 2014 have been American citizens and immigrants/visitors from non-travel ban countries, according to a review of DOJ arrest announcements and court records. The deadliest domestic terror attacks in the past four years -- shootings in Orlando and San Bernardino -- were carried out by two American citizens and an immigrant from Pakistan/Saudi Arabia. Neither country is on the travel ban list.

We looked back at ISIS arrests in the US since 2014 to assess whether restricting travel bolsters national security. Our focus was ISIS because the president first advocated travel restrictions for Muslim countries after the ISIS-inspired San Bernardino shooting.

Trump says the new rules will make America safer. A review of federal court records and Justice Department documents, supplemented with news reports, paints a much more nuanced picture. We looked at case files for 114 people who have been charged with ISIS-related offenses in the United States since 2014, the year the terror group seized vast swaths of Iraq and Syria.

Out of 114 arrestees, seventy-six are American citizens, according to court records and DOJ press releases. Another 21 people are naturalized citizens, legal permanent residents or visitors from countries not included in the travel ban. Four are undocumented immigrants from non-travel ban countries. Citizenship info was unavailable for four arrestees.

Three refugees have been arrested -- two from Bosnia and one from Iraq, which has been removed from the original list of travel ban countries.

Six arrestees are naturalized citizens or legal permanent residents from travel ban countries who came to the country long before the ban was in effect. Three are from Somalia, two are from Yemen and one is from Syria. Court records show no ISIS arrests for people from the other five designated countries: Libya, Iran, Chad, North Korea and Venezuela.

Five of the six individuals from travel ban countries were caught trying to leave the United States for ISIS territory or helping others make the trip. The sixth person, a naturalized citizen from Yemen, is an alleged ISIS recruiter who also reportedly plotted to kill US troops in America. Under a plea deal, the attempted murder charges were dropped and the man was sentenced to 22 ½ years in prison for supporting ISIS.

The most common criminal charge for alleged extremists is providing material support to a foreign terrorist organization. Individuals who make plans to go overseas to join ISIS can be charged with material support because, technically, they are providing personnel to the terror group.

More than 56% of the 114 ISIS suspects have been arrested for plotting to send fighters, money or tactical supplies to the terror group's self-declared caliphate in Iraq and Syria, suggesting the US could be exporting more to the ISIS fight than it is bringing in.

About 34% of cases are rooted in domestic terror threats. Some ISIS supporters are accused of planning nail bomb attacks or mass shootings but others have been arrested for retweeting ISIS propaganda and making threatening statements online. The remaining cases, about 9%, center on obstruction of justice, which can mean lying to the FBI about social media posts or past travel.

According to court documents, the FBI often finds ISIS suspects via Facebook and Twitter, examining accounts that glorify the terror group. In order to distinguish between Internet fabulists and dangerous individuals, the agency conducts sting operations with paid informants and undercover agents posing as ISIS supporters. This has led some defense attorneys to claim their clients were entrapped.

In one case, an undercover agent pretended to be a 19-year-old Muslim woman, sending flirtatious messages to a Michigan terror suspect that implied she wanted to be his ISIS bride, according to court records. At one point, the man said that he purchased rope to hang himself and the undercover agent responded that the only proper way for a Muslim to commit suicide is through an act of jihad. Although court records show the man discussed shooting people at a local church in the name of ISIS, the sting failed to yield a terrorism charge against him. He pleaded guilty to gun violations and was sentenced to five years in prison.

The threat of ISIS in the United States is not theoretical. There have been five major ISIS-inspired attacks since 2015 in which the perpetrators were killed by police, including the Pulse nightclub shooting and the San Bernardino massacre.

Out of the seven assailants who carried out the attacks, five were American, one was an immigrant from Pakistan/Saudi Arabia and one was a refugee from Somalia. Police killed him after he plowed his car into a crowd on the campus of Ohio State University last November, injuring 11. The travel ban would, indeed, have kept him out. But for all the fears about terrorists hiding among civilians fleeing war zones, Ohio State was the only domestic ISIS attack carried out by a refugee from a banned country in the past four years.

Since Trump took office in January, the United States has not been hit with any domestic attacks clearly linked to ISIS.

Was Trump's election the beginning of the end for ISIS in America? Actually, a decline in arrests took root during the final year of the Obama administration. In 2016, the number of ISIS arrests fell 55% compared with 2015. Arrests dropped from 60 in 2015 to 27 in 2016. In 2017, there have been 14 arrests so far. This correlates with a reduction in ISIS power and territory globally.

According to RAND, at ISIS' peak, it controlled 105,869 kilometers of territory in Iraq and Syria. By early 2017, this was reduced to 45,377 kilometers, a 57% decline. Funding has fallen from \$81 million a month in the second quarter of 2015 to \$16 million a month in the second quarter of 2017, an 80% drop.

Airstrikes killed at least 75% of ISIS fighters in Iraq and Syria between 2014 and 2016, according to US officials.

Although ISIS was on a downward trajectory before Trump took over the White House, he has repeatedly touted his administration's accomplishments. In July, he tweeted, "ISIS is on the run & will soon be wiped out of Syria & Iraq."

In September, he took another Twitter victory lap, "We have made more progress in the last nine months against ISIS than the Obama Administration has made in 8 years. Must be proactive & nasty!"

His ISIS boast came minutes after he sent a tweet suggesting that the travel ban should be expanded to protect Americans from foreign terrorists.

"The travel ban into the United States should be far larger, tougher and more specific-but stupidly, that would not be politically correct!"

FBI Director Christopher Wray recently told lawmakers the threat of ISIS remains very real in the US. But defeating ISIS isn't simply a matter of stopping domestic plots and taking back territory overseas. It will require an examination of why the terror group has attracted adherents in the United States. Wray himself has acknowledged the complexity of the fight against ISIS.

	"We continue to identify individuals who seek to join the ranks of foreign fighters traveling in support of ISIS, as well as homegrown violent extremists who may aspire to attack the United States from within," he told a Senate committee.
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HEADLINE	10/17 Military investigates Niger ambush
SOURCE	http://www.cnn.com/2017/10/17/politics/us-niger-military-investigation-confusion/index.html
GIST	<p>(CNN)The Defense Department is conducting an initial review of the mission in Niger and the ambush by 50 ISIS-affiliated fighters that left four US soldiers dead and two wounded.</p> <p>Multiple US officials have described to CNN a scene of confusion on the ground during the unexpected firefight. The investigation will be an effort "to get all the facts correct," an administration official familiar with the review told CNN.</p> <p>The review will aim to determine precisely what happened -- something that is still not clear nearly two weeks after the incident occurred, according to the official.</p> <p>The comprehensive investigation of the timeline has been ordered by US Africa Command and includes all the military branches and elements of US intelligence agencies that were involved in the mission. Team members who were on the ground are being interviewed about what happened as well as preparations for the mission.</p> <p>The preliminary findings are expected to be established at the end of the week, the official said. But they are likely to remain classified and be used to determine several other matters, including: whether a formal military investigation is warranted, whether military procedures and intelligence analysis need to be changed to avoid future incidents, and how Congress will be briefed on the ISIS ambush that resulted in the deaths of four soldiers.</p>
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Suspicious, Unusual

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HEADLINE	10/17 Pot industry data: who's buying what
SOURCE	http://www.theolympian.com/news/local/marijuana/article179333221.html
GIST	<p>The state's retail pot industry is an endless trove of measurable buying patterns, including who's buying and what they're buying.</p> <p>The cannabis tech and market data company Headset recently revealed generational and gender data in its latest market analysis.</p> <p>It's based on September sales by participating Washington marijuana retailers linked up with Headset's analytics software.</p> <p>Here are some highlights:</p> <p>Who's buying: Millennials took the lead, at 51 percent of total market purchases. Gen X was at 34 percent, while baby boomers came in at 15 percent. The Silent Generation (those 76 and older) contributed to just a handful of sales, but enough for statistical analysis.</p> <p>By gender: Men, percent-wise, are the majority customer in every generation.</p> <p>Women make up a larger percent of the market for Gen X and boomers than the other generations (35</p>

percent and 38 percent, respectively.) Millennial women were at 31 percent, and Silent Generation women, who make up the smallest percent share of any generation measured, were at 22 percent.

What they're buying: Flower (buds) led the way for every generation.

The second-most popular products were different, depending on age. For millennials, that would be concentrates. Gen X: concentrates and vapor pens. Boomers: Vapor pens and pre-rolled cigarettes. The Silent Generation's second most popular purchase was strictly vapor pens.

What they're paying: A sample "basket" comparison of average item pricing came in highest for the Silent Generation at \$21.09, compared with boomers, \$17.16; Gen X, \$15.33; and millennials, \$13.87.

The higher-priced baskets bought by the Silent Generation can be traced to two things that push the totals up: more spending in the vapor pen category but also a preference for more pricey buds. The average flower item price for millennials was about \$17 while it was \$24 for the Silent Generation.

What they're smoking: The majority of pot strains sold across most of the generations are hybrid. The Silent Generation smoked a little less hybrid and more straight-up sativa and indica.

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HEADLINE	10/17 FBI: hang up on 'screaming woman' call
SOURCE	http://www.theolympian.com/news/nation-world/national/article179335511.html
GIST	<p>The FBI is advising people to hang up if they receive a call from a woman screaming for help.</p> <p>A decades-old virtual kidnapping scam is placing more U.S. residents at risk of becoming potential victims, the FBI warned on its website.</p> <p>The scheme takes many forms, but basically callers trick victims into paying ransoms to free family or friends who have been "kidnapped." The virtual abductors coerce victims to pay a ransom before victims can find out that no one has been kidnapped.</p> <p>The FBI had been tracking virtual kidnapping calls primarily from prisons in Mexico between 2013 and 2015. The callers targeted individuals who spoke Spanish, the FBI said. Most of the victims were from the Los Angeles and Houston areas.</p> <p>The FBI issued the warning because kidnappers have widened their pool of potential victims by no longer targeting only specific individuals and Spanish speakers. The callers also are cold-calling numbers in various cities.</p> <p>In a recent investigation, the FBI found that more than 80 people have fallen victim to the new tactics in California, Minnesota, Idaho and Texas. Those victims paid more than \$87,000 in ransom.</p> <p>An FBI spokeswoman for the Kansas City offices said she was not aware of any instances that have occurred in Kansas or Missouri where the FBI was involved.</p> <p>The scam works this way: The potential victim answers a call and hears a woman screaming, "Help me!" The victim might blurt out a name, like Mary, asking her if she's OK. At that point, the caller will tell the victim that Mary has been kidnapped and she will be harmed if ransom isn't paid quickly.</p> <p>The scam is successful when victims don't know the whereabouts of their loved ones.</p> <p>The scammers typically demand that the ransoms are wired to Mexico. The amount is typically less than \$2,000 because of legal restrictions for wiring larger amounts across the border, the FBI said.</p>

	<p>However, two victims in Houston were coerced to pay larger ransoms by making money drops.</p> <p>A federal grand jury charged a 34-year-old Houston woman in July with 10 counts, including wire fraud and money laundering, for her involvement in the scam. The charges are the first federal indictment in a virtual kidnapping case, the FBI said.</p>
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HEADLINE	10/17 Marysville mayor touts crime strategy
SOURCE	http://mynorthwest.com/784673/marysville-ordinance-drops-drug-offenses-by-17-percent/
GIST	<p>Marysville is doubling down on the city’s strategy to fight drug offenses by expanding Stay Out of Drug Areas, otherwise known as SODAs.</p> <p>In a vote last week, the city council gave judges the power to ban drug offenders from returning to certain parts of the city for two years.</p> <p>“What we’ve found is the drug-related problem is really the source of most of the property crimes in our community,” Marysville Mayor Jon Nehring told 770 KTTH’s Jason Rantz. “If somebody is convicted of a drug-related crime a judge can now slap a SODA order on them, which means they can no longer be in that area.”</p> <p>Once a SODA order is in place, it becomes easier for police to make arrests.</p> <p>“Our officers wouldn’t have to witness a drug deal or witness any of this,” Nehring said. “They could just arrest them for simply being in the area.”</p> <p>Seattle, Everett, and Arlington have all instituted SODAs as well, and Nehring said this strategy has even worked well for Marysville in the past.</p> <p>A SODA ordinance was introduced in 2014. Nehring says the city has seen crime drop by about 17 percent since.</p> <p>“It has been successful putting some of these characters in jail,” he said.</p> <p>Critics of the ordinance argue they do nothing to stop the crime, they merely push it into other areas. Nehring said they haven’t heard any complaints from the surrounding area.</p> <p>“We’re getting very tough on this issue in our community,” Nehring said. “I’ve had it, our citizens are fed up with it, our businesses are. We’re just trying to give our police every available tool to catch these folks in the act.”</p> <p>No one has attempted to challenge the legal authority of the city to implement this ordinance. Nehring believes it’s because they’ve been very specific in how they apply it.</p> <p>“For instance, in our downtown one, we could show that it was one-twentieth of the city but represented one-fifth of the crime in the city,” Nehring said. “If it was an area where you couldn’t show those kind of crime stats, then you might have some trouble, I think.”</p>
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HEADLINE	10/17 Thief hiding in suitcase robs bus to Paris
SOURCE	https://www.yahoo.com/news/thief-suitcase-robs-bus-baggage-paris-104045795.html
GIST	Lille (France) (AFP) - It was a mystery that had police puzzled for a while: a rash of thefts reported by passengers who had taken the 75-minute bus trip between Paris and Beauvais airport.

	<p>An eagle-eyed driver has been credited with helping crack the case last week after he spotted a suspicious suitcase being loaded onto his bus as he prepared to drive from Paris to the airport, a hub for low-cost airlines.</p> <p>Acting on his tip-off about a large brown bag that appeared to be moving on its own, police at Beauvais pounced on a Romanian man who picked up the suitcase and a smaller black rucksack as he arrived.</p> <p>After arresting him, detectives found an accomplice hidden inside the case who, once alone in the baggage hold during the trip, would pull a strap to unzip himself and then begin his thieving.</p> <p>"In the black bag we found two laptops, money and various objects of value," a police source told AFP on condition of anonymity.</p> <p>Both men, aged around 40, were from Romania and had criminal records for theft.</p> <p>The man inside the suitcase received an eight-month prison sentence on Monday when he appeared in court, while the other man was given a one-year prison sentence because of his more serious criminal record, prosecutor Florent Boura said.</p>
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HEADLINE	10/17 China: spacelab to crash 'somewhere'
SOURCE	https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/speaking-of-science/wp/2017/10/16/chinas-first-space-station-will-soon-crash-to-earth-no-one-knows-where-itll-hit/?utm_term=.3e9602a99f34
GIST	<p>Sometime within the next few months, the heavens will come crashing down.</p> <p>Tiangong 1, which translates to “Heavenly Palace,” is China's first space laboratory, launched in September 2011, serving as a prototype for a permanent space station that it aims to eventually build and launch. But six years after it first went into orbit, the 8½-ton laboratory is soon expected to meet a fiery and uncontrolled end, hurtling down to Earth and crashing somewhere — anywhere — on the planet.</p> <p>In September 2016, Chinese officials confirmed that they had lost control of the space lab and that it would crash into Earth sometime in the latter half of 2017. In May, China told the United Nations that the lab would reenter Earth between October and April 2018.</p> <p>Much of the space lab, which measures 34 feet in length, is expected to burn up during its reentry. But Jonathan McDowell, an astrophysicist from Harvard University, told the Guardian that pieces weighing up to 220 pounds could make it to the Earth's surface.</p> <p>Where exactly the craft will fall is anyone's guess. Even slight changes in atmospheric conditions can alter the landing site “from one continent to the next,” McDowell told the Guardian.</p> <p>“You really can’t steer these things,” he said. “Even a couple of days before it reenters, we probably won’t know better than six or seven hours, plus or minus, when it’s going to come down. Not knowing when it’s going to come down translates as not knowing where it’s going to come down.”</p> <p>Uncontrolled crashes of larger spacecraft, while rare, have happened before. The Soviet Salyut 7 space station crashed to Earth in 1991, while NASA's Skylab space station fell over Western Australia in 1979.</p>
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HEADLINE	10/17 Defector: Kim killed hundreds reformers
SOURCE	https://www.upi.com/Top_News/World-News/2017/10/17/North-Korea-defector-Hundreds-of-

	reformers-killed-after-Jang-Song-Thaek-purge/6181508242576/?utm_source=fp&utm_campaign=ls&utm_medium=2
GIST	<p>NEW YORK, Oct. 17 (UPI) -- North Korea's Kim Jong Un ordered the massacre of hundreds of officers and their families following the purge and execution of his uncle Jang Song Thaek in 2013, a former senior North Korean economic official said.</p> <p>Speaking at the Asia Society in New York on Monday, Ri Jong Ho, the previous head of the Korea Daehung Trading Corp., managed by Room or Office 39, said he left the reclusive state when he became "disappointed" with the young leader's brutal methods of punishing reform-minded North Koreans.</p> <p>Room or Office 39 is the secret North Korean Workers' Party organization in charge of maintaining the regime's foreign currency slush fund.</p> <p>Ri has previously said Room 39 responsibilities may have been transferred to other departments since he sought asylum in the United States.</p> <p>"The year I left, the Kim Jong Un regime, following the purge and execution of Jang Song Thaek, executed hundreds of officers affiliated with Jang, as well as their families," Ri said. "Thousands were dragged to political prison camps."</p> <p>There was also an ordinance to "dry the seeds" of the accused, and children of suspects were routinely slaughtered as Kim consolidated his power in 2014, Ri said.</p> <p>The North Korean leader's actions triggered doubts among the country's elite, many of them loyalists of Kim Jong Il, the leader's father.</p> <p>"How can we follow the party, the leader, we faithfully followed all this time?" Ri said. "There was no future, so I defected with my family."</p> <p>Ri said Pyongyang's development of weapons of mass destruction is less of a threat than a sign the regime feels threatened by South Korea and the United States.</p> <p>North Koreans "have always seen South Korea as the enemy," the defector said. "Because of the U.S.-South Korea military alliance, they believe they can always come under attack."</p> <p>North Korea may bluster its way into the public eye, but the tactic may be a distraction hiding a regime with a weak economy --- and a justifiable fear of the outside world.</p> <p>"South Korea can always swallow North Korea. There's a sense of threat there," Ri said. "That's why they develop nuclear weapons."</p>
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HEADLINE	10/17 'Activity' at NKorea 'hotel of doom'
SOURCE	http://www.foxnews.com/world/2017/10/18/signs-activity-at-north-koreas-hotel-doom.html
GIST	<p>Recent satellite images suggest that construction has restarted on North Korea's ominous "Hotel of Doom."</p> <p>The new images of the 105-story Ryugyong Hotel in Pyongyang depict construction trucks surrounding the pyramid-like building as well as several other buildings, the Daily Mail reported.</p> <p>Tourist photos have also recently surfaced showing cranes around the hotel.</p> <p>The "Hotel of Doom," as it was nicknamed, has cost approximately 470 million euros (\$552 million) to date but has yet to host a single guest, the Independent reported.</p>

	<p>The 105-story skyscraper was finally unveiled this summer after being under construction for nearly 30 years, although its doors still remain closed.</p> <p>The project began in 1987 under the reign of Kim Il Sung, North Korea’s founder and “eternal president.” However, the 1990s famine and an economic crash in 1992 forced the project to shut down due to a lack of funds.</p> <p>In December 2016 visitors reported seeing signs of activity within the building for the first time in years when lights appeared to be on inside the hotel.</p> <p>The shiny, glass exterior of the triangular building was completed in 2011 but it remains a mystery as to when the hotel will be opened for business.</p>
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HEADLINE	10/18 Qatar emir calls for talks to end crisis
SOURCE	http://www.foxnews.com/world/2017/10/18/qatar-ruler-urges-end-to-trade-embargo-calls-for-talks.html
GIST	<p>BOGOR, Indonesia – Qatar's emir has urged neighboring states to lift an "unfair" 4-month-old trade embargo and said he's ready to open talks to end the diplomatic crisis.</p> <p>Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani met Wednesday with Indonesian President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo and spoke during a joint news conference at a presidential palace in Bogor.</p> <p>The emir said, "We are all brothers and we have suffered losses due to this crisis."</p> <p>Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Egypt and the United Arab Emirates cut ties with Qatar on June 5 due to its alleged support for extremist groups in the region and its close ties with Iran, their regional foe. They also launched an economic embargo.</p> <p>Indonesia has said all sides in the dispute should exercise restraint.</p>
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HEADLINE	10/17 Mystery 'braid choppers' attack women
SOURCE	https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/world/2017/10/17/india-where-young-women-drugged-and-their-braids-chopped-off/769776001/
GIST	<p>SRINAGAR, Kashmir — Shaqeela Sajad was sweeping the front porch last week when a masked man dressed in black forced a handkerchief over her nose and attacked her.</p> <p>“When I opened my eyes in the hospital, I found my braid had been hacked,” said Sajad, 24, who is pregnant with her first child, from her home in Srinagar in India-administered Kashmir.</p> <p>These unknown "braid-choppers" are creating a new type of terror in the hamlets and towns of the Himalayan Kashmir region, which has witnessed much bloodshed over the past three decades from a territorial conflict between India and Pakistan.</p> <p>The new fear stems from an assailant, or band of attackers, who are drugging young women and chopping off their braids for reasons no one can explain with certainty. Most women here have braided hair under their head coverings, so all are potential victims and they are fearful.</p> <p>In the past six weeks, more than 200 "braid-chopping" incidents were reported, according to local police.</p>

The attackers storm homes or take down lone women in markets and alleys before cutting their hair. The tied bundle of hair is usually found at the scene.

This is a highly conservative, Muslim-majority region, where women view cutting their hair or displaying it publicly as dishonorable. Most women cover their heads with scarves. Also, it's taboo for a man who is not related to touch a woman.

The situation is so alarming that the regional government announced a bounty of \$9,000 for information on the braid-choppers. Police currently have no leads.

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HEADLINE	10/17 'Missing' Vegas guard found: on TV show
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SOURCE	http://www.latimes.com/nation/la-na-jesus-campos-20171017-story.html
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GIST	<p>The mystery is over: Las Vegas security guard Jesus Campos has been found.</p> <p>On the set of “Ellen.”</p> <p>On Wednesday, Ellen DeGeneres’ television talk show is expected to broadcast the much-anticipated first interview with the Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino security guard, who was the first shooting victim in the Oct. 1 massacre in Las Vegas.</p> <p>DeGeneres tweeted a photo of Campos holding a cane on the set Tuesday alongside maintenance engineer Stephen Schuck, who was also shot at by the gunman on the 32nd floor of the Mandalay Bay hotel.</p> <p>The news ended five days of speculation over the whereabouts of the security guard, who was shot as he passed outside gunman Stephen Paddock’s hotel room and who holds important information on who knew what and when as the shooting rampage got underway.</p> <p>Reporters had been looking for Campos to help explain what happened in the moments before Paddock began firing at the crowd assembled for a country music festival opposite the hotel — and how long it took for police to respond.</p> <p>Shifting timelines given by police and near-total silence from Mandalay Bay’s owners have left Campos as one of the only potential sources of first-hand information on how the shooting rampage unfolded and how the hotel responded.</p> <p>In a recording of his appearance on “Ellen” obtained by the Las Vegas Review-Journal, Campos, who said he was “doing better each day, slowly but surely,” confirmed he had called in when he was shot — before the full rampage began. But he gave few other details that would answer nagging questions about the response of hotel security and Las Vegas police.</p> <p>Appearing in a gray suit and with a cane, Campos said he got an alert for an open door on the 32nd floor. He went up a stairwell from the 31st to the 32nd floor, but the stairwell door was blocked — apparently by the gunman — so he had to take another route to get to the floor.</p> <p>When he got onto the 32nd floor and reached the stairwell door — which was inside a small room with two doors that separates the stairwell from the hallway, immediately adjacent to Paddock's suite — Campos found a “metal bracket” blocking the door to the stairwell.</p> <p>He said he called security dispatch to transfer his call to the building's engineers, who sent an engineer to examine the door.</p> <p>“At that time I heard what I assumed was drilling sounds,” Campos said. (Officials have said that Paddock appeared to be drilling into a wall inside his room for unknown reasons.) As Campos walked down the</p>
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hall, away from Paddock's suite, the outer door of the access room, which was unblocked, closed loudly behind him.

"I believe that's what caught the shooter's attention," Campos said. "As I was walking down, I heard rapid fire, and at first I took cover." The gunman was shooting through the door of his hotel suite. "I don't know how he was shooting."

Campos felt a "burning sensation" and went to lift his pant leg up and, seeing blood, realized he'd been shot.

"That's when I called it in on my radio that shots had been fired," Campos said. "I was going to say that I was hit, but I got on my cellphone just to clear that radio traffic for — they can coordinate the rest of the call."

Engineer Schuck, responding to Campos' earlier call about a blocked door, arrived on a service elevator from a higher floor, and he spotted Campos at the end of a hallway. It was quiet as Schuck walked toward Paddock's end of the hallway. Then he saw Campos and heard gunshots.

"At the time I didn't know it was shooting; I thought it was a jackhammer," Schuck said.

Campos said "take cover, take cover," Schuck said. "Within milliseconds, if he didn't say that, I would have got hit.... They were passing behind my head, and I could feel pressure."

One female guest came out of her room, and Campos told her to take cover in her room.

Campos thanked the first responders and the community for their work during their "darkest hour."

DeGeneres hinted that Campos would not be giving any more interviews after appearing on her show, but that the appearance was unpaid.

"You're talking about it now and you're not going to talk about it again," DeGeneres said, adding, "We of course wanted to give you money, and you both were very, very specific. You said you don't want money, you don't want money at all, so you're not getting any money."

Speculation about Campos' whereabouts had begun after he mysteriously left a Las Vegas hotel room Thursday where he was preparing for televised interviews on the Sean Hannity show on Fox, as well as news shows on CNN, CBS, ABC and NBC. No interviews took place.

David Hickey, president of the Security, Police and Fire Professionals of America union that represents the security guards at Mandalay Bay, told The Times that he was attending a meeting with MGM representatives in one room of the suite as Campos waited with a security guard — hired by MGM — and another union member in the living room.

When the meeting ended about 2 p.m., Hickey said Campos no longer was in the room.

"When I got in touch with the other union member, I was told Campos was taken to the Quick Care" health clinic, Hickey said.

Hickey didn't hear from the guard afterward and announced to a scrum of reporters that night that Campos had canceled interviews. Campos didn't contact his union in the days after he walked away.

The company that owns the Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino issued a statement Tuesday that implied it was in touch with Campos as questions mounted over the Las Vegas casino's response to the mass shooting.

"Jesus Campos wants to tell his story at a time and place of his choosing," Debra DeShong, a

	spokeswoman for MGM Resorts International, said in a statement after the Los Angeles Times requested an interview with him. “He’s asked that everyone respect his request for privacy. We could not be more proud of Jesus.”
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HEADLINE	10/17 Chicago officers fired in United incident
SOURCE	https://www.nbcnews.com/storyline/airplane-mode/two-officers-fired-after-doctor-dragged-united-airlines-flight-n811546
GIST	<p>Three of the Chicago law enforcement officers involved in dragging a Louisville doctor off a United Airlines’ flight in April are no longer on the job, officials revealed Tuesday.</p> <p>Chicago’s Inspector General Joseph Ferguson said an officer and an Aviation Security sergeant were fired, a third officer resigned and another received a five-day suspension — which was shorted to two days on appeal — for their involvement in the “violent forcible removal” of Dr. David Dao.</p> <p>The report did not reveal the identities of the officers.</p> <p>Ferguson’s report says that the use of “excessive force” caused Dao to break his nose, lose two teeth and sustain a concussion, and noted that the security officer who pulled Dao from the flight broke department policy when he “escalated a nonthreatening situation into a physically violent one.”</p> <p>Dao refused to leave his Chicago-to-Louisville flight after he was told by United Airlines officials that his seat was needed for a crew member working a connecting route. Security officers surrounded his seat shortly thereafter.</p> <p>A cellphone video that captured the bloody ordeal went viral, as the 69-year-old doctor can be seen being dragged along the narrow aisle floor by a security officer. Other passengers can be heard expressing their horror.</p> <p>The distressing situation caused United Airlines CEO Oscar Munoz to issue a public apology and open an investigation into the matter, amid a growing public relations nightmare for the airline giant.</p> <p>Dao and United Airlines reached an "amicable settlement" in late April.</p> <p>In Tuesday’s report, Ferguson also revealed that two security officers tried to cover for each other. He said one officer “made misleading statements in two reports” and the other “made material omissions in a report.”</p>
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HEADLINE	10/17 Sheriff rips media on ‘crazy’ arrest rumor
SOURCE	https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation-now/2017/10/17/california-fires-sheriff-rips-conservative-media-crazy-arrest-rumor/774572001/
GIST	<p>Conservative media sites on Tuesday attempted to link the Sunday arrest of a Latino man on suspicion of arson in Sonoma to the massive, deadly cluster of wildfires burning in California’s wine country.</p> <p>But Breitbart News and InfoWars offered no evidence to link the man’s arrest to the fires and their accounts of the man’s arrest were disputed the same day by Sonoma County Sheriff Rob Giordano.</p> <p>“There’s a story out there he’s the arsonist for these fires. That is not the case. There is no indication he is related to these fires at all,” Giordano said in a news conference also broadcast on the department’s Facebook page and area TV stations. “I just did want to kill that speculation right now so we didn’t have things running too far out of control.”</p>

	<p>Both sites published the story of the man, Jesus Fabian Gonzalez, who was arrested on Sunday on suspicion of arson in Sonoma, southeast of Santa Rosa. The websites cite a Santa Rosa Press Democrat report, though the paper doesn't connect the arrest to the larger fires, which broke out Oct. 8 in Napa and Sonoma counties and have so far killed dozens and destroyed thousands of homes.</p> <p>A public information officer for the Sheriff's Office was not immediately available for comment Tuesday afternoon.</p>
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HEADLINE	10/17 Florida deputies warn 'creepy clowns'
SOURCE	http://www.foxnews.com/us/2017/10/17/florida-deputies-issue-warning-after-young-boy-nearly-attacked-by-clown.html
GIST	<p>As Halloween nears, so do the clown pranks.</p> <p>Florida deputies have issued a warning after an 11-year-old boy in Volusia County was nearly attacked by a man dressed as a clown, WESH 2 reported.</p> <p>"Warning to evil clowns and anyone considering creepy clown activity: We will not be there to save you if your intended target defends himself or herself, and you may face other penalties as well," the sheriff's office said, according to WESH 2.</p> <p>The warning comes after the boy, whose name has not been released, first told a school crossing guard and his teachers that he was riding his bicycle near Pine Ridge High School in Florida when a man dressed as a clown jumped out from behind bushes to scare him. The boy said he then hit the clown "multiple times" with a metal "selfie-stick" because he thought the clown was going to attack him, WESH 2 reported.</p> <p>The boy hit the clown out of self-defense, he later told deputies.</p> <p>The clown allegedly tried to grab the boy before chasing him. Eventually the clown retreated and returned to hide in the bushes, the boy told deputies.</p> <p>The clown's identity is currently unknown.</p>
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HEADLINE	10/17 Judge: 'necessity defense' in pipeline case
SOURCE	http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/minnesota-judge-necessity-defense-pipeline-case-50539361?cid=clicksource_76_4_article%20roll_articleroll_hed
GIST	<p>A Minnesota judge has taken the unusual step of allowing four protesters to use a "necessity defense," enabling them to present evidence that the threat of climate change from Canadian tar sands crude is so imminent that they were justified in trying to shut down two Enbridge Energy oil pipelines last year.</p> <p>Emily Johnston and Annette Klapstein freely acknowledge they turned the emergency shut-off valves on two pipelines on Oct. 11, 2016, in Clearwater County in northwestern Minnesota. It was part of a coordinated action by Climate Direct Action activists to shut down five pipelines that carry tar sands crude from Canada to the U.S. in Minnesota, North Dakota, Montana and Washington state. A total of 11 activists were charged.</p> <p>Johnston and Klapstein, who are from the Seattle area, said Tuesday that as far as their legal team knows, this is the first time that a judge has allowed a full necessity defense on a climate change issue. They cited recent hurricanes and Western wildfires as evidence that climate change is making natural disasters worse, and they say tar sands oil contributes disproportionately because it generates much more carbon dioxide</p>

	<p>than other oil.</p> <p>"It's not just a question of a looming threat, it's a disaster happening right now all over the world," Johnston said.</p> <p>Klapstein, a retired lawyer, said they know of one case in which a judge allowed evidence about climate change but then told the jury to disregard it.</p> <p>"It looks like we're going to be able to bring in all our experts and present our evidence of how dire climate change is, so we're pretty excited about that," she said.</p> <p>Michael Foster, of Seattle, was convicted Oct. 6 of targeting the Keystone pipeline in North Dakota. His judge barred him from using a necessity defense. He now faces up to 21 years in prison when he's sentenced Jan. 18. A defendant who filmed him was convicted of conspiracy and faces up to 11 years.</p> <p>Johnston and Klapstein are due to go on trial Dec. 11 on felony charges of criminal damage to critical public service facilities and other counts. The charges carry maximum terms of over 20 years in prison, though prosecutors have said the most likely penalty is up to a year in jail. Two defendants who filmed them will stand trial together later on lesser charges.</p> <p>In an order Friday, Clearwater County District Judge Robert Tiffany said the four defendants must clear a high legal bar.</p> <p>In Minnesota, Tiffany wrote, a defendant asserting a necessity defense "must show that the harm that would have resulted from obeying the law would have significantly exceeded the harm actually caused by breaking the law, there was no legal alternative to breaking the law, the defendant was in danger of imminent physical harm, and there was a direct causal connection between breaking the law and preventing the harm."</p> <p>The judge said it applies "only in emergency situations where the peril is instant, overwhelming, and leaves no alternative but the conduct in question."</p>
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HEADLINE	10/18 Organized crime links to Honduras politics
SOURCE	http://www.insightcrime.org/news-analysis/organized-crime-infiltrates-all-in-honduras-presidential-advisor
GIST	<p>While Honduran drug traffickers testify in US courts about their ties with the country's political class, a presidential advisor in Honduras has no qualms about saying that the links between criminals and candidates encompass all political parties.</p> <p>Honduras' political class for months has been keeping a concerned eye on a New York court, where self-confessed drug trafficker Devis Leonel Rivera Maradiaga has testified to dealings with a spate of Honduran elites.</p> <p>On October 17, an advisor to President Juan Orlando Hernández said Rivera Maradiaga's allegations concerned politicians of all stripes.</p> <p>"If we're going to look at how organized crime has permeated society in general and funneled money, placed deputies, placed judges, various offices, within the attorney general's office and everywhere, hold on to your seats, because we're talking about all colors here," presidential advisor Ebal Díaz said in comments reported by La Tribuna.</p>

Díaz is President Hernández' chief of staff, according to the official government webpage. He is charged, among other things, with "coordinating and following up on activities relevant to the president and the cabinet."

"There is an extradition list ... They come from all colors, and if some keep digging, they're certainly going to find dirt there ... from people very close to presidential candidates that have taken up this issue, and have started talking about the New York Times," the advisor added, referring to a recent article by the US newspaper that relayed accusations from Rivera Maradiaga tainting Hernández. "Many close acquaintances and some candidates are on that list."

Published on October 6, the New York Times article recounted part of the story of how Rivera Maradiaga -- the former leader of the Cachiros drug trafficking group who confessed to being responsible for nearly 80 murders -- struck a deal with US authorities to obtain judicial leniency in exchange for providing information on corrupt officials.

It is on the basis of Rivera Maradiaga's testimony that New York prosecutors succeeded in charging seven Honduran police officers, the son of former President Porfirio Lobo and members of the powerful Rosenthal family. The Cachiros leader also levied accusations against the brother of former President Manuel Zelaya, as well as the brother of current President Hernández.

Among the evidence presented by US prosecutors is an audio in which an unidentified drug trafficker tells Rivera Maradiaga about a \$250,000 bribe destined for Hernández. The president, who does not face any official accusations, has denied these allegations.

Meanwhile, the head of the governing National Party (Partido Nacional), Renaldo Sánchez, demanded that Zelaya release the names of officials from his former government and members from his former Liberal Party that have been mentioned in the New York court.

Statements by Juan Ramón Matta Waldurraga -- another suspected drug trafficker who recently handed himself over to US authorities -- may add to these telling declarations of the rampant links between drug trafficking and Honduran politics.

InSight Crime Analysis

At the same time as Honduran drug traffickers are pointing fingers at politicians in the Central American country, the politicians appear to have started a war of words in which the central thread seems to be an acceptance that drug trafficking and organized crime have infiltrated the state for decades.

As presidential advisor Díaz just pointed out, the infiltration hasn't discriminated in terms of political ideology or party: "All," the official said, have been "permeated." It's no coincidence that the accusations have involved the country's last three presidents, including former Liberal Party member Zelaya as well as Lobo and Hernández, both members of the National Party.

All this comes just six weeks before Honduras will hold general elections in which Hernández will face off against Salvador Nasralla of the Libre party, founded by Zelaya, as well as Luis Orlando Zelaya (no relation) of the Liberal Party. The accusations about political ties to drug trafficking will undoubtedly play a key role in the run-up to the late November vote.

The allegations surrounding President Hernández could also have repercussions in Washington, where the leader has become a crucial player in conversations about US aid programs for Central America's "Northern Triangle" countries of Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala.

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HEADLINE 10/18 Charges in attack on good Samaritan

SOURCE <http://www.heraldnet.com/news/charges-filed-in-attack-on-good-samaritan/>

<p>GIST</p>	<p>EVERETT — An Arlington man is looking at a long stretch behind bars if he’s convicted of stabbing a good Samaritan who tried to shoo him away from a neighbor’s condo in Everett last month.</p> <p>Jesse Averhart has been convicted of a dozen felonies since 1997. Just last year, prosecutors urged a judge to send him away for nearly five years for a bunch of property crimes, including identity theft.</p> <p>Averhart, however, persuaded the judge to allow him an alternative sentence for offenders with drug addictions. He wrote a letter to the judge, explaining how his addiction had cost him everything.</p> <p>“I need help finding my way back to reality. I wish to prove to my family, society and myself I can once again be the real Jesse,” he wrote.</p> <p>Averhart was sentenced to two years in prison and two years under the supervision of the state Department of Corrections. He was ordered to get help for his addiction.</p> <p>It seems Averhart hasn’t found his way to clean, yet.</p> <p>Now he’s charged with first-degree assault and illegal drug possession. He is facing up to 20 years in prison if convicted, Snohomish County deputy prosecutor Toni Montgomery wrote in court papers.</p>
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<p>HEADLINE</p>	<p>10/17 Mastermind Pakistan smuggling plot jailed</p>
<p>SOURCE</p>	<p>http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2017/oct/17/sharafat-ali-khan-sentenced-terrorism-illegal-immi/</p>
<p>GIST</p>	<p>A federal judge on Tuesday sentenced the mastermind of a smuggling ring who brought dozens of illegal immigrants from terrorist hot spots into the U.S. to 31 months in prison, rejecting the man’s pleas for leniency and saying he could have ended up getting Americans killed.</p> <p>Sharafat Ali Khan, while acknowledging his guilt, denied he was the main smuggler, and said he was surprised he’s the only person arrested and prosecuted in the ring, which investigators said helped more than 100 illegal immigrants from Pakistan and Afghanistan sneak into the U.S.</p> <p>At least one of the men Khan helped had been flagged on the terrorist no-fly list, with family ties to the Taliban, and had been implicated in a plot to conduct an attack in the U.S. or Canada, The Washington Times has learned.</p> <p>U.S. District Judge Reggie B. Walton didn’t mention that specific incident at Tuesday’s sentencing, but said Khan had played loose with American security by helping sneak people across the U.S.-Mexico border.</p> <p>“You don’t know whether they’re seeking a better life or whether they’re trying to get in here to engage in terrorism,” the judge said.</p> <p>“Just because you had good intentions doesn’t mean the people you were helping have good intentions. People could have died, people could have gotten injured, families could have lost loved ones,” Judge Walton scolded Khan.</p> <p>Judge Walton did show some leniency, cutting what could have been a 37-month sentence down to 31 months. He said that Americans sentenced for the same crime usually would be released into a halfway house for their final six months. Since Khan will be deported and can’t be released to a halfway house, he can skip his final six months, the judge said.</p> <p>Khan, though, had been asking to be set free immediately, saying he’s already served more than 16 months in custody while awaiting trial and sentencing, and said his mother is ailing and his wife and young child</p>

at home in Pakistan need him.

The judge agreed to count the time served against the 31-month sentence, but rejected his demand for immediate release, saying other would-be smugglers need to be taught a lesson.

“If people feel you’re just going to get a slap on the wrist, why not do it?” he said.

Khan pleaded guilty in April to one count of conspiracy to smuggle illegal immigrants for profit, but his sentencing proved to be a complex affair, with the convict insisting he was being unfairly credited with organizing the operation.

He insisted he was just a bit player.

Still, as he appeared Tuesday in an orange prison jumpsuit in federal court in Washington, under guard of U.S. Marshals, he broke down in tears before the judge and insisted he’d learned his lesson.

“I made a mistake. I broke the American law,” he said through an interpreter.

But he also struck a defiant note, wondering why he’s the only person to have been apprehended from what he said was an extensive network involving dozens of people across 10 countries.

“Why was it only me that they brought?” Khan said. “Perhaps my misfortune is that I am a poor Pakistani.”

Federal authorities have identified others involved in the smuggling operation. The Times has withheld names at the request of the government, which says it is still working to snare them.

During earlier proceedings, Khan had portrayed his smuggling as a humanitarian mission, saying he wanted to help poor Middle Easterners find a better life in the U.S.

Prosecutors portrayed him as an unscrupulous, thrice-married, spouse-abusing drug user who risked U.S. national security in order to make quick cash, keeping his customers holed up for months, then forcing them to fend for themselves during the long journey.

Migrants said they paid up to \$12,000 to be smuggled from the Middle East through Brazil, then across the Western Hemisphere to try to enter the U.S. They described being kept at one of Khan’s homes in Brasilia for months, then finally sent north — all the while in contact with Khan.

Brazil, and the Sao Paulo airport in particular, are attractive transit points for smugglers because immigration checks are “very lax,” Homeland Security Investigations Special Agent Michael Stempinski testified in court earlier this year.

He said Khan’s network was perhaps the largest operation smuggling people from Pakistan to the U.S., with upwards of 100 people who have been arrested and who have identified Khan as their smuggler during a two-year period from 2014 to 2016.

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HEADLINE	10/17 Body missing 6yr-old found; man arrested
SOURCE	http://mynorthwest.com/785390/missing-6-year-old-boys-from-snohomish-county-found-dead/
GIST	<p>The body of missing 6-year-old Dayvid Pakko was found in a dumpster at the apartment complex in Lynnwood where he lived, according to law enforcement.</p> <p>There is evidence of homicide, according to the Snohomish County Sheriff’s Office.</p> <p>A 19-year-old male has been arrested and booked into Snohomish County Jail on a charge of 1st degree</p>

	<p>murder in relation to the incident. His name has not yet been released by authorities. The suspect was visiting his family in Lynnwood from Kerville, Texas, according to Snohomish County officials.</p> <p>“The suspect is a relative of the victim,” sheriff spokesperson Shari Ireton said. “Detectives are processing the crime scene and are expected to be working for several hours.”</p> <p>The boy was reported missing around 5 p.m. Monday.</p> <p>According to the sheriff’s office and relatives, Dayvid stayed home sick from school Monday. He was last seen at about 2:30 p.m. on Monday, KIRO 7 reports.</p> <p>The sheriff’s office said Dayvid was under the supervision of the 19-year-old man at his apartment on Monday. That man allegedly admitted to Snohomish County detectives that he intentionally drowned the child in a bathtub. He also allegedly admitted to wrapping the 6-year-old’s body in a blanket, then placing him in a cardboard box, which he put into the dumpster where he was found.</p>
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HEADLINE	10/17 DOJ indicts 2 Chinese for fentanyl sales
SOURCE	http://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-trump-opioid-indictments/u-s-indicts-two-chinese-in-fentanyl-trafficking-case-idUSKBN1CM22B
GIST	<p>WASHINGTON (Reuters) - The U.S. Department of Justice said Tuesday it has indicted two major Chinese drug traffickers on charges of making and selling fentanyl to American customers over the internet.</p> <p>Xiaobing Yan, 40, and Jian Zhang, 38, have been charged, in separate indictments unsealed on Monday out of Mississippi and North Dakota, with conspiring to distribute large quantities of fentanyl and fentanyl analogues into the United States, the Justice Department said in a statement.</p>
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HEADLINE	10/17 Deadly border gun battles northern Mexico
SOURCE	http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/border-gunbattles-leave-11-dead-northern-mexico-50522110?
GIST	<p>A running series of gunbattles caused at least 11 deaths in the northern Mexico border state of Tamaulipas, authorities said Monday.</p> <p>Officials said the shootouts in the border city of Reynosa and the nearby town of Rio Bravo started late Sunday. Gunmen hijacked vehicles and used them to block streets, and spread bent nails to puncture tires to facilitate their getaways. Authorities called in a helicopter to support ground patrols moving to break up the roadblocks.</p> <p>One group of four gunmen was killed near a gas station after they opened fire on a military patrol, officials said. Three other bodies were discovered at other points around Rio Bravo.</p> <p>Police found 13 improvised armored vehicles, which are usually light trucks with welded steel plating. Such vehicles are often used by drug gangs in Tamaulipas. Officers also found six hand grenades, 17 40-mm rifle-launched grenades and about three dozen guns, including a .50-caliber sniper rifle.</p> <p>The dead included a man apparently killed by assailants after he and a child sought shelter from gunfire in a house on their way to school. The man and child emerged from the house when the shooting died down temporarily, and that is when the man was hit.</p> <p>Three people also were killed in what appeared to be targeted shootings in the town of Padilla, farther</p>

	<p>south.</p> <p>Reynosa is across the border from McAllen, Texas, and has been the scene of turf battles between factions of the Gulf cartel.</p>
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HEADLINE	10/17 Judge weighs in fingerprint sensors
SOURCE	https://www.usnews.com/news/us/articles/2017-10-17/case-reveals-legal-rules-of-thumb-tricky-with-iphone-sensors
GIST	<p>CHICAGO (AP) — A federal judge in Chicago is the latest to weigh in on still-disputed legal questions about whether law enforcement can order suspects to put their fingers on fingerprint sensors to unlock a smartphone, concluding it's not necessarily a violation of protections against self-incrimination.</p> <p>U.S. District Judge Edmond Chang's recent decision overturned a federal magistrate's ruling in a child pornography investigation that said forcing four residents of a home to each place their fingers on Apple iPhone Touch ID sensors would violate those Fifth Amendment rights.</p> <p>Courts have long held authorities can't make suspects reveal combinations to a safe because doing so amounts to being forced to testify against themselves. But judges have simultaneously maintained that authorities can demand the safe key because it's an object and turning it over doesn't depend on verbal expressions.</p> <p>Wider use of fingerprint scanners has complicated how such guidelines are applied, with courts across the country applying them differently. The Supreme Court hasn't yet taken up the specific issue.</p> <p>The issue arose in Chicago when the FBI early this year sought a wide-ranging search warrant in the child pornography case that included a request for permission to require that the two parents and two adult children who lived at the home unlock any iPhones or iPads in the house that used fingerprint sensors.</p> <p>In her February ruling, U.S. Magistrate Judge Sheila Finnegan broadly OK'd the warrant. But she denied the permission on fingerprints, saying whoever's finger unlocked the phone could be seen as admitting responsibility for any illegal images on the device, which effectively would be self-incrimination.</p> <p>The U.S. attorney's office in Chicago disagreed with that ruling and sought the review by Chang. Prosecutors argued in a March filing that the request to force the family to put their fingers on the iPhone sensor wouldn't be a form of expression, but would be the same as asking suspects to hand over keys to a safe.</p> <p>"Touch ID and similar technologies have made fingerprints akin to a key," the filing said. "Instead of carrying that key on a metal ring, Apple users now carry five potential keys on each hand."</p> <p>The federal defenders' office in Chicago also filed a written document in March backing the magistrate's conclusions and arguing that the vast personal information on a smartphone meant a fingerprint sensor isn't comparable to key. "This present case," it said, "falls outside of this dated analogy."</p> <p>But Chang said the analogy was a good one, writing in his opinion that "compelling physical access to information via the fingerprint seizure is no different from requiring someone to surrender a key to a safe whose contents otherwise would not be accessible to the government."</p> <p>Chang decided the issue last month, though his written ruling wasn't unsealed until this month. Many of the filings in the case, including ones with information about the identities of any suspects and details of the allegations, remain sealed.</p>
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HEADLINE	10/17 Multi-state credit card skimmer fraud bust
SOURCE	http://wkbn.com/2017/10/17/12-suspects-facing-charges-for-multi-state-card-skimmer-fraud/
GIST	<p>AUSTINTOWN, Ohio (WKBN) – Twelve suspects are facing charges, accused of stealing information from thousands of people by using credit-card skimmers on gas pumps.</p> <p>The suspects are accused of putting the devices on locations in five states, including in Austintown, Ohio.</p> <p>Named in a 26-count indictment are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Ranset Rodriguez, 40, of Miami, Florida •Yaniris Alfonso, 31, of Miami, Florida •Jose Manuel Iglesias, 51, of West New York, New Jersey •Juan Carlos Banos, 58, of Parma, Ohio •Carlos Rodriguez Martinez, 42, of Aurora, Colorado •Lester Enrique Castaneda, 39, of Hialeah, Florida •Edelberto Hernandez, 46, of Kiowa, Colorado •Eddy Pimentel-Vila, 45, of Jersey City, New Jersey •Luis Enrique Jimenez Gonzales, 27, of Hialeah, Florida •Yonasky Rosa, 34, of Tampa, Florida •Yadian Quesada-Hernandez, 31, of Tampa, Florida •Alejandro Moises, 52, of Miami, Florida <p>The indictment charges that the defendants conspired to install skimmers on point-of-sale terminals inside of gas pumps located in Ohio, Colorado, Maryland, Utah and elsewhere between August 2014 and July 2017.</p> <p>The defendants then re-encoded the stolen credit/debit card account information onto counterfeit credit cards, which were used to fraudulently purchase goods and services, according to the indictment.</p> <p>The suspects are accused of traveling from Florida to install the skimmers and then working together to distract gas station employees while installing the devices.</p> <p>Along with the Austintown location, skimmers were also discovered on gas pumps in Rocky River, Solon, Stow, Cleveland, Canton and other locations in Northeast Ohio.</p> <p>The investigation involved agencies from multiple jurisdictions, including the FBI Secret Service and the Boulder County (Colorado) Sheriff’s Office.</p> <p>“This sophisticated, multistate criminal enterprise stole credit card numbers from innocent folks putting gas in their cars,” said FBI Special Agent in Charge Stephen D. Anthony. “These individuals, now in custody, caused financial difficulties for numerous everyday citizens, and for this, they will be held accountable.”</p>
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HEADLINE	10/17 Military contractor met 12yr-old for sex
SOURCE	http://www.seattlepi.com/local/crime/article/Charge-Man-stationed-in-Bremerton-met-12285807.php
GIST	<p>Prosecutors say a 50-year-old civilian cyber security expert stationed at the Naval Undersea Warfare Center in Keyport, Kitsap County, met a 12-year-old girl for sex in Bothell.</p> <p>Robert Christian Perdomo allegedly met the girl on a phone chat line and drove to her Bothell apartment to meet her last month. The girl told a psychologist about the encounter the next day, Bothell police reports say.</p>

	<p>During an interview with a child specialist with the King County prosecutor's office, she claimed she met a 41-year-old man on a phone chat line Sept. 20. The man knew she was 12 and asked her to repeat that to him on the phone while he masturbated, she allegedly told authorities.</p> <p>They also video-chatted on Skype that evening and arranged for him to visit her apartment the next day while her mother ran errands, reports indicate.</p> <p>Perdomo, who is 50, according to court records, allegedly showed up Sept. 21 and picked the girl up in his convertible. They parked in a secluded area of the apartment parking lot and had sex, the Bothell Police Department reported.</p> <p>Detectives traced the suspicious phone number in the girl's cell phone to Perdomo, who reportedly only lived in the Bremerton area for six months while being stationed in Keyport.</p> <p>The girl picked Perdomo's image from a photo lineup as the man she met, Bothell police reported.</p> <p>Detectives met Perdomo at the Naval Undersea Warfare Center, where he recalled meeting the girl, but denied anything sexual occurred between them. He allegedly claimed that he realized she was young upon meeting her in person and only talked with her for 30 minutes before driving away.</p> <p>Police arrested him and took him to King County Jail. Prosecutors charged him Oct. 10 with second-degree child rape.</p>
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HEADLINE	10/17 ICE planning more jails across US
SOURCE	https://www.upi.com/Top_News/US/2017/10/17/ICE-planning-more-jails-across-US-to-house-immigrants/4481508259016/?utm_source=fp&utm_campaign=lh&utm_medium=9
GIST	<p>Oct. 17 (UPI) -- U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement plans to build more jails in the United States to house additional undocumented migrants, a federal government website shows.</p> <p>The agency is seeking new privately run jail sites in Chicago, Detroit, St. Paul, Salt Lake City and southern Texas to house 4,000 more detainees. Requests for information were published on a federal contracting website last week.</p> <p>ICE now houses between 31,000 and 41,000 detainees each day in federal prisons, privately operated facilities and local jails, according to a Department of Homeland Security report.</p> <p>The agency has arrested nearly 100,000 suspected migrants since President Donald Trump took office and ordered a crackdown on unlawful immigration, according to ICE statistics -- a 43 percent increase over the same time period in 2016.</p> <p>Last month, the federal contracting website posted a notice for a 1,000 bed facility within 50 miles of Interstate 35 in Texas. GEO Group, one of the leading U.S. private prison contractors, was awarded a contract in April to build an immigration detention center outside Houston.</p> <p>Four of the sites for the new jails are so-called "sanctuary cities" that refuse to comply with federal detainer orders.</p>
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HEADLINE	10/17 White House fence jumper in custody
SOURCE	https://www.upi.com/Top_News/US/2017/10/17/Person-who-jumped-White-House-barrier-in-custody/5341508265270/?utm_source=fp&utm_campaign=lh&utm_medium=5

GIST	<p>Oct. 17 (UPI) -- A person is in custody after jumping a concrete barrier outside the White House on Tuesday morning, U.S. Secret Service said.</p> <p>Secret Service posted on Twitter at 9:49 a.m. that District of Columbia police officers were "responding to an individual who jumped over the concrete barrier" on the south side of the White House.</p> <p>Ten minutes later, the agency said the person was in custody and the police were "en route to investigate a suspicious package. South fence will remain closed until further notice."</p> <p>An hour later, the agency posted that the suspicious package was been cleared and the "south fence line pedestrian traffic has returned to normal."</p> <p>Secret Service said the backpack, which was dropped off, contained no hazardous items, The Washington Post reported.</p> <p>D.C. police said the incident occurred along E Street, near the Ellipse, and the offender jumped into a restricted area.</p>
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HEADLINE	10/18 German police raid Hells Angels
SOURCE	http://www.foxnews.com/world/2017/10/18/german-police-conduct-series-raids-on-hells-angels.html
GIST	<p>BERLIN – More than 700 German police officers have raided buildings used by a local chapter of the Hells Angels biker gang near the western city of Duesseldorf after state authorities banned the group on suspicion it was engaged in a wide range of criminal activity.</p> <p>The dpa news agency reported Wednesday that 50 buildings in 16 municipalities in the state of North Rhine-Westphalia were raided in a search for evidence to support the ban.</p> <p>The state Interior Ministry said the Hells Angels chapter based in the town of Erkrath is suspected of involvement in violence, weapons violations, drug offenses and forced prostitution.</p> <p>Police tactical teams took part in some of the raids as a precaution in case they turned violent but no incidents were reported. There were no arrests immediately announced.</p>
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HEADLINE	10/17 NJ: vets victimized in education scam
SOURCE	http://www.foxnews.com/us/2017/10/18/veterans-victimized-in-24m-education-scam-authorities-say.html
GIST	<p>A \$24 million “bait and switch” college education scam -- targeting U.S. military veterans -- could send two women to prison.</p> <p>Court documents released Tuesday in Newark, N.J., described a scheme in which thousands of veterans using their Post-9/11 G.I. Bill tuition benefits thought they had signed up for courses at Caldwell University, a small Catholic college in New Jersey.</p> <p>But instead, the veterans were enrolled in low-cost correspondence courses marketed by a Pennsylvania company – courses that were not covered by the Post-9/11 G.I. Bill.</p> <p>Authorities in New Jersey said two women have pleaded guilty to one count each of wired fraud in connection with the scam: Lisa DiBisceglie, 56, of Lavallette, N.J., a former associate dean at Caldwell University; and Helen Sechrist, 61, of Sandy Level, Va., a former employee of Ed4Mill, the Pennsylvania company.</p>

The pair defrauded the government of \$24 million between 2009 and 2013, federal prosecutors said. They could face up to 20 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine when they are sentenced Jan. 24, 2018.

The women have also been ordered to repay the \$24 million, although authorities were uncertain how much money would ultimately be recovered. It was unclear Tuesday whether the women had benefitted personally from the scam.

"DiBisceglie and Sechrist were part of an elaborate bait-and-switch scheme that stole millions of dollars in Post-9/11 GI Bill tuition assistance," acting U.S. Attorney William E. Fitzpatrick said in a statement. "Instead of receiving a quality education under the Caldwell brand, the veterans that were recruited by Ed4Mil were enrolled in unapproved online courses without their knowledge, all while members of the conspiracy profited from their hard-earned benefits."

"Scams like this steal money from hardworking taxpayers and legitimate students -- and in this case, our veterans -- and that is completely unacceptable," said Debbi Mayer, assistant special agent in charge of the U.S. Department of Education Office of Inspector General's Northeastern Regional Office, which helped investigate the case.

Also indicted was David Alvey, 50, of Harrisburg, Pa., the founder and president of Ed4Mil. He is charged with one count of conspiracy to commit wire fraud. His case is still pending.

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HEADLINE	10/18 Smugglers offer new routes to Europe
SOURCE	http://www.reuters.com/article/us-europe-migrants-tunisia/smugglers-offer-new-routes-to-europe-for-jobless-tunisians-idUSKBN1CN0PK
GIST	<p>OFF THE TUNISIAN COAST (Reuters) - Tunisian smugglers are offering migrants seeking a fresh start in Europe a new route from Africa to Italy.</p> <p>Thousands have made the dangerous 300 km journey between Libya and the Italian island of Lampedusa this year and hundreds more are thought to have died trying to crossing the Mediterranean Sea to reach European shores.</p> <p>A crackdown by the Libyan coastguard in August has forced migrants and smugglers to find alternatives, giving Tunisians an opportunity to sell spots on overcrowded boats between the Gulf of Tunis and Sicily.</p> <p>The number of migrants trying to make the trip, which can be as short as 150 km, has jumped in the last month while fewer are leaving from Libya.</p> <p>Most are Tunisians fleeing economic hardship at home. Others want to avoid increased navy patrols off Lampedusa and prefer to arrive on the larger island of Sicily where it is easier pass unnoticed. Penalties for smugglers and migrants are also light in Tunisia if you are caught.</p> <p>"The route to Sicily is not as heavily guarded as to Lampedusa," said Hassen Rebhi, captain of a Tunisian coast guard captain whose boat patrols the waters off Tunisia.</p> <p>Libya is still a much bigger departure point for Europe with 108,000 reaching Italy from Libya in 2017, according to the International Organisation for Migration (IOM).</p> <p>But Tunisian arrivals are on the rise with 1,400 in September, up from 1,350 in the first 8 months of the year. Many others are believed to have reached Sicily but escaped detection and identification.</p> <p>Tunisian coast guard officials said they had foiled 900 departure attempts in September compared to 170 in August. About 80 percent are Tunisians but there are also Libyans, Moroccans and sub-Saharan</p>

	<p>Africans.</p> <p>European officials are worried about an influx of Tunisian jihadists. Thousands of Tunisians have left to fight for Islamic State. Some have also made their way to Europe including Anis Amri who killed 12 people when he plowed a truck through a Christmas market in Berlin.</p> <p>Italy last week urged Tunisia to increase patrols, an Italian interior ministry spokesman said. It also wants to increase the number of Tunisians that can be repatriated from 30 a week to at least 80.</p>
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HEADLINE	10/17 What to do if financial info stolen
SOURCE	https://www.nbcnews.com/better/business/what-do-if-your-financial-information-stolen-ncna810276
GIST	<p>Contrary to what movies portray, the most common crimes are not Taken-style abductions or home invasions, but the theft of personal information. In fact, last year, identity theft and fraud cost consumers more than \$16 billion, with about 15.4 million people counted as victims. This is up from \$15.3 billion and 13.1 million, respectively, one year earlier.</p> <p>Instead of going off the grid and conducting business from your newly built panic room, there are many easy steps you can take to protect your information in the first place, including using difficult passwords and shopping on secure sites. In the event of a worst case scenario in which your information is compromised, however, quick and decisive action can also help to minimize the damage.</p> <p>Here’s what you need to do if you’re the victim of nefarious activity.</p> <p>KEEP TABS ON YOUR FINANCIAL INFORMATION</p> <p>The first line of defense against identity theft is simply knowing that it happened, since you can’t fix a problem if you aren’t aware that it occurred! Experts say it’s crucial to regularly monitor your existing financial accounts and credit reports. “The most effective way to keep tabs on all of these accounts is to regularly check them via your monthly statements, via online portals as often as you’d like [and] via mobile applications if they are provided,” says identity theft expert and consultant Robert Siciliano, CEO of IDTheftSecurity.com. He adds that with some credit cards, you can also set up text or push notifications so you’re informed of every charge. Whether you order Seamless every day or you can’t stop buying loot boxes in your favorite video game, it’s crucial to know that you’re the only one spending your cash.</p> <p>You should also regularly check your credit report (not just your credit score!) to ensure that no one has opened accounts in your name, says Manisha Thakor, Director of Wealth Strategies for Women at Buckingham Strategic Wealth. You can either keep an eye on the situation yourself or sign up for identity theft monitoring through a reputable company like LifeLock, IdentityForce or ID Watchdog, she says.</p> <p>If you’re going to monitor the situation on your own, you should request a credit report (again, not just your score, which doesn’t give a full picture) from one of the three major credit bureaus (Equifax, Experian and TransUnion) via AnnualCreditReport.com. Since you can get one free credit report from each of the three major bureaus annually, you should space them out so you can consistently keep an eye on your credit without having to shell out money. For example, request a credit report from Equifax in January, from Experian in April and from TransUnion in September. If you don’t think you’ll remember when it’s time for your financial checkup, set up reminders on your phone — it’s a perfect time to put those moneybags and credit card emojis to use.</p> <p>It’s easy for your eyes to glaze over once you download your report, but there are a few things you’ll want to look for. Thakor recommends keeping your eyes peeled for any account that has been opened that you don’t recognize. Do you get around via Uber and Lyft, yet spot a car loan? This should be a major red flag.</p> <p>Other tiny details could also be a sign something is off. Incorrect identifying information, such as an</p>

address, could indicate that someone else is trying to use your identity.

IF THERE IS INCORRECT INFORMATION ON YOUR CREDIT REPORT...

If you do find something off kilter on your report, reach out to the credit bureau and report the error — each bureau will have instructions for how to do so on their website. You may have to provide various forms of documentation and sign affidavits to get the mistake corrected, depending on what the problem is, Siciliano says.

According to Thakor, if it's something as simple as an account you have closed still showing as open or vice versa, that will likely be fairly straightforward to fix. "If you notice accounts that have been opened in your name that you did not open, that may be an administrative mistake on the part of the credit bureau — or more likely — a sign that your identity has been compromised," she says. "At this stage [it's] typically not necessary to hire a lawyer. In theory, by following the instruction on each credit bureau's site for reporting incorrect information you should be able to solve the problem for yourself."

Siciliano says you'll only need to escalate matters and hire a lawyer if the lender is contesting your claim of fraud and opts to litigate.

IF YOUR SENSITIVE FINANCIAL INFORMATION IS STOLEN...

If you suspect that your most sensitive personal information (like your Social Security number) has been snatched, then you'll want to freeze your credit with the three major credit bureaus, says Thakor. (Depending on the state, there may be a charge for the action.) This will prevent anyone from opening any additional accounts in your name.

"You should then be extra vigilant about monitoring activity on your credit cards and in your bank account," Thakor says. "I would suggest setting up alerts so you are texted each time any of your cards is used or any time there is activity in your bank accounts so you are getting real time information on the activity in your existing accounts."

If unauthorized accounts are opened in your name, you should also visit the identity theft site set up by the Federal Trade Commission and set up a recovery plan, which in more drastic situations can include serious steps like getting government IDs reissued or informing nagging debt collectors that you never racked up those charges.

You'll also want to gather "as much documentation as you can surrounding the theft," says Adrian A. Nazari, CEO of credit monitoring company Credit Sesame. "It is also a good idea to file a police report, as it can be an essential document in helping you recover from identity theft," he says.

As the situation gets resolved, it's important to remain as vigilant as ever. "It's also important that you are sure to always closely monitor your credit reports and financial accounts moving forward," Nazari says.

IF YOUR DEBIT/CREDIT CARD IS STOLEN...

If you lose your credit or debit card, or notice strange charges on your accounts, call your bank immediately and speak to someone to let them know the card or number has been stolen, Nazari says. "Provide specific details about what happened and they will issue you a new card with a [new number]," he says.

According to Thakor, if it's a credit card, your liability is limited if you let the company know right away, which means you won't be liable for those fraudulent charges. "Note, if it's a debit card and someone actually takes money out of your account, it can take longer to get those funds back, making credit cards ironically 'safer' in some respects than debit [cards] in an era of widespread identity theft," she says.

IF YOUR BANK ACCOUNT IS COMPROMISED...

	<p>Sometimes, if funds are transferred directly out of the account, it could signal a larger problem than just your physical card. “If an account has funds transferred out of it, and the bank suspects the account number along with the routing number was the issue, then they will reissue full credentials [which often means username and password, account number and routing number],” Siciliano says. He later added, “If the existing account has been fully compromised and taken over, then it is no longer advantageous for the bank or the customer to function under those credentials.”</p> <p>There are various systems in place requiring authentication that sometimes prevent withdrawal with just the account number and routing number, Siciliano says, but that doesn’t mean it can’t happen. Consumers have 60 days to refute unauthorized Automated Clearing House (ACH) transactions, which is why regularly checking your bank account transactions is a good idea. (ACH transactions give an institution or other customer permission to debit directly from your checking or savings account, usually for a bill or vendor payment. You can also get direct deposit through an ACH transaction.) Similarly to fraud related to your debit or credit card, you’ll have to reach out to your bank directly to flag the fraud. To protect yourself going forward, you can also put in place an ACH Debit Block, which prevents any ACH transactions from posting to your account, or an ACH Debit Filter, which only allows authorized transactions to go through.</p> <p>Depending on the bank, it may take anywhere from one day to a few weeks to get the money back into your account, which is why it’s crucial to act quickly if something is amiss. “The moment one recognizes unauthorized withdrawals they need to react,” Siciliano says.</p>
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HEADLINE	10/17 Judge denies El Chapo ‘contact visits’
SOURCE	https://www.newsmax.com/newsfront/el-chapo-lawyers-no-contact-visits-security/2017/10/17/id/820386/
GIST	<p>A federal judge in Brooklyn on Tuesday ruled Mexican drug lord El Chapo isn't allowed to have "contact visits" with his legal team because he's too much of a security risk, per a report in the New York Daily News.</p> <p>"The government's proposed modifications grant (the) defendant a constitutionally adequate means of preparing for trial without interfering with the safe operation of the MCC (Metropolitan Correctional Center)," U.S. District judge Brian Cogan wrote.</p> <p>Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman, who headed the Sinaloa Cartel, escaped twice from Mexican prisons. He is being held under maximum security in the MCC awaiting an April trial on drug trafficking, murder and kidnapping charges. His next court date is Nov. 8.</p> <p>Guzman, 60, will have to communicate with his lawyers from another cubicle, using video messaging and separated through a Plexiglass window.</p> <p>The MCC will also add a paper slot and a computer monitor for Guzman to communicate.</p> <p>"The Court is satisfied that, with these improvements in place, the defendant would be able to work effectively with his counsel," Cogan said.</p>
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HEADLINE	10/17 Calif. inmate injured fighting wildfire
SOURCE	http://abcnews.go.com/US/california-inmate-injured-battling-wildfires-escapes/story?id=50533586&cid=clicksource_81_4_article%20roll_articleroll_hed
GIST	A prison inmate doubling as a volunteer firefighter suffered smoke inhalation today while battling a blaze

nicknamed "The Bear Fire," fire officials in California confirmed.

A professional firefighter also suffered wrist and facial injuries after plunging 50 feet from a torched peak in the mountainous Boulder Creek region of Santa Cruz, California.

Each was digging in on a fire line to smother flames that started around 10:30 p.m. local time Monday, Cal Fire officials confirmed to ABC News.

"I don't want to minimize the death of the water tender, but the fact is the injuries are very low for what we're up against," Janet Upton, CAL Fire deputy director of communications, told ABC News. "To have so few injuries is remarkable."

The inmate was teamed up with firefighters battling a blaze in Las Cumbres, an elevated region of Santa Cruz that had been evacuated, Cal Fire officials said.

The fire has proved difficult to snuff out because of the vertical terrain and limited sunlight that grounded the air support, another Cal Fire official said.

The unidentified inmate who suffered the smoke inhalation injury is among the estimated 4,000 inmates fighting the wildfires in Northern California. They are often called the "Angels in Orange."

They are made up of men and women -- and even some juvenile offenders -- who don orange-colored fire gear as they fight fires. They earn a daily wage ranging from \$2 a day to \$1 an hour.

The inmates also command a third of the Cal Fire crews tackling the deadliest cluster of fires in California history, where 41 people have died and thousands of homes have been destroyed.

The inmate program was originally put in place in the 1940s to help maintain roadways.

Today, it allows 4,000 convicts to leave electric-fenced prisons to be on a camp where a state corrections spokesman said they are paid better than other jobs behind bars, eat grilled steak dinners and get double the credit for good behavior.

As volunteer firefighters, they serve under a real fire captain and fan out in 14-member teams where they work like a mowing machine: a team leader or "sawyer" whacks brush and trees down with chainsaws, rakes and pulaskis, which are a cross between an ax and a shovel.

"They are trained to do a very specific job, by working in crews of about 14 with chainsaws and hand tools and they cut firebreaks," Bill Sessa, a spokesperson for California's Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, told ABC News. "Their job is to slow the fire down or stop it or change its direction."

The inmates aren't conscripted.

In fact, the gig is one of the most sought after by inmates.

"They are there because they chose it as a coveted position," Sessa said. "They feel a sense of pride in doing what they do."

He went on, "You go into a camp and you would swear that except for their obvious inmate T-shirts and pants, that it's just another firefighter."

The vetting process is also very intense. Sessa said the circumstances of an inmate's conviction, the nature of the crime, their behavior in prison, and if they have taken advantage of education and rehabilitation resources are factored into the decision.

"We tell these inmates, 'You are going to be treated like firefighters. We're only going to treat you like

	<p>inmates if you are out of bounds," Sessa said.</p> <p>Sessa said that it is very rare to have inmates try to abscond from the camps, and almost unheard of for one to cut out on a fire line.</p> <p>But that is exactly what happened on Monday when Armando Castillo, 31, vanished at around 4:45 p.m. near Peters Canyon Regional Park while a crew was engaged in fighting the Canyon Fire 2 in Orange County, according to a statement released by the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.</p> <p>"The people that I've talked to who have been here a long time say they never had that happen before," Sessa said.</p>
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