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<b>Terror Conditions</b> <a href="#">Go to articles</a>	<a href="#">10/27 UN: Syria to blame for sarin attack</a> <a href="#">10/26 Center: ISIS fighters returning home</a> <a href="#">10/26 France paid benefits to ISIS fighters</a> <a href="#">10/26 UK woman convicted over terror plot</a>	<a href="#">10/27 US citizen joined ISIS faces sentencing</a> <a href="#">10/27 Niger attack: convoy separated in attack</a> <a href="#">10/26 Claim: slain soldiers wore t-shirts, caps</a> <a href="#">10/26 Intel: ISIS-linked group in Niger ambush</a> <a href="#">10/26 FBI: no foreign terror links in Fla. plot</a> <a href="#">10/26 Where are the American ISIS fighters?</a> <a href="#">10/26 Graphic testimony Bergdahl case</a>	
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<b>Crime, Criminals</b> <a href="#">Go to articles</a>	<a href="#">10/26 Top cartel heroin trafficker arrested</a> <a href="#">10/26 Theft from Mexico pipelines a concern</a> <a href="#">10/26 Arrests in Europe human smuggling raids</a>	<a href="#">10/26 Mexico seeks stay in US execution</a> <a href="#">10/26 Justice Dept. admits IRS wrongdoing</a> <a href="#">10/26 DOJ: federal laws over states' pot laws</a> <a href="#">10/26 Billionaire charged in opioid bribe case</a>	<a href="#">10/27 'Line cutters' anger at ferry terminals</a> <a href="#">10/26 Court: Dorcus Allen 'double jeopardy'</a> <a href="#">10/26 Yakima teens arrested in shooting death</a> <a href="#">10/26 WSP gets grant to test rape kit backlog</a> <a href="#">10/26 WSP: arrests for opening fire on trooper</a>

## Event Calendar

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Date	Event	Location/Time	Other Information
9-13 Apr 2018	LEIU/IALEIA Training Event	Marriott Hotel, 700 West Convention Way Anaheim, CA 92801 (714) 750-8000	<a href="http://www.ialeia.org/2018_conference.php">http://www.ialeia.org/2018_conference.php</a>
<a href="#">Return to Top</a>	**indicates new event/new information added during reporting week		

## Events, Opportunities

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HEADLINE	<b>10/27 US citizenship applications surge</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.nytimes.com/2017/10/27/us/citizenship-applications-immigration.html">https://www.nytimes.com/2017/10/27/us/citizenship-applications-immigration.html</a>
GIST	<p>In a year when the government has bolstered enforcement, backed curbing legal immigration and rescinded a program that protects undocumented youth from deportation, even a green card is not enough in the eyes of hundreds of thousands of immigrants applying for citizenship to protect themselves from removal and gain the right to vote.</p> <p>Naturalization applications generally spike during presidential cycles and fall after an election. But this year, the volume of applications is on track to surpass that of 2016, as a perennial backlog continues to pile up. It is the first time in 20 years that applications have not slipped after a presidential election, according to analysis by the National Partnership for New Americans, an immigrant rights coalition of 37 groups. And with an unrelenting stream of hard-line rhetoric and enforcement in the news, as well as a swell of citizenship drives and advocacy, there are no signs the trend is abating.</p> <p>“The draw of U.S. citizenship becomes more powerful when you have the political and policy environment that you have right now,” said Rosalind Gold, senior policy director at the Naleo Educational Fund, a national bipartisan Latino group.</p> <p>About 8.8 million people are eligible to become American citizens, meaning they have been lawful permanent residents, or had a green card, for at least five years.</p> <p>In the first three quarters of the 2017 fiscal year — from Oct. 1, 2016, through June 30, the latest period for which data is available — 783,330 people filed applications, compared with the 725,925 who filed during the same months a year earlier. The current figure is well on pace to surpass the 971,242 who applied in the 2016 fiscal year.</p> <p>With the surge of applications, the processing backlog has ballooned. There were 708,638 pending applications at the end of June, a steady rise from 522,565 at the end of the 2016 fiscal year and 291,833 in 2010. The average wait time has doubled, to 8.6 months from four months a few years ago, with applicants in cities like Dallas, Houston, Las Vegas and Miami waiting a year or longer.</p> <p>The United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, which processes the applications, said it was enlisting officers to work overtime and seeking to fill vacancies, noting “there is no quick fix” for the delays.</p> <p>Not all permanent residents aspire to citizenship. Mexicans and Central Americans have lower naturalization rates than Southeast Asians and Russians, many of whom arrived as refugees and cannot return to their countries. The application fee (currently \$725), the civics test and concern about losing certain privileges in a country of origin can deter naturalization.</p> <p>But the current political climate is compelling many to look past any deterrents.</p> <p>Permanent residency can be revoked, and green card holders can be deported if they are convicted on</p>

	<p>charges such as aggravated felonies, drug trafficking and crimes of “moral turpitude,” which can be broadly defined. Each time a permanent resident leaves the United States, re-entry is at the discretion of an immigration official.</p> <p>Citizenship protects immigrants from deportation if they commit a crime, and gives them access to federal benefits and jobs that are restricted to citizens.</p> <p>Ahead of the presidential election last year, several nonprofits began campaigns to encourage citizenship and guide immigrants through the application process, an effort that has not let up. Many cities, including Miami, Portland and Salt Lake City, have unveiled naturalization drives this year, and adult-education programs have added free citizenship courses for applicants.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>10/27 Navy rescues women lost at sea 5mo.</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/women-rescued-voyage-bad-worse-50753605?cid=clicksource_76_4_article%20roll_articleroll_hed">http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/women-rescued-voyage-bad-worse-50753605?cid=clicksource_76_4_article%20roll_articleroll_hed</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>A planned voyage from Hawaii to Tahiti aboard a small sailboat didn't start off well for two Honolulu women. One of their cellphones washed overboard and sank into the deep blue water on their first day at sea.</p> <p>From there, things got worse. Much worse. About a month into their trip, bad weather caused their engine to lose power. Their mast was damaged. And then, as they drifted across thousands of miles of open ocean, their water purifier stopped working.</p> <p>But the two sailors, accompanied by their dogs, were resourceful and prepared with more than a year's worth of food, and after more than five months of being lost in the vast Pacific Ocean, sending out daily distress calls that no one heard, they were rescued by the U.S. Navy on Wednesday about 900 miles southeast of Japan. Their intended destination: Tahiti — thousands of miles off course.</p> <p>The USS Ashland rescued the women after a Taiwanese fishing vessel spotted their crippled vessel Tuesday and alerted the U.S. Coast Guard, the Navy said in a statement released Thursday.</p> <p>The women, identified by the Navy as Jennifer Appel and Tasha Fuiava, both of Honolulu, lost their engine in bad weather in late May but believed they could still reach Tahiti using their sails.</p> <p>"They saved our lives," said Appel through the Navy release. "The pride and smiles we had when we saw (U.S. Navy) on the horizon was pure relief."</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>10/27 Burundi leaves Int'l Criminal Court</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/burundi-1st-leave-international-criminal-court-50754428?cid=clicksource_76_4_article%20roll_articleroll_hed">http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/burundi-1st-leave-international-criminal-court-50754428?cid=clicksource_76_4_article%20roll_articleroll_hed</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>Burundi has become the first country to withdraw from the International Criminal Court, but officials say the court's prosecutor will move ahead with an examination of the East African nation's deadly political turmoil.</p> <p>An ICC spokesman confirmed that the pullout took effect Friday, a year after Burundi notified the United Nations secretary-general of its intention to leave the court that prosecutes the world's worst atrocities.</p> <p>Burundi is the only one of three African nations to go ahead with withdrawal after they made moves last year to leave amid accusations that the court focuses too much on the continent. South Africa's withdrawal was revoked in March. Gambia's new government reversed its withdrawal in February.</p>

On Friday, Burundi's justice minister called the ICC withdrawal "a great achievement" in reinforcing the country's independence. Aimee Laurentine Kanyana also called on police and prosecutors to respect human rights so that "white people" won't have "false proofs to rely on in accusing Burundi."

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**HEADLINE** 10/26 'Oath of silence' secret world of pledging

**SOURCE** <http://abcnews.go.com/US/oath-silence-secret-world-fraternity-pledging-contributes-hazing/story?id=49877076>

**GIST**

An intoxicated teen is found unconscious and face down at the bottom of a set of stairs. But no one calls 911 until the next morning, when his breathing is labored and his skin has turned gray. He dies a day later.

Another teen, blindfolded and wearing a 30-pound backpack, loses consciousness in a field. More than an hour goes by before he is taken to a hospital. Multiple traumatic injuries and the delay in treatment are blamed for his death.

A third teen, allegedly forced to drink until he passes out, is left on a couch overnight and later declared dead with an alcohol level of .495, more than six times the legal limit.

These three deaths -- all young college students pledging different fraternities in separate states -- shine a light on the secretive and at times brutal realities of hazing in the pledging process. And for the families left behind, there are often more questions than answers. How could this have happened? Why did no one get help right away? And when did hazing get so out of control?

For fraternities, hazing is an inherent part of the culture, John Hechinger, author of "True Gentlemen: The Broken Pledge of America's Fraternities," told ABC News.

"Fraternities have been complaining about hazing as long as I could look back -- generations, decades even centuries."

But hazing pre-dates U.S. fraternities, Hechinger said. "British schools had a tradition of freshmen being viewed as sort of second-class citizens," suffering abuse at the hands of older students, and "this was brought over to American colleges," he said.

Hank Nuwer, an author and professor who has spent decades researching hazing, said fraternity hazing deaths date back to before the 1900s.

At Cornell University in 1873, "A young man was led out on a walkabout and when he was waiting for the rest of the initiation to occur, they were resting against a tree in the dark ... and three of them fell," he said. "Two brothers and the pledge. All were badly injured and the pledge died that night."

The accident probably wouldn't have happened if they had torches, Nuwer said, but a long walk in the dark was part of the hazing.

Since 1961, there has at least one hazing death at a school-related event in the U.S. a year, according to Nuwer -- and some years, there's been more. The vast majority of deaths are fraternity-related, he said, but the deaths have also involved bands, athletic teams and sororities.

Many students gravitate toward Greek life despite the culture of hazing because it gives them the basic camaraderie and social life they crave, Nuwer said.

"You hear a lot about the values and the philanthropy" of fraternities and sororities, he said, but according to his research, "Human beings can't get enough of approval and acceptance, and a fraternity and sorority gives that approval and acceptance. It's that basic."

While the pledging period is ostensibly supposed to be a time for new members to learn the history and rituals of the fraternity or sorority as he or she bonds with other members, it often serves as a "cover for hazing," Hechinger said.

During this period, pledges are often treated as "second-class" citizens who undergo a "long tradition of building of abuse." The abuse may start small, with responsibilities like buying lunches, cleaning or running errands, but it can then escalate to forced drinking or even physical beatings, according to Hechinger. And the pledges who go through this are often "desperate to belong" and become more and more invested the further along they get in the pledging process, Hechinger said.

Part of what has allowed hazing to endure is that many are reluctant to speak out about their experiences.

They feel they "took an oath of silence, a bond," Nuwer said. "If it's been criminal hazing, just like criminals, they're not going to brag. If it's noncriminal, but stupid or sexual of some sort, they are embarrassed and keep it in the family."

And so the cycle continues.

"You do bad things to others after bad things have been done to you," Nuwer said. "After you've rolled in vomit or drank until you throw up on yourself ... you do it to somebody else. Or it makes the effort you put in seem ridiculous and not worth it."

All former fraternity members approached by ABC News for this story declined to go on the record about any potential hazing they endured.

Baruch College student dies after tackle

In 2013, Chun "Michael" Deng, a 19-year-old freshman at Baruch College who was pledging the Pi Delta Psi fraternity, died after an alleged hazing ritual at a home the fraternity rented in Pennsylvania's Pocono Mountains.

Police said Deng was injured while participating in the alleged ritual known as the "glass ceiling," in which pledges, blindfolded and wearing a 30-pound backpack, must "get through a line of brothers while fraternity members shove and take the pledges down and resist the pledge from getting through the line."

Deng was tackled and knocked out, police said. While he was unconscious, fraternity members called the national fraternity president, who allegedly told them to hide all fraternity items, according to authorities. The students waited more than an hour before driving Deng to a hospital 45 minutes away, police said.

The 19-year-old died from multiple traumatic injuries and "the delay in treatment of one to two hours significantly contributed" to his death, according to the forensic pathologist.

In May 2017, four former fraternity members -- who had been charged with third-degree murder in Deng's death -- pleaded guilty to voluntary manslaughter and hindering apprehension. Sentencing is set for December and they face 22 to 36 months in prison, The Associated Press reported.

Dozens of others faced less serious charges and the fraternity itself was charged with murder, the AP said. Baruch permanently barred Pi Delta Psi and has halted all Greek pledging until 2018 in the wake of the incident, The New York Times reported. Court proceedings remain ongoing.

At Penn State, frat members allegedly tried to cover up a pledge's death

On a cold night in early February, the latest batch of young men selected to join Penn State's Beta Theta Pi fraternity gathered at the house for their first night as pledges.

Among them was Tim Piazza, a 19-year-old sophomore from New Jersey. Smart, athletic, humble, though a little shy, he joined his older brother at Penn State, where he was looking toward a bright future as an engineer, his parents say. He spent his free time at Penn State football games or enjoying weekend visits with his girlfriend. He “wasn’t a big risk taker,” his father, Jim Piazza, told ABC News. “A rule follower.”

The evening of Feb. 2, after taking part in an alcohol-fuelled hazing ritual known as the “Gauntlet,” a heavily intoxicated Tim Piazza was heard falling down the stairs, and later found lying face down at the bottom.

What happened next is described in horrific detail in a grand jury report citing evidence including surveillance video, witness testimony and phone records.

Members of the fraternity carried Tim Piazza up the steps and put him on the couch. They dumped water on his face and slapped him in an apparent attempt to wake him, to no avail. When one pledge tried to intervene, insisting they get Tim Piazza some help, he was shoved into a wall and told the brothers had it under control.

As the night went on, Tim Piazza tried over and over to stand on his own, falling each time and eventually going still. By the morning of Feb. 3, he was breathing heavily, with blood on his face. When a fraternity member finally called 911 for help, Tim Piazza’s skin had turned gray.

He died a day later of traumatic brain injuries.

Eighteen former Beta Theta Pi members at Penn State initially faced charges in connection to his death, with prosecutors alleging many were involved in attempting to cover up the incident and “coordinate a story.”

One former fraternity member allegedly texted his girlfriend “drink hazing can send me to jail,” and “I don’t want to go to jail for this.” “I think we are f-----,” he added.

“Make sure the pledges clean the basement and get rid of any evidence of alcohol,” one of the fraternity members allegedly texted another after Tim Piazza’s injury.

Another text read, “Make sure the pledges keep quiet about last night and this situation.”

However, in September, charges were dismissed completely against four of the former fraternity members who were facing single counts of either tampering with evidence or recklessly endangering another person. The most serious charges -- involuntary manslaughter and aggravated assault -- were also dropped for eight former fraternity members.

Cases against 14 students will head to trial, but for less serious alleged offenses. The fraternity itself, which was barred from Penn State, is also facing charges. The Centre County District Attorney’s Office told ABC News on Thursday no pleas have been entered and all the cases are set for Nov. 13 for pre-trial conferences.

In the wake of Tim Piazza’s death, Penn State announced a string of new reforms, including limiting alcohol to beer and wine and banning kegs; no daylong events; no more than 10 social events with alcohol per semester; and sanctions for Greek organizations that don’t prevent underage consumption and excessive drinking.

But the Piazzas don’t think the university’s changes are enough.

“They talked a lot about putting measures into place -- a lot of them haven’t even been implemented yet. Even with the measures they said they were going to take, I don’t think it’s enough,” Jim Piazza said.

“I just think Penn State would love for the noise to die down,” he added.

## 10 face charges in connection with pledge's death at Louisiana State University

Eighteen-year-old Maxwell Gruver, a freshman pledge at LSU's Phi Delta Theta fraternity, died on Sept. 14. What allegedly took place is detailed in court documents.

On Sept. 13, pledges were called to the frat house for an alleged hazing ritual referred to as "Bible study," during which the pledges answered questions and if they were incorrect, they had to drink, according to court documents.

"Pledges were told to make a single file line and go upstairs," the documents state, describing events as they allegedly progressed. As they went upstairs, one fraternity member threw mustard and hot sauce on them. Upstairs, the pledges were told to line up and put their nose and toes against a wall. "The lights were off with a strobe light flashing and loud music playing," the documents say.

Pledges were allegedly forced to drink and do "wall sits" while members walked across their knees, according to the documents.

Multiple people told authorities that the pledges were told to recite the Greek alphabet, and every time Gruver made a mistake, one fraternity member forced him to drink, according to the documents. A pledge reported that Gruver was forced to drink much more than the others. It appeared a fraternity member doing the hazing didn't like Gruver, another pledge added, and wanted to cut him from the pledging process, the documents state.

According to court documents, at some point, Gruver, who appeared intoxicated, was put on a couch and left there for the night. The next morning, several people checked his pulse and found it was weak, the documents state. They couldn't tell if he was breathing.

Gruver was taken to the hospital, where he was declared dead. He died from acute alcohol intoxication with aspiration, according to the coroner's report. The manner of death was ruled an accident. Toxicology testing found that Gruver's alcohol level was .495 at the time of this death, more than six times the legal limit, the coroner's office said.

Days after Gruver's death, Phi Delta Theta General Headquarters said it was immediately shuttering the LSU chapter "based on the preliminary findings of an investigation that uncovered enough information to conclude that some chapter members were in violation of established risk management policies, including our Alcohol-Free Housing policy."

Arrest warrants were issued for 10 people in connection with Gruver's death earlier this month -- 10 were charged with hazing and one of the 10 individuals was also charged with negligent homicide, LSU said. The East Baton Rouge District Attorney told ABC News no pleas have been entered and no court dates are set.

After Gruver's death, all Greek activities were halted and a Greek life task force was created to investigate the culture of LSU organizations.

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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>10/26 Group posts flyer on illegals in Burien</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://crosscut.com/2017/10/burien-group-undocumented-immigrants-names-address-identification/">http://crosscut.com/2017/10/burien-group-undocumented-immigrants-names-address-identification/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>The immigrant rights battle brewing in a Seattle suburb for months took a drastic turn this week with the circulation of a flier pointing to the specific addresses of undocumented immigrants and describing the alleged crimes that they committed from 2008 to 2017.</p> <p>The flier, which apparently went out to thousands of people living in the suburb of Burien, includes a map</p>

where undocumented immigrants are said to live. According to the 2010 Census, Burien is about 20 percent Latino.

Respect Washington, a statewide group known for its anti-immigrant stance, is responsible for the flier. The group, as The Stranger previously pointed out, is partially funded by U.S. Inc., a Michigan-based “non-profit” founded by John Tanton, which the Southern Poverty Law Center calls the “racist architect of the modern anti-immigrant movement.” An email and phone call to Respect Washington were not immediately returned.

In a Facebook post, however, Respect Washington said it opposed “illegal immigration, not immigration.” It also claimed that each name and address on the list “had a corresponding newspaper report of a crime in The Seattle Times and/or in court documents, which are public information.”

“You can run, but you can’t hide from the truth,” Respect Washington wrote on Facebook.

King County Sheriff John Urquhart posted about the letter Thursday afternoon, after it was reportedly forwarded to him. “Publicly disseminating this type of inflammatory information puts people at risk who likely had no connection to the crime, whether they be family members or new residents of the home,” he wrote. “I find it irresponsible and dangerous to release this type of very dubious information. It puts innocent people at risk for vigilante action and unnecessarily stokes fear in the community.”

Urquhart provided the letter to Crosscut on the condition names and addresses be redacted. When Crosscut contacted the number provided on the flier, it led to an automated voice message about “illegals.”

David Feinberg, a resident of Burien and business owner, said he learned about the flier on Facebook. Feinberg said although he had never previously considered himself an activist, he’s become more involved in Burien politics because “I was so outraged by what Respect Washington was doing.”

“We’re really a trial for the rest of the country,” Feinberg said, referring to Respect Washington’s efforts in the community. “They’re just getting warmed up.”

Feinberg called the group’s latest act “incredibly irresponsible. These are hateful people.”

In September, after a group known as Burien Communities for Inclusion filed a lawsuit, a Superior Court judge ruled against putting the city’s sanctuary status on the November ballot. And in August, a Superior Court judge in Spokane ruled against putting a similar measure on its November ballot.

Experts say sanctuary cities are intended to facilitate cooperation between the police and undocumented immigrants and to ensure the undocumented have access to some city services. Sanctuary cities do not have higher crime rates than other cities, experts say. And police in cities like Houston and Los Angeles have noted some Latinos have stopped reporting certain crimes, such as domestic violence, sexual assault and rape, because of anti-immigrant talk and a fear of deportation, which can make a city less safe.

Although Burien has remained a sanctuary city, there is a contentious City Council race currently underway that many residents feel could be decisive in deciding the future direction of the community.

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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>10/26 Court allows efforts remove 2 officials</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://mynorthwest.com/795194/washington-supreme-court-oks-efforts-to-remove-2-officials/">http://mynorthwest.com/795194/washington-supreme-court-oks-efforts-to-remove-2-officials/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	OLYMPIA, Wash. (AP) — The Washington Supreme Court has approved efforts to remove two local officials from office.  In separate unanimous decisions Thursday, the justices OK’d efforts to recall first-term Yakima County Clerk Janelle Riddle and Black Diamond City Councilwoman Patricia Pepper. Each had appealed lower



	<p>court rulings allowing the recall petitions to proceed.</p> <p>Riddle is accused of failing to make sure child support and restraining orders were transferred to the appropriate outside agencies. She blamed the problem on the adoption of new case management software, but the justices noted that other counties didn't have so much trouble switching to the new system.</p> <p>She's also accused of refusing to have her deputy clerks work in courtrooms to electronically record hearings, as required by court rules, and of threatening to shut down her office over the dispute.</p> <p>Pepper is accused of convening closed-door meetings in violation of the state's Open Public Meetings Act, among other charges.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>10/26 Charges declined for SPD shooting</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://mynorthwest.com/795800/charges-declined-for-now-for-cops-in-seattle-car-shooting/">http://mynorthwest.com/795800/charges-declined-for-now-for-cops-in-seattle-car-shooting/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>SEATTLE (AP) — Prosecutors have tentatively declined to bring criminal charges against two Seattle police officers who fired a barrage of gunshots that injured the driver and passenger of a stolen car fleeing an Eastlake neighborhood earlier this month.</p> <p>The Seattle Times reported Thursday the King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office sent the case back to the department for further investigation after a preliminary review of the information provided by police.</p> <p>Prosecutor's spokesman Dan Donohoe says prosecutors will make a final determination later.</p> <p>The Police Department's Force Investigation Team will proceed with an investigation, which is standard procedure when force is used.</p> <p>The driver and passenger were not seriously hurt in the Oct. 8 incident and have since been arrested and charged over the stolen vehicle.</p> <p>Police say officers Kenneth Martin and Tabitha Sexton fired at the fleeing Subaru in an alley after the driver suddenly drove toward them.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>10/26 Seattle to pay Sawant lawsuit fees</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://mynorthwest.com/795809/seattle-to-defend-councilmember-sawant-in-defamation-lawsuit/">http://mynorthwest.com/795809/seattle-to-defend-councilmember-sawant-in-defamation-lawsuit/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>SEATTLE (AP) — Seattle's city council president has decided that the city will defend Councilmember Kshama Sawant in a defamation lawsuit brought against her by two city officers.</p> <p>The Seattle Times reported Thursday that in a letter Bruce Harrell explains his reasoning that Sawant "was speaking about issues important to her constituents."</p> <p>By city charter, Harrell had to decide if Sawant made the alleged statement "within the course and scope of employment."</p> <p>In the lawsuit, officers Scott Miller and Michael Spaulding claim they were defamed when Sawant falsely declared they had committed a "brutal murder" in last year's fatal shooting of Che Taylor.</p> <p>The city also is representing Sawant in a separate defamation lawsuit brought by a property-owner who took issue with Sawant referring to him as a "notorious slumlord."</p> <p>Assistant City Attorney Joe Groshong has said he wouldn't be surprised if total litigation costs exceeded</p>

	\$300,000 in both lawsuits.
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>10/26 Seattle poised to spend \$2M on CHEL</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://mynorthwest.com/793709/seattle-2-million-injection-site-chel/">http://mynorthwest.com/793709/seattle-2-million-injection-site-chel/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>Seattle is poised to spend \$2 million on a safe injection site next year, but first the council wants to make sure it calls it by the proper name — CHEL.</p> <p>“I would encourage us to look at the name our opioid task force gave us, which is a ‘Community Health Engagement Location,’” Councilmember Sally Bagshaw noted during the council’s budget discussion Wednesday.</p> <p>“What we are proposing is far more than a safe consumption site,” she said. “Particularly, when we get into provision or referral of basic medical treatment, peer support, and health education. I know the term ‘safe consumption site’ makes a lot of people goosey. I would prefer to focus on the public health approach to it.”</p> <p>It’s not the first time Bagshaw has addressed language on the dais. In June 2016, she also took a stand on the “Jungle” — Seattle’s infamous homeless encampment under I-5.</p> <p>“The last number of weeks, we have been talking a lot about the greenbelt,” she said during the June council meeting. “It used to be known to us as the ‘Jungle,’ but words matter ...”</p> <p>Of course, the “Jungle” was just that — the Jungle. It’s how people who lived there — and the rest of Seattle — had referenced it for decades, despite the city calling it the “I-5 East Duwamish Greenbelt” on Bagshaw’s insistence. It really hurt local radio’s ability to use “Welcome to the Jungle” to lead into stories.</p> <p>Not every council member cares about what the safe injection sites, er, CHEL ... community health engagement locations are called.</p> <p>“We can call it whatever we want, I just want to fund it,” Councilmember Lorena González responded.</p> <p>The Seattle City Council, after deciding on what to call the sites, seems eager and ready to fund a CHEL in town. Seattle doesn’t know where it will locate the facility yet, but the council wants to set aside \$2 million for the program. The budget provision is sponsored by Councilmember González. Given that council members Bagshaw, Rob Johnson, Debora Juarez, Kshama Sawant, Mike O’Brien and Kirsten Harris-Talley are also in favor of spending the \$2 million, it is likely to make it into the 2018 budget.</p> <p>“I think it’s long overdue for us to now begin the process of taking action and moving this forward,” González said.</p> <p>While the consumption aspect of the Seattle CHEL is what makes headlines, what the city is proposing expands beyond safe injections. The proposed \$2 million will cover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overdose treatment, naloxone and oxygen</li> <li>• Overdose prevention, naloxone kit</li> <li>• Syringe exchange services</li> <li>• Sexual health resources and supplies</li> <li>• Referral to basic medical treatment, social services, case management</li> <li>• Peer support, health education</li> <li>• Rapid linkage to medication-assisted treatment, detox services and outpatient / inpatient treatment services</li> <li>• Supplies and space for consuming illicit drugs via injection, smoking or sublimation, and nasal</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>inhalation</li> <li>• Post-consumption observation space</li> </ul> <p>The \$2 million proposed for the Seattle CHEL is part of the budget the council is currently crafting. It is expected to be passed before the end of the year.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>10/26 Florida: 73,000 Puerto Ricans fled island</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.yahoo.com/news/more-73-000-puerto-ricans-flee-florida-hurricane-045107314.html">https://www.yahoo.com/news/more-73-000-puerto-ricans-flee-florida-hurricane-045107314.html</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>Miami (AFP) - More than 73,000 people have fled emergency conditions at home for Florida since Hurricane Maria devastated the US territory in the Caribbean.</p> <p>The island of about 3.4 million was ravaged by the megastorm and a majority are still without electricity, while others in isolated areas are continue to await services and help.</p> <p>"As of October 3, 2017, more than 73,000 individuals arrived in Florida from Puerto Rico through Miami International Airport, Orlando International Airport and the Everglades Port," a statement from the office of Governor Rick Scott said.</p> <p>The hurricane hit the island September 20, but Puerto Rican arrivals in Florida are being recorded from October 3, a spokesman for Florida Governor Rick Scott told AFP.</p> <p>That is because Florida was declared on that date to be in a state of emergency, to be able to respond to the expected migration impact.</p> <p>Thanks to the emergency declaration, the state opened disaster relief centers at two airports and the port, which have since served 15,000 people.</p> <p>In the relief centers, hurricane migrants from Puerto Rico can access help provided by the federal emergency management agency (FEMA), as well as state agencies for children and families, transportation, health as well as Red Cross services.</p> <p>Puerto Rico is an American territory and Puerto Ricans have US citizenship.</p> <p>In his statement, the governor also reported that Florida schools have registered more than 3,500 students displaced from Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands, also affected by the hurricane.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>10/26 Puerto Rico questions contract</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.yahoo.com/gma/san-juan-mayor-feuds-energy-firm-threatens-stop-073904699--abc-news-topstories.html">https://www.yahoo.com/gma/san-juan-mayor-feuds-energy-firm-threatens-stop-073904699--abc-news-topstories.html</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>A letter sent by Puerto Rico Gov. Ricardo Rossello to the Department of Homeland Security's inspector general's office on Wednesday touched off a Twitter feud and later apology by the small Montana-based company that earned a contract to restore power on the island.</p> <p>Whitefish's relative lack of experience -- coupled with the fact that it is based in Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's hometown -- has fueled questions about how it secured the \$300 million contract.</p> <p>"I request that your office complete its review of the Whitefish Contract so that a final determination can be made as to the Whitefish Contract and address any other issues regarding the same by Monday, October 30, 2017," Rossello wrote in the letter.</p>

San Juan Mayor Carmen Yulin Cruz -- a frequent opponent of President Donald Trump -- got into a brief Twitter battle with Whitefish after the governor made the request. She accused the company of "admitting political motivations."

"If @WhitefishEnergy feels that asking for transparency is 'misplaced,' what are they afraid we will find," she tweeted.

Whitefish responded to Cruz on Twitter and asked if it should send its workers home or allow them to keep working in the city.

"We've got 44 linemen rebuilding power lines in your city & 40 more men just arrived. Do you want us to send them back or keep working?" Whitefish Energy tweeted Wednesday.

Cruz responded with the following statement: "They are threatening not to do their job which frankly is quite irregular for a company hired to the work for the public sector."

Cruz had called the contract "alarming" in an interview with Yahoo News on Wednesday and said it should be "voided."

"The contract should be voided right away and a proper process which is clear, transparent, legal, moral and ethical should take place," she said.

Whitefish later apologized for the comments, saying it wished to "make good progress" and help everyone in Puerto Rico.

Many lawmakers questioned why the Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority had chose to work with Whitefish instead of reaching out to the American Public Power Association, which normally matches states hit by disasters with nearby public power utilities who have offered up crews and equipment.

Founded in 2015, Whitefish says it has mobilized a team of nearly 300 subcontractors in Puerto Rico, with more on the way, to help restore the island's electrical infrastructure in the wake of Hurricane Maria.

The company says it called Puerto Rico before Maria hit to pitch its own services.

Whitefish "showed up at the right place at the right time and that's how they got the contract," Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., told ABC News. "We want to see restoration pick up. Every day that they're without power is a day that economy isn't functioning and it's another day people are suffering."

Rossello said the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) also had questions about how the Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority had awarded the contract to Whitefish Energy, which had just two full-time employees when the contract was signed, but that FEMA had no comment on the contract at this time because "it appeared to comply 100 percent with FEMA regulations."

Only 25 percent of the island has power 35 days after Maria hit the island, according to the governor's office.

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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>10/26 Record-breaking growth Seattle area</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/data/florida-newcomers-surge-the-latest-on-another-year-of-record-breaking-growth-in-seattle-area/">https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/data/florida-newcomers-surge-the-latest-on-another-year-of-record-breaking-growth-in-seattle-area/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	The people keep coming, and the records keep falling.  Last year, more folks moved to King County from out of state than ever before, based on the number of driver's licenses issued by the Washington Department of Licensing (DOL).

Some 76,000 new residents poured into the county from every corner of the country and the globe, but with one out of five of them coming from — where else? — California.

2016 marks the third consecutive year that we've broken this particular record for the number of newcomers. We've been breaking so many records for population growth lately, perhaps Seattleites are getting a bit desensitized to it.

But here's some context. In 1990, at the height of the Microsoft boom, the DOL tallied 57,000 newcomers into King County from out of state. It must have seemed astonishing at the time — more than double the number just five years earlier — and that 1990 record held for 24 years.

When we finally smashed it in 2014, I wrote about it as evidence that the Amazon boom was officially bigger than the Microsoft boom. Now, after two more record-breaking years, that point is so obvious it seems hardly worth mentioning.

Here's another way of looking at it. In terms of single months, nine of the top 10 for in-migration to King County are from the current decade. October 2016 is the current No. 1, with about 8,900 new driver's licenses issued to folks from out of state in King County.

Seattleites may not complain about Californians moving here as much as they used to, but there are a heck of a lot more these days: A record number of Golden State expats — more than 16,000 — arrived in the county last year.

After California, Texas sent us the most new neighbors, with about 4,700 relocating from the Lone Star State. That's 1,400 more people than we got from Oregon, which had been second to California for many years. But the number of Texans moving here began to spike about 10 years ago, and in 2011, Texas leapfrogged Oregon into the No. 2 spot. It's remained there for six consecutive years.

The Beaver State shouldn't get too comfortable in third place, though. Florida has been surging in recent years — who knew there were so many folks who are sick and tired of sunshine? — and was just barely behind Oregon in 2016. In fact, Florida became the first state other than California, Texas or Oregon to export more than 3,000 folks to King County in a single year. Other sunny states sending a lot more residents our way: Arizona and Georgia.

One country crashed the top 10 list of "states" in 2016 — India, with about 1,900 new licenses issued. The total number of licenses issued to people from other countries hit 8,200 last year, also a record.

Nobody knows how long can we sustain this remarkable rate of growth, but we may have hit peak newcomers. The DOL numbers, which are current through September, show us off last year's pace by nearly 3,000.

The Washington Department of Licensing began recording data on new drivers from out of state in July 1982.

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HEADLINE	<b>10/26 Forbes ranks Seattle #2 'coolest city'</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/seattle-ranked-nations-no-2-coolest-city-just-behind-this-west-coast-rival/">https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/seattle-ranked-nations-no-2-coolest-city-just-behind-this-west-coast-rival/</a>
GIST	What a bummer, Seattle; we're No. 2.  San Francisco is officially cooler than Seattle, according to Forbes and Sperling's Best Places, which found that the former was "crushing" the competition when it came to restaurants, world-class museums, sports teams, good hiking and reliable mass transit.

Seattle, however, trumped all other contenders when it came to, yes, coffee and beer.

“Seattle won on this front with 83 coffee shops, coffee roasters & craft beer breweries per 100,000 residents,” according to the 2017 edition of America’s Coolest Cities, published on Thursday.

Seattle also placed first when it comes to the number of options for recreational activities, including parks, zoos, sporting events and art and cultural activities.

A city’s ranking was also influenced by diversity and net migration to an area, as well as the number of inhabitants aged 25 to 34, since “youth brings vibrancy and new ideas,” the list’s creators determined.

Here’s the full list:

1. San Francisco
2. Seattle
3. San Diego
4. New Orleans
5. Portland
6. San Jose
7. Los Angeles
8. New York
9. Boston
10. Denver
11. Charleston, S.C.
12. Honolulu
13. Austin
14. Miami
15. Madison
16. Houston
17. D.C.
18. Las Vegas
19. Orlando
20. Tampa, Fla.

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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>10/26 State Dept. advances Russia sanctions</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.upi.com/Top_News/US/2017/10/26/State-department-advances-Russia-sanctions-after-delay/3871509068812/?utm_source=fp&amp;utm_campaign=ts&amp;utm_medium=3">https://www.upi.com/Top_News/US/2017/10/26/State-department-advances-Russia-sanctions-after-delay/3871509068812/?utm_source=fp&amp;utm_campaign=ts&amp;utm_medium=3</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>Oct. 26 (UPI) -- The U.S. State Department took steps toward issuing sanctions against Russia Thursday, nearly a month behind schedule.</p> <p>The department sent Congress a list of entities linked to the defense and intelligence arms of the Russian government on Thursday, 25 days after the Oct. 1 deadline required by law.</p> <p>"Secretary of State Rex Tillerson has authorized the department to issue guidance to the public specifying the persons or entities that are part of or operating on behalf of the defense or intelligence sectors of the government of the Russian Federation," State Department Spokeswoman Heather Nauert said. "What that means is that Secretary Tillerson has signed off on this and it is now being held on Capitol Hill."</p> <p>Nauert added the State Department also reached out to "key US industry stakeholders and our allies and partners" to explain the list.</p> <p>The list names more than 30 companies as associated with Russia's defense sector and several entities as linked to Russia's intelligence sector and will guide sanctions the administration must begin to take on Jan.</p>

	29, 2018, The Wall Street Journal reported.  The information sent to Congress also included guidance about the type of transactions that might incur sanctions.
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>10/27 Taiwan president making state visits</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://www.foxnews.com/world/2017/10/27/taiwan-president-making-state-visits-amid-china-stalemate.html">http://www.foxnews.com/world/2017/10/27/taiwan-president-making-state-visits-amid-china-stalemate.html</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>TAIPEI, Taiwan – Taiwan's President Tsai Ing-wen is setting off for the United States and three South Pacific nations in an effort to crack the diplomatic isolation imposed by rival China.</p> <p>Tsai will visit the Marshall and Solomon Islands along with Tuvalu, three of only 20 countries that extend Taiwan formal diplomatic recognition. Like most other Taiwan allies, the three are developing nations that look to Taiwan for economic support.</p> <p>Tsai's travels follow Panama's switching of diplomatic relations to Beijing in June in what was seen as a major diplomatic setback for Taiwan.</p> <p>China claims sovereignty over democratic, self-ruled Taiwan, which split from the mainland amid civil war in 1949, and uses diplomatic and economic clout to squelch the island's international relations. Washington does not formally recognize Taiwan but maintains close ties.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>10/26 National Drug Take Back Day: Oct 28<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.cbsnews.com/news/drug-take-back-day-october-28-expired-opioids-painkillers-pills/">https://www.cbsnews.com/news/drug-take-back-day-october-28-expired-opioids-painkillers-pills/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>President Trump is encouraging Americans to rid their medicine cabinets of leftover <a href="#">prescription drugs</a> by turning them in to designated collection sites on <a href="#">National Prescription Drug Take Back Day</a> this Saturday, Oct. 28.</p> <p>The president promoted the event in a White House speech Thursday as he officially declared the <a href="#">opioid epidemic</a> a <a href="#">public health emergency</a>.</p> <p>"I am urging all Americans to help fight this opioid epidemic and the broader issue of drug addiction by participating in the National Prescription Drug Take Back Day this Saturday — when you can safely turn in these dangerous and horrible drugs for disposal," Mr. Trump said.</p> <p>National Prescription Drug Take Back Day is sponsored by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration and local agencies, which host events across the country to collect potentially harmful expired, unused or unwanted medications so they can be disposed of safely.</p> <p>You can drop off unwanted pills or medication patches between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Saturday at locations in all 50 states. There is no cost and drop-offs can be made anonymously. <a href="#">Search for a nearby collection site here.</a></p> <p>Prescription drugs are a common cause of <a href="#">accidental poisonings</a> in children and should not be kept around if they're no longer needed.</p> <p>Leftover <a href="#">prescription opioid painkillers</a>, in particular, pose a risk for <a href="#">addiction and overdoses</a>.</p> <p>According to the 2015 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, "a majority of abused prescription drugs were obtained from family and friends, often from the home medicine cabinet," the DEA said in a statement. Another study published last year surveyed 1,000 people with opioid painkiller</p>

	<p>prescriptions and found that one in five of them admitted <a href="#">sharing their pills</a> with another person.</p> <p>This will be the 14th National Prescription Drug Take Back Day. The DEA says so far the events have resulted in more than 8.1 million pounds of pills being turned in. The most recent event, in April, brought in 900,000 pounds of drugs at close to 5,500 sites across the nation.</p> <p>Leftover pills can be dropped off at certain pharmacies and other collection sites around the country in between official Take Back Days. You can find those locations <a href="#">here</a> or at <a href="http://www.rxdrugdropbox.org">www.rxdrugdropbox.org</a>.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>10/26 Report: NKorea human rights abuses</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.cbsnews.com/news/us-report-shines-light-on-brutal-conditions-in-north-korea/">https://www.cbsnews.com/news/us-report-shines-light-on-brutal-conditions-in-north-korea/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>The State Department issued a report Thursday on North Korea's human rights abuses and censorship, which included the sanctioning of 10 individuals and entities that have taken direct actions to back the regime's brutality.</p> <p>"This report shines a spotlight on serious human rights abuses committed by the DPRK regime, including extrajudicial killings, forced labor, torture, prolonged arbitrary detention, as well as rape, forced abortions, and other sexual violence," said Scott Busby, the State Department's Deputy Assistant Secretary for Democracy, Human Rights and Labor.</p> <p>This is the third report of its kind, required by legislation congress passed in 2016, and this specific report identifies regime facilitators outside of the country's borders. In doing so, it targets individuals and entities that have supported the regime's forced labor and forced repatriation. The US has increasingly encouraged individual countries to sever ties with North Korea and this is the latest in that effort. A country at the heart of this push is China, which accounts for 90 percent of North Korea's trade volume.</p> <p>One of the individuals on the list is Ku Sung Sop, the consul general in Shenyang, China. Ku focuses on surveillance of forced laborers in China, according to the report. These laborers work for no pay – instead, all of the money they make goes directly to the DPRK government.</p> <p>This economic lifeline then allows the regime to continue funding and building their ballistic and nuclear missile programs. Ku is also involved in forced repatriation, which means getting those who escape to China to unwillingly return to North Korea. This US is hoping that China takes steps against Ku.</p> <p>"I don't want to speak for what China may or may not do with his case, but we've brought it to their attention," explained Busby. He said the range of possibilities included expelling Ku from the country.</p> <p>This list of individuals set to be sanctioned by the US also included mid-level DPRK officials. Busby said that defectors have said that this was an effective tactic as, in some cases, it led the harshness of the treatment to be "lessened."</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>10/26 Puerto Ricans risk water diseases</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.nbcnews.com/storyline/puerto-rico-crisis/puerto-ricans-risk-waterborne-disease-outbreaks-wake-hurricane-maria-n814461">https://www.nbcnews.com/storyline/puerto-rico-crisis/puerto-ricans-risk-waterborne-disease-outbreaks-wake-hurricane-maria-n814461</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>Waterborne illnesses are on the rise in Puerto Rico in the wake of Hurricane Maria — and health professionals fear the storm's aftermath could unleash an epidemic on the devastated island.</p> <p>The death toll from the storm rose to 51 on Tuesday, with the two latest victims dying of leptospirosis, a bacterial disease usually spread by contact with contaminated water, Puerto Rico Public Affairs Secretary Ramon Rosario told The Associated Press.</p>



Authorities are investigating an additional 74 suspected cases of the infection as well, he said, and at least one previous death was attributed to the disease.

“It’s going to be higher — it’s like a perfect storm for leptospirosis,” said Llamara Padro-Milano, a nurse who returned last week from a relief trip to Puerto Rico with the American Federation of Teachers. “People are going to get sick and suffer.”

A spokeswoman for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention confirmed to NBC News on Wednesday that they had received a shipment of specimens from the U.S. territory and were currently analyzing them at their laboratory in Atlanta for signs of leptospira, the bacteria that causes the disease.

The disease is transmitted via exposure to the urine of infected animals, but humans are most commonly infected by coming in contact with contaminated water, especially through skin abrasions and the nose, mouth and eyes, according to World Health Organization.

On Thursday, a group of nurses with the union National Nurses United who participated with the trip slammed the federal government’s response to the hurricane in a news conference with Democratic lawmakers.

“Door to door the nurses assessed and found people who may die before food, water and medicine can reach them,” said Cathy Kennedy, vice president of the nurses’ union.

The group released a report Thursday that concluded “the response to the crisis in Puerto Rico from the U.S. federal government has been unacceptable for the wealthiest country in the world.”

The over 70 suspected incidents of leptospirosis in just a month would represent a major spike: A total of 729 cases of the disease were reported from 1990-2014 to the Puerto Rico Department of Health, according to a 2016 study in the journal PLoS Neglected Tropical Diseases; of those cases, 78 were fatal. However, the study warned that leptospirosis was underreported or misdiagnosed as dengue.

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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>10/26 American Airlines top in racial complaints</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2017-10-26/american-airlines-leads-u-s-carriers-in-racial-bias-complaints">https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2017-10-26/american-airlines-leads-u-s-carriers-in-racial-bias-complaints</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>American Airlines passengers have filed 29 complaints of racial discrimination in the last 20 months, the most of any airline flying in the U.S., according to data compiled by the U.S. Department of Transportation.</p> <p>While air travelers are often unhappy, American’s treatment of African-American passengers has recently come under particular scrutiny. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People on Tuesday issued a "travel advisory" for the airline, citing four incidents that, it says, “suggest a corporate culture of racial insensitivity and possible racial bias.” Some Twitter users have also been critical of experiences with American, using the hashtags #Happened2MeOnAA and #FlyingWhileBlack.</p> <p>On a quarterly conference call with investors today, American Chief Executive Officer Doug Parker addressed the NAACP’s announcement and reiterated the company’s commitment to diversity. “Discrimination, exclusion and unconscious biases are enormous problems that no one has mastered, and we would never suggest that we have it all figured out either,” Parker said. “We want to keep learning and we want to be even better.”</p> <p>Tamika Mallory, one of the organizers of the Women’s March, has become a high-profile critic of the airline. She was kicked off an American Airlines flight -- unfairly, she says -- after a seating dispute last week. On Twitter, she wrote that it wasn’t a one-time incident and said she was “asking for policy changes for ALL of us.”</p>

Other Twitter users described not being let onto purchased flights by gate agents and being punched in the chest by a flight attendant. One user, who said he is a young black Muslim man, said an attendant reported him to authorities because he had a hood on.

“These are very rare events when they happen,” Parker said Thursday. “Sometimes we do have issues with our customers. We take responsibility for that. There is no major trend going on in that regard.”

American Airlines spokeswoman Shannon Gilson said in an email that Mallory had been invited to meet with members of the executive team at the company’s headquarters.

Among American’s largest rivals, United Continental Holdings Inc. had the next-highest number of complaints at 17. There were 9 complaints each at Delta Air Lines Inc., the second-largest airline, and Southwest Airlines Co., which flies the largest number of domestic passengers, according to the data.

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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>10/25 More stores on list to close Thanksgiving</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.usatoday.com/story/money/nation-now/2017/10/25/black-friday-nordstrom-and-stein-mart-join-these-60-plus-stores-closing-thanksgiving/799130001/">https://www.usatoday.com/story/money/nation-now/2017/10/25/black-friday-nordstrom-and-stein-mart-join-these-60-plus-stores-closing-thanksgiving/799130001/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>Sears Hometown, Shoe Carnival and Stein Mart — all stores that opened on Thanksgiving last year — will go dark along with 60-plus other stores for the holiday this year.</p> <p>That's according to BestBlackFriday.com, whose 2017 Thanksgiving Closures List details retailer's turkey day plans. Also new to the list is Nordstrom and its sister store, Nordstrom Rack, along with discount retailer Mills Fleet Farm.</p> <p>The closures chip away at recent years' trend of retailers opening for some or all of the Thanksgiving Day holiday, bumping back even earlier their starts to Black Friday — the unofficial start of the holiday shopping season.</p> <p>Stores closing early on Thanksgiving:</p> <p>H-E-B (open from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m.)</p> <p>Stores closing on Thanksgiving Day:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A.C. Moore</li><li>• Abt Electronics</li><li>• Academy Sports + Outdoors</li><li>• At Home</li><li>• BJ’s Wholesale Club</li><li>• Blain’s Farm and Fleet</li><li>• Burlington</li><li>• Cabela’s</li><li>• Cost Plus World Market</li><li>• Costco</li><li>• Craft Warehouse</li><li>• Crate and Barrel</li><li>• DSW – Designer Shoe Warehouse</li><li>• Ethan Allen</li><li>• Gardner-White Furniture</li><li>• Guitar Center</li><li>• H&amp;M</li></ul>

- Half Price Books
- Harbor Freight
- Hobby Lobby
- Home Depot
- HomeGoods
- Homesense
- IKEA
- JOANN Fabric and Craft Stores
- Jos. A. Bank
- La-Z-Boy (all corporately owned stores)
- Lowe's
- Marshalls
- Mattress Firm
- Micro Center
- Mills Fleet Farm
- Music & Arts
- Neiman Marcus
- Nordstrom
- Nordstrom Rack
- Office Depot and OfficeMax
- Outdoor Research (also closed Black Friday too)
- P.C. Richard & Son
- Party City
- Patagonia
- Petco
- PetSmart
- Pier 1 Imports
- Publix
- Raymour & Flanigan Furniture
- Sam's Club
- Sears Hometown Stores
- Shoe Carnival
- Sierra Trading Post
- Sportsman's Warehouse
- Sprint (corporate- and dealer-owned stores; mall kiosks may open)
- Staples
- Stein Mart
- Sur La Table
- The Container Store
- The Original Mattress Factory
- TJ Maxx
- Tractor Supply
- Trollbeads
- Von Maur
- West Marine

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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>10/26 New refugee policy cuts entries into US</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/world/2017/10/26/analysis-revamped-refugee-program-could-block-half-refugees/800609001/">https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/world/2017/10/26/analysis-revamped-refugee-program-could-block-half-refugees/800609001/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	WASHINGTON — The Trump administration replaced its 120-day suspension of the refugee admissions

program this week with a more restrictive, scaled-down version that would have banned half of the refugees admitted to the U.S. last year.

The new program bars refugees coming from 11 countries that made up 44% of the 53,716 refugees admitted to the U.S. in the 2017 fiscal year that ended Sept. 30, according to a USA TODAY analysis of State Department data.

The 11 countries were identified by refugee agencies as Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Libya, Mali, North Korea, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan, Syria and Yemen. In all but two of the countries on the list — North Korea and South Sudan — Islam is the dominant religion.

The new program also bars 2,500 spouses of refugees and their children under the age of 21, a group that represented 5% of refugees admitted in 2017.

"What that tells me is this continues to be a ban," said Melanie Nezer, senior vice president of the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, a Maryland-based group that resettles refugees in the U.S. "They had 120 days to resolve this, and instead they're continuing to ban refugees from majority Muslim countries."

The added restrictions come as President Trump takes drastic steps to slash the number of refugees admitted to the U.S.

President Obama raised the annual cap on refugees to 110,000 in his final year in office as countries around the world struggled to respond to the ongoing global migration crisis. But Trump lowered that to 55,000 in 2017 and has set a cap of 45,000 for 2018, the lowest cap since Congress passed the Refugee Act in 1980.

Trump ordered a 120-day pause on all refugee admissions that started in June following a lengthy battle in the courts. He argued the pause was necessary to give his administration time to review and improve vetting procedures used to screen refugee applicants to ensure terrorists do not take advantage of the program.

That review concluded Tuesday, when the administration announced that refugee admissions would be restarted with the additional restrictions.

The most severe was the blanket restriction on refugee admissions from the 11 countries. The bans will last for 90 days and may be extended further.

Those countries were targeted because federal agencies "continue to have concerns" about the threats posed by people from those nations, according to a memorandum co-signed by Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, Department of Homeland Security Acting Secretary Elaine Duke and National Intelligence Director Dan Coats.

The memo said some people from the 11 countries may be allowed to enter the U.S. if their case is deemed to be "in the national interest." But for the most part, federal agencies will shift their focus to applicants from other countries.

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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>10/26 Airlines brace for escalating fuel costs</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/2017/10/26/airlines-cope-higher-fuel-prices-and-could-mean-higher-fares/804686001/">https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/2017/10/26/airlines-cope-higher-fuel-prices-and-could-mean-higher-fares/804686001/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	Airlines are bracing for escalating fuel costs this year — and that could lead to higher fares.  Fuel, which is often an airline's largest expense after salaries, cost more at the five largest airlines compared with last year. During the first nine months of the year:

- American Airlines said Thursday that aircraft fuel and related taxes were up nearly 20% to nearly \$4.5 billion.
- Delta Air Lines said Oct. 11 that aircraft fuel and related taxes were up 9% to \$4.2 billion.
- JetBlue Airways said Tuesday that fuel and related taxes were up 27% to \$994 million.
- Southwest Airlines said Thursday fuel and oil costs were up 8% to \$2.9 billion.
- United Airlines said Oct. 19 that fuel cost was up 18% to \$5 billion.

Airlines expect the trend to continue. Delta CEO Ed Bastian expects to spend \$400 million more on fuel during the second half of the year than the carrier projected just three months ago.

Derek Kerr, American's chief financial officer, projected a 16% hike in consolidated fuel prices during the final three months of the year, compared with last year.

If higher prices remain stubborn, rather than a short-term spike, American CEO Doug Parker warned Thursday that fares could follow.

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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>10/27 JFK files: some files released, others held</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2017/10/26/john-f-kennedy-assassination-archives-release-secret-jfk-files/798788001/">https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2017/10/26/john-f-kennedy-assassination-archives-release-secret-jfk-files/798788001/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>WASHINGTON — Sketchy testimony from barroom drunks in New Orleans, accounts of parties in Mexico City attended by gunman Lee Harvey Oswald and squabbles between CIA officials and congressional investigators marked the release of the final batch of records Thursday related to the Nov. 22, 1963, assassination of President John F. Kennedy.</p> <p>President Trump authorized the release of almost 2,900 document files through the John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act of 1992, which set Thursday as the final deadline to release them. Others were kept secret because of requests from the CIA and FBI, which feared their release would compromise national security.</p> <p>Long awaited by historians, journalists, researchers and conspiracy theorists, the final batch of secret files shed more light on the Kennedy assassination, which has fascinated Americans for almost 54 years. The 1964 Warren Commission, led by then-Chief Justice Earl Warren, was created by Kennedy's successor, Lyndon Johnson, as a way to clear up questions about the murder, but it instead spawned multiple conspiracy theories.</p> <p>While many of the documents pertained to the CIA and FBI investigations into the activities of Oswald, the 24-year-old former Marine sharpshooter identified as Kennedy's killer, many dealt with the multiple covert operations of the Cold War 1960s and 1970s, including Cuban exile groups, defectors from the Soviet Union and the espionage hothouse that was Mexico City.</p> <p>Other files included notes from committees that investigated the original investigation of the assassination, as well as the 1968 killing of civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. Some of the notes were lists of newspaper articles or documents.</p> <p>Despite his decision to keep some documents secret, Trump said his move provided a new look at old secrets.</p>

"The American public expects – and deserves – its government to provide as much access as possible to the President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records so that the people may finally be fully informed about all aspects of this pivotal event," Trump's memo said. "Therefore, I am ordering today that the veil finally be lifted."

Other records will be held back for further review, and released on a rolling basis with redactions in the coming weeks, White House Press Secretary Sarah Sanders said in a statement.

Trump's memo says some agencies worried the release of some details would hurt U.S. national security, law enforcement, and foreign affairs.

"I have no choice – today – but to accept those redactions rather than allow potentially irreversible harm to our nation's security," Trump said.

Trump ordered agencies to review the proposed redactions and justify them. This process will take up to 180 days, and the agencies have to demonstrate why the blackouts are necessary to protect their sources and methods of intelligence gathering. The vast majority of the requested redactions came from the CIA and FBI, according to senior administration officials who spoke under condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak ahead of Thursday's release.

At the end of the six-month period, the National Archives will release more records deemed to be in the public interest, Sanders said, with redactions "only in the rarest of circumstances" by the deadline of April 26, 2018.

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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>10/27 JFK files (parts) released: highlights</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2017/10/26/jfk-files-highlights-2-800-pages-previously-classified-records/805355001/">https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2017/10/26/jfk-files-highlights-2-800-pages-previously-classified-records/805355001/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>The National Archives on Thursday made public more than 2,800 page of documents related to the 1963 assassination of President John F. Kennedy.</p> <p>Here are some highlights:</p> <p><b>Nov. 27, 1963: A chilling memory</b></p> <p>A Secret Service agent interviewed Robert C. Rawls, who was in a bar in New Orleans a week to 10 days before Kennedy's assassination. Rawls heard a man betting \$100 that Kennedy would be dead within three weeks. He thought nothing of it until the assassination. Rawls was drunk at the time and couldn't remember the name of the guy, what he looked like, or what specific bar it was in.</p> <p><b>1963: Secret Service lists surveillance targets</b></p> <p>There's a 413-page document that details everyone that Secret Service was watching between March and December 1963, including Puerto Rican nationals, Klansmen and others. Each had a description of why they were angry at the president and their threat level. The document is a window into how Secret Service viewed potential threats.</p> <p>Another Secret Service document notes more than 400 people the agency suspected might want to harm the president. One Puerto Rican nationalist interviewed in a Veterans Administration hospital praised Kennedy's killer Lee Harvey Oswald for thinking big. "Diagnosed schizophrenic paranoid," the Secret Service notes said. "Considered dangerous by doctor."</p> <p><b>Nov. 23, 1963: If JFK went to Dallas, 'he would never leave there alive'</b></p>

Henry Gourley of Vancouver, British Columbia, called police in Bellingham, Wash., on Nov. 23, 1963, to say he'd had drinks at the Hildon Hotel inn three weeks before the assassination. He heard three men talking and saying if Kennedy ever went to Dallas "he would never leave there alive." The men were on their way to Cuba. Gourley is certain that Oswald was one of the three, from a picture on TV. But one of the friends Gourley was drinking with tells FBI his "imagination runs away with him." The FBI agent decides the guy imagined it.

### **April 6, 1964: The birth of a conspiracy theory**

Kennedy's assassination rocked the nation, and Lyndon Johnson, the new president, created a special commission led by Supreme Court Chief Justice Earl Warren to investigate the killing. The Warren Commission concluded in 1964 that Oswald acted alone.

The documents include an April 1964 memo from FBI director J. Edgar Hoover, who notes the Warren Commission was investigating an alleged meeting at the Carousel Club in Dallas attended by Officer J.D. Tippitt and others a week before the assassination, after a tip from conspiracy theorist lawyer Mark Lane. Hoover insists the investigation has already found nothing to suggest that such a meeting "ever took place or was ever likely." Tippitt was killed by Oswald after he saw the alleged assassin walking in downtown Dallas shortly after Kennedy was shot.

### **Attempts to overthrow Castro**

Among the documents are ledgers of payments to Cuban exile groups working to overthrow the government of Cuban dictator Fidel Castro, who defeated a brigade of exiles who tried to overthrow him through a failed invasion at the Bay of Pigs in April 1961. Kennedy had vowed to depose Castro.

Additionally, the documents include a 1975 history of U.S. attempts to overthrow Castro written by then-White House counsel Philip Buchen, a longtime friend and law partner of President Gerald Ford. It noted that the first attempt to kill Castro came in 1959, shortly after he came to power.

### **A link between JFK and Richard Nixon**

So much of the information included in the latest document release includes details of the multiple efforts to overthrow governments in Cuba, first the dictatorship of Fulgencio Batista and then communist Fidel Castro. In one 1958 FBI document, the bureau's Havana station reported the activities of Frank Fiorini, also known as Frank Sturgis, in running guns to overthrow Batista. The long yarn is one of the references to Sturgis, a soldier of fortune type who would feature in multiple attempts to overthrow Castro during the 1960s. In June 1972, Sturgis would be arrested along with three other anti-Castro exiles trying to break into the Democratic National Committee headquarters in Washington's Watergate office complex, which would start the two-year political scandal that would end the presidency of the man Kennedy defeated in 1960 – Richard Nixon.

Another document from 1976 showed that Sturgis called the CIA and alleged that a meeting in Cuba in the months before Kennedy's assassination. In attendance: Fidel Castro, Raul Castro and Che Guevara.

A letter from Tennent Bagley, former CIA deputy chief of the Soviet Bloc Division, to Robert Blakey, the chief counsel of the House Special Committee on Assassinations, claimed multiple errors in the testimony before the committee by John Hart, a CIA representative. Hart had testified about the information provided by Yuri Nosenko, a Soviet defector, about Lee Harvey Oswald's time in the Soviet Union from 1959 to 1962.

"Having been publicly dishonored by unfounded statements" before the committee, Bagley demanded a chance to testify. He submitted a detailed challenge to Nosenko's credibility. Nosenko said the Soviet KGB had not tried to recruit Oswald, which contradicted the testimony of another Soviet defector, Anatoly Golitsyn. The CIA was torn throughout much of the 1960s between the accounts of the two defectors, which often conflicted. CIA counterintelligence chief James Angleton favored Golitsyn, but by 1969, the

	agency acknowledged that Nosenko was a legitimate defector.
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>10/26 Defense chief visits DMZ</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.newsmax.com/world/asia/as-mattis-north-korea/2017/10/26/id/822404/">https://www.newsmax.com/world/asia/as-mattis-north-korea/2017/10/26/id/822404/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>PANMUNJOM, Korea (AP) — The Latest on U.S. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis in Asia (all times local):</p> <p>11 a.m.</p> <p>U.S. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis is making a show of solidarity with South Korea by traveling to the heavily fortified buffer zone between North and South, known as the demilitarized zone or DMZ.</p> <p>Mattis is also visiting a U.S.-South Korean military observation post to peer into the North and get briefed on conditions along the border. The two countries have been separated by the border since a truce halted the Korean War in 1953.</p> <p>Mattis is in South Korea to meet with the nation's top defense officials and American military commanders on the front line in countering North Korea's nuclear weapons program.</p> <p>Mattis is emphasizing the Trump administration's push for a diplomatic solution. But he's also said the U.S. is prepared to take military action if the North doesn't halt its development of missiles that could strike the mainland United States.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>10/26 Court disqualifies Australia deputy PM</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.newsmax.com/world/asia/as-australia-unlawful-lawmakers/2017/10/26/id/822405/">https://www.newsmax.com/world/asia/as-australia-unlawful-lawmakers/2017/10/26/id/822405/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>CANBERRA, Australia (AP) — Australia's High Court has disqualified the deputy prime minister and four senators from sitting in Parliament in a ruling that could cost the government its slender majority in Parliament.</p> <p>The decision on Friday to disqualify Deputy Prime Minister Barnaby Joyce over a constitutional ban on dual citizens sitting in Parliament means a by-election will be held in December.</p> <p>Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull's conservative coalition has a single-seat majority in the 150-seat House of Representatives where parties form governments.</p> <p>The court also disqualified four of the six senators referred to court including government minister Fiona Nash.</p> <p>Disqualified senators are replaced by members of their own parties without an election so the balance of power is not altered.</p> <p>Joyce will be able to stand for re-election, having renounced his New Zealand citizenship.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>10/26 Union: weather service 'on brink of failure'</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.newsmax.com/us/national-weather-service-jobs/2017/10/26/id/822341/">https://www.newsmax.com/us/national-weather-service-jobs/2017/10/26/id/822341/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	The National Weather Service has hundreds of vacant forecaster positions, and the lack of staff leaves the agency "for the first time in its history teetering on the brink of failure," according to a report from the Weather Service's labor union, the National Weather Service Employees Organization.



"It's gotten so bad that we're not going to be able to provide service that two years ago we were able to provide to public, emergency managers, and media," said Dan Sobien, union president.

"We've never been in that position before," Sobien added, according to The Washington Post.

For example, the Washington and Baltimore region is short five full-time forecasters, according to Ray Martin, the union representative for that region.

Staff morale has suffered as a result, Martin told the Post: "Some people have been denied vacations, because there are not enough bodies to fill shifts. I, myself, worked a 15-hour day about a week ago. You get a lot less sleep. You start to wonder if you're safe on the road. You don't see your loved ones, which eats into family life."

Martin was unsure if the low amount of staff would affect the quality of warnings and forecasts.

"You're working people double shifts, some people aren't getting days off, and you're grinding people down. There is that potential," Martin told the Post.

"The longer this goes on, the more the potential rises. There's a long winter ahead," he added.

Susan Buchanan, a National Weather Service spokeswoman, said the agency is not neglecting its staff or its constituents.

"Let me state emphatically that we would never take an action that would jeopardize the services we provide to emergency managers and the public," Buchanan told the Post. "NWS is taking definitive steps to ensure the health and well-being of our employees through guidance to local managers on scheduling and flexibility."

The agency is working quickly to fill the open positions, Buchanan said. The Senate Appropriations Committee, in its 2018 fiscal year budget markup, said the job vacancies were "unacceptable . . . the NWS is directed to fill all vacancies as expeditiously as possible," the Senate's markup said, according to the Post.

A government-wide hiring freeze imposed by President Donald Trump's administration affected the agency before the hurricane season, according to a Sept. 27 report in The Washington Post.

"There's no question that the hiring freeze had an effect," Sobien, the union president, said in September Post report. "But really it was the straw that broke the camel's back. The camel was already weighed down to the ground."

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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>10/26 State health exchange rates jump 36%</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://komonews.com/news/local/wash-state-health-exchange-rates-jump-more-than-36-percent">http://komonews.com/news/local/wash-state-health-exchange-rates-jump-more-than-36-percent</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>OLYMPIA, Wash. (AP) - Washington state's insurance commissioner says that 10 percent of the average premium increase that customers of the state's individual health insurance market will see is due to President Donald Trump's decision to stop paying federal subsidies to insurers.</p> <p>Insurance Commissioner Mike Kreidler said Thursday that in total, the average premium increase this year will jump more than 36 percent.</p> <p>The rate announcement comes a day after a U.S. judge in California rejected a request from 18 states - including Washington - and the District of Columbia to force the Trump administration to resume paying</p>

	<p>"Obamacare" subsidies right away.</p> <p>Consumers who qualify for tax credits to help pay their silver premiums will still receive them.</p> <p>"I'm very disheartened to have to approve these rates," Kreidler said in a statement. "For months, we've struggled with the ongoing uncertainty at the federal level and have shared our concerns with our Congressional delegation and with the president's administration."</p> <p>Eleven health insurers are approved to sell 74 plans in Washington's individual health insurance market next year. Open enrollment for the state exchange begins Wednesday and ends Jan. 15.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>10/26 Ranking states' infrastructure failures</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.usatoday.com/story/money/economy/2017/10/26/infrastructure-failure-states-falling-apart/797300001/">https://www.usatoday.com/story/money/economy/2017/10/26/infrastructure-failure-states-falling-apart/797300001/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>The U.S. economy is the largest in the world, topping a GDP of \$18.6 trillion in 2016. An economic powerhouse as massive and diversified as the United States depends on a network of highways, bridges, airports, and dams to thrive.</p> <p>And while the economy has grown every year since the recession officially ended in 2009, our nation's infrastructure is not fairing as well.</p> <p>An estimated 17% of American dams — 15,500 in total — are categorized as high hazard potential, meaning their failure would almost certainly result in loss of life. Meanwhile, 11.2% of roads are in poor condition, which ultimately lead to vehicle damage and traffic delays. Vehicle repairs, fuel, and wasted time cost motorists an estimated \$272 billion in 2014. Perhaps most troubling is the state of disrepair of bridges across the country as tens of thousands are classified as structurally deficient by the federal government.</p> <p>Infrastructure repair is one rare issue that often garners bipartisan support in Washington. While President Donald Trump previously proposed spending \$1 trillion on fixing the country's infrastructure, he recently abandoned his plans to form a Council on Infrastructure.</p> <p>The estimated cost of repairing roads, bridges, and dams in the United States is projected to top \$2.4 trillion by 2025. Other necessary infrastructure repairs, including railways, airports, and wastewater infrastructure would cost an additional \$2.2 trillion. 24/7 Wall St. created an index using the share of bridges, roads, and dams that are in a state of disrepair or potentially hazardous, to identify the states with the best and worst infrastructure.</p> <p>50. Florida</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Roads in poor condition: 3.2% (3rd lowest)</li> <li>&gt; Deficient bridges: 2.1% (3rd lowest)</li> <li>&gt; Dams at high hazard risk: 6.3% (9th lowest)</li> <li>&gt; Highway spending as pct. of total: 8.7% (8th highest)</li> </ul> <p>49. Kansas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Roads in poor condition: 2.2% (the lowest)</li> <li>&gt; Deficient bridges: 8.6% (25th highest)</li> <li>&gt; Dams at high hazard risk: 4.3% (3rd lowest)</li> <li>&gt; Highway spending as pct. of total: 7.2% (18th highest)</li> </ul> <p>48. Minnesota</p>

- > Roads in poor condition: 6.6% (22nd lowest)
- > Deficient bridges: 6.0% (16th lowest)
- > Dams at high hazard risk: 5.0% (5th lowest)
- > Highway spending as pct. of total: 6.9% (22nd highest)

#### 47. Montana

- > Roads in poor condition: 4.0% (10th lowest)
- > Deficient bridges: 8.8% (23rd highest)
- > Dams at high hazard risk: 6.6% (10th lowest)
- > Highway spending as pct. of total: 10.2% (3rd highest)

#### 46. Georgia

- > Roads in poor condition: 3.9% (8th lowest)
- > Deficient bridges: 4.7% (6th lowest)
- > Dams at high hazard risk: 11.0% (15th lowest)
- > Highway spending as pct. of total: 4.1% (7th lowest)

#### 45. Wyoming

- > Roads in poor condition: 3.4% (6th lowest)
- > Deficient bridges: 11.0% (16th highest)
- > Dams at high hazard risk: 6.0% (8th lowest)
- > Highway spending as pct. of total: 8.5% (10th highest)

#### 44. Alabama

- > Roads in poor condition: 3.2% (4th lowest)
- > Deficient bridges: 7.6% (21st lowest)
- > Dams at high hazard risk: 10.0% (14th lowest)
- > Highway spending as pct. of total: 6.2% (25th lowest)

#### 43. North Dakota

- > Roads in poor condition: 3.2% (2nd lowest)
- > Deficient bridges: 15.0% (7th highest)
- > Dams at high hazard risk: 5.5% (6th lowest)
- > Highway spending as pct. of total: 14.8% (the highest)

#### 42. South Carolina

- > Roads in poor condition: 4.9% (13th lowest)
- > Deficient bridges: 10.3% (17th highest)
- > Dams at high hazard risk: 8.6% (11th lowest)
- > Highway spending as pct. of total: 4.1% (6th lowest)

#### 41. Nebraska

- > Roads in poor condition: 6.7% (24th lowest)
- > Deficient bridges: 15.4% (6th highest)
- > Dams at high hazard risk: 4.8% (4th lowest)
- > Highway spending as pct. of total: 7.4% (16th highest)

#### 40. Mississippi

- > Roads in poor condition: 9.2% (21st highest)
- > Deficient bridges: 12.3% (12th highest)
- > Dams at high hazard risk: 5.8% (7th lowest)
- > Highway spending as pct. of total: 6.3% (24th highest)

#### 39. Vermont

- > Roads in poor condition: 5.8% (18th lowest)
- > Deficient bridges: 5.6% (12th lowest)
- > Dams at high hazard risk: 16.2% (20th lowest)
- > Highway spending as pct. of total: 7.8% (15th highest)

#### 38. Texas

- > Roads in poor condition: 10.4% (19th highest)
- > Deficient bridges: 1.7% (2nd lowest)
- > Dams at high hazard risk: 16.7% (21st lowest)
- > Highway spending as pct. of total: 6.1% (24th lowest)

#### 37. South Dakota

- > Roads in poor condition: 6.4% (19th lowest)
- > Deficient bridges: 19.6% (4th highest)
- > Dams at high hazard risk: 3.5% (2nd lowest)
- > Highway spending as pct. of total: 12.8% (2nd highest)

#### 36. Oregon

- > Roads in poor condition: 6.6% (21st lowest)
- > Deficient bridges: 5.3% (10th lowest)
- > Dams at high hazard risk: 18.0% (23rd lowest)
- > Highway spending as pct. of total: 4.2% (9th lowest)

#### 35. Arkansas

- > Roads in poor condition: 8.3% (23rd highest)
- > Deficient bridges: 6.3% (17th lowest)
- > Dams at high hazard risk: 15.2% (18th lowest)
- > Highway spending as pct. of total: 6.8% (23rd highest)

#### 34. Virginia

- > Roads in poor condition: 8.7% (22nd highest)
- > Deficient bridges: 6.7% (19th lowest)
- > Dams at high hazard risk: 16.0% (19th lowest)
- > Highway spending as pct. of total: 9.2% (5th highest)

#### 33. Tennessee

- > Roads in poor condition: 4.9% (14th lowest)
- > Deficient bridges: 5.0% (9th lowest)
- > Dams at high hazard risk: 22.2% (25th highest)
- > Highway spending as pct. of total: 4.9% (14th lowest)

### 32. Maine

- > Roads in poor condition: 6.5% (20th lowest)
- > Deficient bridges: 14.4% (9th highest)
- > Dams at high hazard risk: 11.6% (16th lowest)
- > Highway spending as pct. of total: 7.3% (17th highest)

### 31. Iowa

- > Roads in poor condition: 10.1% (20th highest)
- > Deficient bridges: 20.5% (2nd highest)
- > Dams at high hazard risk: 2.6% (the lowest)
- > Highway spending as pct. of total: 9.1% (6th highest)

### 30. Illinois

- > Roads in poor condition: 10.5% (17th highest)
- > Deficient bridges: 8.4% (25th lowest)
- > Dams at high hazard risk: 14.4% (17th lowest)
- > Highway spending as pct. of total: 8.0% (13th highest)

### 29. Nevada

- > Roads in poor condition: 3.6% (7th lowest)
- > Deficient bridges: 1.6% (the lowest)
- > Dams at high hazard risk: 28.2% (14th highest)
- > Highway spending as pct. of total: 4.2% (8th lowest)

### 28. Oklahoma

- > Roads in poor condition: 11.3% (16th highest)
- > Deficient bridges: 15.0% (8th highest)
- > Dams at high hazard risk: 8.8% (13th lowest)
- > Highway spending as pct. of total: 8.7% (7th highest)

### 27. Kentucky

- > Roads in poor condition: 3.3% (5th lowest)
- > Deficient bridges: 8.1% (24th lowest)
- > Dams at high hazard risk: 24.8% (19th highest)
- > Highway spending as pct. of total: 8.2% (11th highest)

### 26. Utah

- > Roads in poor condition: 5.5% (16th lowest)
- > Deficient bridges: 3.1% (5th lowest)
- > Dams at high hazard risk: 29.1% (12th highest)
- > Highway spending as pct. of total: 5.1% (16th lowest)

### 25. Idaho

- > Roads in poor condition: 4.4% (12th lowest)
- > Deficient bridges: 9.2% (21st highest)
- > Dams at high hazard risk: 24.1% (21st highest)
- > Highway spending as pct. of total: 8.0% (12th highest)

#### 24. Louisiana

- > Roads in poor condition: 16.4% (11th highest)
- > Deficient bridges: 13.5% (10th highest)
- > Dams at high hazard risk: 8.6% (12th lowest)
- > Highway spending as pct. of total: 5.2% (18th lowest)

#### 23. Colorado

- > Roads in poor condition: 10.5% (18th highest)
- > Deficient bridges: 5.7% (14th lowest)
- > Dams at high hazard risk: 24.5% (20th highest)
- > Highway spending as pct. of total: 4.9% (15th lowest)

#### 22. New Hampshire

- > Roads in poor condition: 8.2% (24th highest)
- > Deficient bridges: 12.2% (13th highest)
- > Dams at high hazard risk: 21.2% (25th lowest)
- > Highway spending as pct. of total: 7.1% (19th highest)

#### 21. Michigan

- > Roads in poor condition: 15.0% (13th highest)
- > Deficient bridges: 11.1% (14th highest)
- > Dams at high hazard risk: 16.9% (22nd lowest)
- > Highway spending as pct. of total: 3.7% (4th lowest)

#### 20. Indiana

- > Roads in poor condition: 6.8% (25th lowest)
- > Deficient bridges: 8.0% (22nd lowest)
- > Dams at high hazard risk: 28.7% (13th highest)
- > Highway spending as pct. of total: 6.9% (21st highest)

#### 19. Missouri

- > Roads in poor condition: 4.1% (11th lowest)
- > Deficient bridges: 13.1% (11th highest)
- > Dams at high hazard risk: 27.2% (17th highest)
- > Highway spending as pct. of total: 4.5% (12th lowest)

#### 18. Maryland

- > Roads in poor condition: 16.8% (9th highest)
- > Deficient bridges: 5.8% (15th lowest)
- > Dams at high hazard risk: 22.8% (23rd highest)
- > Highway spending as pct. of total: 5.7% (22nd lowest)

#### 17. Wisconsin

- > Roads in poor condition: 16.7% (10th highest)
- > Deficient bridges: 8.7% (24th highest)
- > Dams at high hazard risk: 20.3% (24th lowest)
- > Highway spending as pct. of total: 6.2% (25th highest)

## 16. Ohio

- > Roads in poor condition: 13.0% (15th highest)
- > Deficient bridges: 6.9% (20th lowest)
- > Dams at high hazard risk: 27.7% (15th highest)
- > Highway spending as pct. of total: 5.1% (17th lowest)

## 15. Arizona

- > Roads in poor condition: 3.9% (9th lowest)
- > Deficient bridges: 2.6% (4th lowest)
- > Dams at high hazard risk: 44.5% (8th highest)
- > Highway spending as pct. of total: 5.5% (20th lowest)

## 14. Washington

- > Roads in poor condition: 15.8% (12th highest)
- > Deficient bridges: 4.8% (7th lowest)
- > Dams at high hazard risk: 31.0% (11th highest)
- > Highway spending as pct. of total: 5.6% (21st lowest)

## 13. Alaska

- > Roads in poor condition: 18.2% (8th highest)
- > Deficient bridges: 9.7% (19th highest)
- > Dams at high hazard risk: 26.2% (18th highest)
- > Highway spending as pct. of total: 9.8% (4th highest)

## 12. New York

- > Roads in poor condition: 21.9% (7th highest)
- > Deficient bridges: 11.0% (15th highest)
- > Dams at high hazard risk: 22.7% (24th highest)
- > Highway spending as pct. of total: 2.7% (the lowest)

## 11. North Carolina

- > Roads in poor condition: 6.6% (23rd lowest)
- > Deficient bridges: 9.9% (18th highest)
- > Dams at high hazard risk: 42.0% (10th highest)
- > Highway spending as pct. of total: 7.1% (20th highest)

## 10. Massachusetts

- > Roads in poor condition: 31.5% (2nd highest)
- > Deficient bridges: 9.3% (20th highest)
- > Dams at high hazard risk: 22.9% (22nd highest)
- > Highway spending as pct. of total: 4.5% (11th lowest)

## 9. New Mexico

- > Roads in poor condition: 5.6% (17th lowest)
- > Deficient bridges: 6.5% (18th lowest)
- > Dams at high hazard risk: 52.0% (7th highest)
- > Highway spending as pct. of total: 5.2% (19th lowest)

## 8. New Jersey

- > Roads in poor condition: 31.0% (3rd highest)
- > Deficient bridges: 9.0% (22nd highest)
- > Dams at high hazard risk: 27.3% (16th highest)
- > Highway spending as pct. of total: 4.7% (13th lowest)

## 7. Delaware

- > Roads in poor condition: 5.3% (15th lowest)
- > Deficient bridges: 4.9% (8th lowest)
- > Dams at high hazard risk: 75.9% (2nd highest)
- > Highway spending as pct. of total: 5.7% (23rd lowest)

## 6. California

- > Roads in poor condition: 29.4% (4th highest)
- > Deficient bridges: 5.5% (11th lowest)
- > Dams at high hazard risk: 52.6% (6th highest)
- > Highway spending as pct. of total: 3.2% (2nd lowest)

## 5. Pennsylvania

- > Roads in poor condition: 14.7% (14th highest)
- > Deficient bridges: 19.8% (3rd highest)
- > Dams at high hazard risk: 53.0% (5th highest)
- > Highway spending as pct. of total: 8.6% (9th highest)

## 4. Connecticut

- > Roads in poor condition: 27.3% (6th highest)
- > Deficient bridges: 8.0% (23rd lowest)
- > Dams at high hazard risk: 59.9% (4th highest)
- > Highway spending as pct. of total: 4.0% (5th lowest)

## 3. West Virginia

- > Roads in poor condition: 8.2% (25th highest)
- > Deficient bridges: 17.3% (5th highest)
- > Dams at high hazard risk: 71.0% (3rd highest)
- > Highway spending as pct. of total: 7.9% (14th highest)

## 2. Rhode Island

- > Roads in poor condition: 39.7% (the highest)
- > Deficient bridges: 24.9% (the highest)
- > Dams at high hazard risk: 42.3% (9th highest)
- > Highway spending as pct. of total: 3.7% (3rd lowest)

## 1. Hawaii

- > Roads in poor condition: 29.0% (5th highest)
- > Deficient bridges: 5.7% (13th lowest)
- > Dams at high hazard risk: 93.2% (the highest)
- > Highway spending as pct. of total: 4.5% (10th lowest)



<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>10/26 Violence mars Kenya election re-run</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://www.reuters.com/article/us-kenya-election/boycott-shooting-and-tear-gas-mar-kenya-election-re-run-idUSKBN1CV003?il=0">http://www.reuters.com/article/us-kenya-election/boycott-shooting-and-tear-gas-mar-kenya-election-re-run-idUSKBN1CV003?il=0</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>KISUMU, Kenya (Reuters) - Kenyan opposition supporters skirmished with police and threw up burning barricades in pockets of the country on Thursday, seeking to derail President Uhuru Kenyatta's likely re-election with a low voter turnout.</p> <p>The election commission said that more than one in 10 polling stations failed to open. Voting was delayed until Oct. 28 in four of Kenya's 47 counties - all in the opposition-supporting west - due to "security challenges".</p> <p>The repeat election is being closely watched across East Africa, which relies on Kenya as a trade and logistics hub, and in the West, which considers Nairobi a bulwark against Islamist militancy in Somalia and civil conflict in South Sudan and Burundi.</p> <p>In the western city of Kisumu, police used tear gas and fired live rounds over the heads of stone-throwing youths heeding opposition leader Raila Odinga's call for a voter boycott. Gunfire killed one protester and wounded three, a nurse said.</p> <p>In Homa Bay county next door, police said they shot dead one protester and injured another.</p> <p>Riot police fired tear gas in Kibera and Mathare, two volatile Nairobi slums. Protesters set fires and threw stones in Kibera, and in Mathare a church was firebombed.</p> <p>Around 50 people have been killed, mostly by security forces, since the original Aug. 8 vote. The Supreme Court annulled Kenyatta's win in that poll on procedural grounds and ordered fresh elections, but Odinga pulled out of the rerun and urged a boycott because, he said, the poll would not be fair.</p> <p>In the capital, polling stations saw a sprinkling of voters instead of the hours-long queues that waited in August.</p> <p>With Kenyatta all but ensured a victory, eyes are on the turnout, which was nearly 80 percent in the August vote. The election commission said Thursday's estimated turnout was 48 percent, excluding the counties where voting did not take place.</p> <p>"We are requesting them (voters) humbly that they should turn out in large numbers," Kenyatta, the U.S.-educated son of Kenya's founding father, Jomo Kenyatta, said after voting. "We're tired as a country of electioneering and I think it's time to move forward."</p> <p>A decade after 1,200 people were killed over another disputed election, many Kenyans feared violence could spread.</p> <p>As well as delayed voting, the poll is likely to trigger legal challenges to the result, stirring longer-term instability and ethnic divisions.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>10/26 US sanctions NKoreans over abuses</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://www.reuters.com/article/us-northkorea-usa-rights/u-s-sanctions-north-koreans-over-forced-labor-other-alleged-abuses-idUSKBN1CV2Q3">http://www.reuters.com/article/us-northkorea-usa-rights/u-s-sanctions-north-koreans-over-forced-labor-other-alleged-abuses-idUSKBN1CV2Q3</a>
<b>GIST</b>	WASHINGTON (Reuters) - The United States on Thursday imposed sanctions on seven North Korean individuals and three entities over what it called serious human rights abuses, including forced labor and

hunting down of asylum seekers.

“Today’s sanctions target the North Korean military and regime officials engaged in flagrant abuses of human rights,” U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said in a statement. “We also are targeting North Korean financial facilitators who attempt to keep the regime afloat with foreign currency earned through forced labor operations.”

Among those targeted by the sanctions were the director and the deputy director of the Military Security Command, the first vice minister of the Ministry of People’s Security and the labor minister. The United States also sanctioned North Korea’s consul general in Shenyang, China, and a diplomat at North Korea’s embassy in Vietnam.

“We are especially concerned with the North Korean military, which operates as secret police, punishing all forms of dissent,” the statement said.

The Treasury statement charged that Ku Sung Sop, the consul general in Shenyang, and Kim Min Chol, a diplomat at the embassy in Vietnam, had participated in the forced repatriation of North Korean asylum seekers.

It said the Ch’olhyo’n Overseas Construction Company, which was sanctioned along with the Military Security Command and the External Construction Bureau, had operated in Algeria and was reported to earn foreign currency for North Korea.

“Employees of Ch’olhyo’n are kept in slave-like conditions, including having salaries and passports withheld by (North Korean) security officials assigned as site supervisors, meager food rations, poor living conditions, and severe restrictions on their freedom of movement,” the Treasury statement said.

It said the External Construction Bureau had operated in Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates.

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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>10/26 Opioid crisis ‘public health emergency’</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.wsj.com/articles/president-trump-to-announce-opioid-crisis-a-public-health-emergency-1509024286">https://www.wsj.com/articles/president-trump-to-announce-opioid-crisis-a-public-health-emergency-1509024286</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>WASHINGTON—President Donald Trump on Thursday declared opioid addiction a “public health emergency,” seeking to elevate the crisis within his administration without an immediate provision of additional funds.</p> <p>The description stops short of the “national emergency” designation that Mr. Trump had said over the summer he would apply to the epidemic of abuse and overdose of the powerful drugs.</p> <p>Opioids such as fentanyl, heroin, oxycodone and hydrocodone killed more than 34,500 people last year, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have estimated, and senior administration officials on Thursday morning likened the death toll to that in the Vietnam War.</p> <p>“We can be the generation that ends the opioid epidemic” Mr. Trump said, calling the crisis a “plague” and decrying the tragedy of “opioid orphans.”</p> <p>Senior administration officials said Thursday ahead of Mr. Trump’s address that a public health emergency declaration would allow existing funds for unemployed workers and people with HIV and AIDS to be shifted within those programs to specifically include participants with addictions.</p> <p>The officials said the declaration would encourage Mr. Trump’s cabinet to “reorient” themselves to prioritize the issue and take steps of their own in the coming weeks. And it would accelerate plans to allow</p>

	<p>health-care providers to treat addicted patients remotely.</p> <p>But the declaration, which must be renewed every 90 days, carries with it no specific commitments for additional funding. A senior administration official said that such funding had been proposed in previous GOP-led bids to repeal and replace Democrats' 2010 Affordable Care Act; the official said the White House hoped to see funding in a year-end spending deal instead.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>10/26 Catalonia independence bid falters</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://www.cnn.com/2017/10/26/europe/catalonia-spain-puigdemont-independence/index.html">http://www.cnn.com/2017/10/26/europe/catalonia-spain-puigdemont-independence/index.html</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>Barcelona, Spain (CNN)The Catalan leader's high-wire bid for independence from Spain faltered on Thursday when he backed away from a plan to call new elections amid disagreement within his own party.</p> <p>Carles Puigdemont, the President of Catalonia, said he had considered the option of dissolving the regional parliament and calling new elections in an effort to shore up his position in the standoff with Madrid.</p> <p>But in a public statement in Barcelona, the regional capital, Puigdemont rejected the idea, apparently because he could not obtain guarantees from the central government in Madrid that it would not press ahead with a plan to impose direct rule on the region.</p> <p>"My obligation and responsibility is to explore all the possibilities, absolutely all of them, to find a solution through dialogue, an agreed solution, to a political conflict that is of a democratic nature," he said.</p> <p>Madrid has scheduled a vote in the Spanish Senate for Friday, in which members will decide whether to suspend Catalonia's autonomy and put it under Madrid's control.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>10/26 Puerto Rico power outage crisis</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://www.cnn.com/2017/10/26/us/puerto-rico-power-outage/index.html">http://www.cnn.com/2017/10/26/us/puerto-rico-power-outage/index.html</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>(CNN)In terms of the total number of lost hours of electricity, Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands are in the midst of the largest blackout in US history, according to a report from an economic research company.</p> <p>In all, Hurricane Maria has caused a loss of 1.25 billion hours of electricity supply for Americans, according to the analysis from the economic research firm Rhodium Group. That makes it the largest blackout in US history, well ahead of Hurricane Georges in 1998 and Superstorm Sandy in 2012, the group said.</p> <p>That 1.25 billion number will continue to grow. More than a month after Hurricane Maria knocked out the electric grid on the islands, the vast majority of residents remain without electricity, and the restoration of that power is months away.</p> <p>The Rhodium Group analysis largely relies on data on electricity loss provided to the Department of Energy, as well as news reports for storms prior to 2000, according to Trevor Houser, a partner at Rhodium who co-wrote the analysis with Peter Marsters.</p> <p>Houser said the group analyzes the economic impacts of weather and climate events, and they decided to dig in more deeply on the impacts of Maria on the Puerto Rican economy.</p> <p>"As we started looking at the scale of the blackout and try to put that in historical context, it became clear this was a record-breaking event and worthy of some attention and focus just from an electric standpoint," Houser said.</p>

	<p>Other major storms or incidents have knocked out power for more people, but those were for shorter periods of time.</p> <p>For example, the 2003 blackouts in the Northeast US affected about 30 million people, but the power was restored within a few days. That incident caused the loss of 592 million customer-hours of electricity, according to Rhodium Group, making it the eighth-largest blackout in US history.</p> <p>Puerto Rico has a smaller population -- about 3.4 million -- but the blackout has lasted for a much longer stretch of time. As of Thursday, just 26% of households had power restored, according to data from the Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority (PREPA).</p> <p>PREPA, a state-owned utility, filed for bankruptcy in July, is \$9 billion in debt and is struggling to recover from the hurricane outages. Not coincidentally, several of the top 10 blackouts in US history involve Puerto Rico, including Maria and Irma this year and Hurricane Georges in 1998.</p> <p>The Virgin Islands, with a much smaller population, has similarly struggled to restore power since Hurricane Maria. As of October 22, just 14.9% of customers had power, according to the U.S. Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority. That includes about 71% without power on St. Thomas, 98.4% without power on St. Croix and 100% without power on St. John.</p>
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## Cyber Awareness

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<p><b>HEADLINE</b></p>	<p><b>10/26 Reddit bans Nazis, espousing violence</b></p>
<p><b>SOURCE</b></p>	<p><a href="https://www.usatoday.com/story/tech/2017/10/26/reddit-bans-nazis-discussions-incite-violence/802488001/">https://www.usatoday.com/story/tech/2017/10/26/reddit-bans-nazis-discussions-incite-violence/802488001/</a></p>
<p><b>GIST</b></p>	<p>SAN FRANCISCO — The famous "anything goes" online discussion forum Reddit does have limits — and it's now drawn them at Nazis and white supremacists who espouse violence.</p> <p>The site posted an update Wednesday saying it would “take action against any content that encourages, glorifies, incites, or calls for violence or physical harm against an individual or a group of people.”</p> <p>The San Francisco-based company that runs the site has shut down at least ten discussion topics, called sub-reddits, including ones titled NationalSocialism, Nazi, EuropeanNationalism and DylannRoofInnocent.</p> <p>Dylann Roof, a self-avowed white supremacist, murdered nine people at a Bible study class at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, S.C. in 2015.</p> <p>Most of the groups had between 7,000 and 25 members.</p> <p>In a posting about Community Restrictions, the site said it understands that "there are sometimes reasons to post violent content (e.g., educational, newsworthy, artistic, satire, documentary, etc.) so if you're going to post something violent in nature that does not violate these terms, ensure you provide context to the viewer so the reason for posting is clear."</p> <p>Reddit will also cut content that “glorifies or encourages the abuse of animals,” though that ban does not apply to discussions of hunting.</p> <p>Reddit is sometimes called “the front page of the Internet” in part due to its voting system, which allows registered users to vote on topics which they consider most interesting. Submissions that get the most votes appear on the site’s front page or the top of their category.</p>

	Until 2015 Reddit did not ban any material as long as it was legal. Beginning then, it cut some specifically hate-oriented discussion groups.
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>10/26 State's CIO talks cyber threats</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://dailyevergreen.com/19852/news/states-chief-information-officer-talks-cyber-threats/">https://dailyevergreen.com/19852/news/states-chief-information-officer-talks-cyber-threats/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>College students, thanks to the large amount of time they spend online, are one of the groups most vulnerable to digital attacks, the state's chief information officer said during a summit Wednesday.</p> <p>Hosted by WSU Information Technology Services, the event was the second annual summit to increase public awareness of cyber security.</p> <p>Agnes Kirk, Washington state's chief information security officer, was the keynote speaker at the event. She said students should be knowledgeable on different cyber-attack methods, who the adversary is, and ask themselves if they have the resources necessary to protect, detect and respond to such attacks.</p> <p>"Personal health information is the number one target for identity theft," Kirk said, "because information pertaining to insurance is vulnerable to the attackers."</p> <p>Kirk also said college students are also great targets, because it's easy to get information from their presence online.</p> <p>Kirk noted the power and the sophistication of cyber threats, noting the evolution of ransomware, which is a type of malware designed to prevent users from accessing their computer system until a ransom is paid.</p> <p>WannaCry and Petya, Kirk said, were some of the most recent ransomwares that resulted in the infection in many computers.</p> <p>Kirk said some cyber-attacks can be prevented by doing what she calls 'the cyber hygiene.' She suggested that users minimize their digital footprint to prevent the increasing chance of cyber threat. She also emphasized the importance of enabling two-step verification, such as Google authenticator, and using one credit card for all online purchases.</p> <p>"People should get a free credit report from the [Federal Trade Commission] only – we need to make sure no one has used our info to create debt in our names," Kirk said.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>10/27 Britain: NKorea behind 'WannaCry' attack</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.reuters.com/article/us-britain-security-northkorea/britain-believes-north-korea-was-behind-wannacry-nhs-cyber-attack-idUSKBN1CW153">https://www.reuters.com/article/us-britain-security-northkorea/britain-believes-north-korea-was-behind-wannacry-nhs-cyber-attack-idUSKBN1CW153</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>LONDON (Reuters) - Britain said on Friday it believed North Korea was behind the "WannaCry" cyber attack in May that disrupted businesses and government services worldwide, including the National Health Service (NHS) in England.</p> <p>Security Minister Ben Wallace said Britain believed "quite strongly" that the ransomware attack came from a foreign state.</p> <p>"North Korea was the state that we believe was involved in this worldwide attack on our systems," he told BBC radio.</p> <p>"We can be as sure as possible - I can't obviously go into the detailed intelligence but it is widely believed in the community and across a number of countries that North Korea had taken this role."</p>

	<p>WannaCry infected more than 300,000 computers in 150 countries in a matter of days, demanding victims pay ransoms starting at \$300 to regain access to their machines.</p> <p>Cyber security researchers quickly identified a possible link to North Korea.</p> <p>More than a third of England's 236 NHS trusts and an estimated 19,000 appointments were affected, Britain's National Audit Office said on Friday in a report on the attack.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>10/26 Malicious URL emails soar 600%</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.infosecurity-magazine.com/news/malicious-url-emails-soar-600-in-q3/">https://www.infosecurity-magazine.com/news/malicious-url-emails-soar-600-in-q3/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>The volume of malicious emails blocked in Q3 climbed by 85%, versus the previous three months, with ransomware by far the most common threat according to new data from Proofpoint.</p> <p>The firm's Quarterly Threat Report is the result of daily analysis of over one billion emails, hundreds of millions of social media posts, and over 150 million malware samples.</p> <p>It found the volume of emails featuring malicious URLs, as opposed to attachments, has exploded over the past quarter; increasing 600% from Q2 and a staggering 2,200% from Q3 2016.</p> <p>This represents the highest proportion of malicious URL emails in over two years, according to the vendor.</p> <p>Ransomware remained the number one threat category, accounting for nearly two-thirds (64%) of all email attempts, with Locky alone comprising almost 55% of total message volumes and more than 86% of all ransomware.</p> <p>Banking Trojans came next, with a 24% share. A strain dubbed "The Trick" accounted for 70% of the total, eclipsing Dridex.</p> <p>Email fraud rose 12% in frequency per targeted organization from the previous quarter and 32% from last year.</p> <p>The use of exploit kits continued to remain much lower than its 2016 peak, with the RIG EK accounting for 76% of all activity.</p> <p>Proofpoint claimed attackers are layering social engineering into their exploit kit campaigns, suggesting they are looking beyond exploits as they get harder to find and obtain.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>10/26 Amazon Key raises security fears</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.infosecurity-magazine.com/news/amazon-key-raises-security-fears/">https://www.infosecurity-magazine.com/news/amazon-key-raises-security-fears/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>Amazon has raised eyebrows with the launch of a service called Amazon Key: A delivery kit that gives couriers the ability to unlock people's homes to deliver packages inside.</p> <p>The \$249 kit consists of a smart-lock and a just-launched Amazon security camera called the Cloud Cam (which comes with a subscription). The camera must be mounted inside a consumer's home, within 25 feet of the door. Once everything's installed, Amazon Prime members can choose the "in-home" delivery option. When a delivery arrives, Amazon will authorize the delivery and unlock the door via the cloud—and turn on the camera. Users can watch the delivery live in the Amazon Key App or see a video of it later.</p>

Users can also schedule permanent access for family members or give temporary access to recurring visitors like dog walkers, house cleaners or out-of-town guests—and be notified any time a guest locks or unlocks the door. Eventually, Amazon Key will offer integrated unattended access options for professional service providers including the Merry Maids and pet sitters and dog walkers from Rover.com, as well as over 1,200 services from Amazon Home Services.

Whether warranted or not, security fears were quick to surface among consumers and infosecurity pros alike.

While smart locks that are controlled remotely via an app are not new—and neither of course are smart surveillance cameras—what’s different about this is the fact that Amazon controls these devices, locking and unlocking the door at will and having the ability to turn on and off a camera installed inside a person’s home. This has a certain Big Brother, corporate overlord aspect that perturbs some.

Also, while individually owned smart locks require hacking one-by-one, Amazon will hold the keys—literally of course—for thousands if not millions of homes, meaning that one successful hack could deliver a big payoff.

“Amazon’s latest service—which looks set to revolutionize the delivery market—feels like a huge test of consumer trust,” Adam Maskatiya, UK and Eire GM at Kaspersky Lab, in an emailed comment. “What makes the issue particularly dangerous is its potential reach: If a hacker can access the database of door codes, they can gain entry to a whole street’s worth of homes. That is what users need to be aware of; not how Amazon will use their information, but how hackers could potentially exploit it.”

Amazon hasn’t detailed the specific IoT security measures that may have been built into the scheme, (beyond Amazon’s stated general approach), leaving the door open, as it were, to speculation. Much of that speculation has to do with the fact that IoT’s track record for security leaves something to be desired.

Amazon Key is also drawing concern over physical security. For many consumers, using a smart lock to let people that one knows and trusts into one’s home is one thing—but delivery truck drivers usually aren’t considered part of that trusted group, even if they’re licensed and bonded with a background check. The socialverse weighed in on this aspect: In the last day, nearly 62,000 Twitter posts mention “Amazon Key” according to international social media analytics firm Talkwalker. The firm said that the overwhelming majority of the posts are negative—mainly reflecting fears about physical security. Presumably the Amazon-controlled camera would pick up any illicit activity, but there are of course ways around that.

“Amazon Key is a new service that allows strangers to enter your home, hide in your closet, and kill you in your sleep. Free with Prime!” tweeted @MikeH5856.

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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>10/26 Criminals extort dark web marketplace</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.infosecurity-magazine.com/news/dark-web-marketplace-extorted/">https://www.infosecurity-magazine.com/news/dark-web-marketplace-extorted/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>A Digital Shadows investigation saw a twist in the classic gambit of acquiring a company’s valuable data, threatening to release the data if a ransom is not paid, and then putting pressure on the victim through sharing the data with journalists. The target was a criminal marketplace, widely advertised in underground Russian forums:</p> <p>“On October 24th, a user posted on Pastebin claiming to have accessed customer details and administrator accounts of Basetools, an online criminal marketplace. The user also claimed to have obtained personal details of the administrator and demanded \$50,000 in ransom, or he would release further information and the dox of the administrator. The post threatened to inform law enforcement should the payment not be made. At the time of writing, the Basetools market was ‘under update’ and claimed it would be back in ‘a few days’.”</p>

Digital Shadows researchers noted that while the motivation behind the threat is clearly financial, the situation also gives wings to a trend they have seen in criminals moving away from centralized markets—whether on the dark or deep web. While these historically have allowed bad actors to easily advertise and sell their illicit goods, there has been a significant shift in the past four months with the demise of the AlphaBay and Hansa marketplaces.

In this situation, there could be a payback element to the proceedings: The actor claims that the administrator of the site has been manipulating the vendors, creating false personae and falsely elevating those vendor profiles to the top of listings.

“We have previously forecasted the potential shift from centralized marketplaces to more decentralized models, and the conditions that would have to exist for this to become a reality,” the researchers noted.

“The attempted extortion of Basetools, and in particular the allegations of an admin manipulating vendor ratings is yet another reason for cyber-criminals to reconsider the idea of a centralized market. In a decentralized model, the risk of this occurring would be reduced. While the conditions for a decentralized model taking the lead may not yet be there, this may take us one step further.”

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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>10/26 DUMB ransomware attacks Iran targets</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.scmagazine.com/dumb-ransomware-attacks-iranian-targets-via-compromised-vpn/article/702931/">https://www.scmagazine.com/dumb-ransomware-attacks-iranian-targets-via-compromised-vpn/article/702931/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>Maher, Iran's Computer Emergency Response Team Coordination Center (CERTCC), has warned that 'Tyrant' ransomware is being distributed in the country via a compromised VPN app.</p> <p>A modified version of the Psiphon VPN client app is being used to spread the ransomware infection, a variant of the DUMB code first seen back in January of this year.</p> <p>The Farsi language ransom demand asks for just US\$ 15 (£11) via either exchanging.ir or webmoney724.ir. There could be good reason for the ransom bar being set so low, if the Iran CERTCC alert is anything to go by. As well as the encryption itself not always managing to encrypt anything, the alert reveals that "despite the fact that there are many changes in the victim's system registry, it is not able to maintain its functionality after rebooting the system."</p> <p>According to someone claiming to be the author of the DUMB ransomware code it is based upon, AlphaDelta, should come as no surprise. "The fact that people are actually unironically using DUMB as a base for their ransomware is, well, pretty DUMB. It's not meant to be something workable into a legitimate ransomware" AlphaDelta said in response to news of the alert.</p> <p>Marco Cova, a senior security researcher at Lastline, said that it's "not surprising that users looking for security and privacy software are targeted; several years ago we observed similar attacks in the form of malware pretending to be anti-virus tools."</p> <p>The modified Psiphon apps spreading the Tyrant ransomware appears to be a new development, as far as Lee Munson, security researcher at Comparitech.com, is concerned. He insists it poses a risk to the enterprise if remote users are allowed to employ any VPN client of their choice. "Security-minded companies will not allow such an approach to remote connections" Munson told SC Media UK, concluding "instead they will provide one single universally-approved corporate VPN solution." As long as that solution is tested, updated and patched on a regular basis, the risk posed by VPN-based malware should remain low.</p> <p>However, as Vince Warrington, founder of Protective Intelligence, pointed out to SC, the concern is that it takes previously trusted software, which the enterprise may well have advised their staff to use, and turns</p>



	it into a means to deliver malware. This, Warrington says "fundamentally breaks the trust between the user and the IT department" and that trust will be "difficult to rebuild."
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>10/26 Swiss phishing scam w/banking Trojan</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.scmagazine.com/swiss-phishing-scam-aims-to-download-retefe-banking-trojan/article/703111/">https://www.scmagazine.com/swiss-phishing-scam-aims-to-download-retefe-banking-trojan/article/703111/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>Researchers with PhishMe have released the details of a phishing campaign, currently being run in Switzerland, that uses a tax dodge to entice its victims to open an attached file, which will then download the Retefe banking trojan.</p> <p>The email, written in German, has a subject line that references a supposed tax declaration and is “sent” by someone pretending to be a Swiss tax administration worker. The email asks the recipient to enable macros on the attached document, named "ESTV Dokument_593657_17_10_2017[.]doc," after which PowerShell is launched in order to download and install the malware. At the end of this installation, the malware looks to see if Firefox is installed on the computer; if so, it generates and installs a certificate to Firefox.</p> <p>The final result of all these maneuvers is the injection of the Retefe banking trojan. Retefe, which is mainly used in Austria, Sweden, Switzerland and Japan, then waits for victims to connect to their online bank accounts and instead redirects them to a cloned website where their credentials are harvested.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>10/26 Tarte Cosmetics breach exposes shoppers</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.scmagazine.com/tarte-cosmetics-breach-exposes-nearly-2-million-customers/article/702935/">https://www.scmagazine.com/tarte-cosmetics-breach-exposes-nearly-2-million-customers/article/702935/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>Here's one case where you might say the crime was worse than the cover-up.</p> <p>Make-up company Tarte Cosmetics exposed the personal information of nearly 2 million online customers after two of its online MongoDB databases were misconfigured for public access, according to researchers from MacKeeper's Kromtech Security Center.</p> <p>Even worse, a known cybercriminal group dropped a ransom note into one of the unsecured databases, strongly suggesting the malicious actors discovered, observed and perhaps stole the data. The note, from the ransomware group CRU3LTY, demands 0.2 bitcoins for recovering the database once its data is deleted or encrypted. However, no such attack has taken place.</p> <p>Online shoppers who purchased from Tarte over a 10-year time span from 2008-2017 are potentially impacted. In an Oct. 23 blog post, Kromtech notes that the compromised data includes names, addresses, emails, and purchase histories, plus the last four digits of their credit card numbers.</p> <p>Kromtech states that on Oct. 20, after two days of attempting to contact the company, Tarte secured the two databases -- collectively 8.7 GB in size -- even though the researchers reportedly never received an official response.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>10/26 Hackers revise Sage ransomware</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.scmagazine.com/wise-guy-attackers-revise-sage-ransomware/article/703132/">https://www.scmagazine.com/wise-guy-attackers-revise-sage-ransomware/article/703132/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	A evolved version of Sage ransomware has materialized that features a QR code containing the attacker's bitcoin wallet address, to enable easy payment.

Another recent addition is improved anti-analysis capabilities that allow the malicious code to detect and avoid commonly used malware research tools. "Earlier versions used variation in the delivery tools -- highly variable script applications -- to evade detection and frustrate analysis," said blog post author Brendan Griffin, in an interview with SC Media. "This new version focuses on the detection of virtualized environments, including malware sandboxes. It also added functionality to detect tools commonly used to derive information from malware at runtime."

Sage was first discovered in late 2016, and was soon observed spreading in campaigns by the same actors who also distribute Locky, Cerber and Spora ransomware. At the time, Sage was found to imitate Cerber in its use of an interactive user interface to support payment. According to a PhishMe, version 2.2 of Sage still contains this feature, distributing one version of its ransom note as an interactive Microsoft HTML application, thereby allowing the victim to navigate to the payment site.

"This was an innovation used by Cerber encryption ransomware to create a more polished look and feel for their ransom notes by providing both dynamic generation of multiple pathways to accessing the ransom payment site as well as allowing for international accessibility with a multi-lingual ransom note," explains Griffin.

PhishMe reports that Sage v2.2's ransom note was observed asking for \$499, which is a relative bargain when compared to other ransoms like Locky. "One perspective is that the lower ransom demand by attackers is attempting to encourage a much higher rate of compliance among victims compared to other contemporary ransomware tools," the blog post explains.

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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>10/26 jQuery official blog hacked</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://thehackernews.com/2017/10/jquery-hacked.html">https://thehackernews.com/2017/10/jquery-hacked.html</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>The official blog of jQuery—most popular JavaScript library used by millions of websites—has been hacked by some unknown hackers, using the pseudonym "str0ng" and "n3tr1x."</p> <p>jQuery's blog website (blog.jquery.com) runs on WordPress—the world's most popular content management system (CMS) used by millions of websites.</p> <p>While there is no evidence yet if the server (code.jquery.com) that host jQuery file was also compromised, The Hacker News took a screenshot (as shown above) and can confirm that the hackers merely published a simple blog post to deface the website.</p> <p>The defaced blog post URL — <a href="http://blog.jquery.com/2017/10/26/hacked/">http://blog.jquery.com/2017/10/26/hacked/</a> (now removed).</p> <p>Since the above-mentioned blog post was published under the name of Leah Silber, a core member of jQuery team, it seems hackers were able to make their post live by compromising Silber's account—probably by reusing her password leaked in a previous data breach.</p> <p>If not, the hackers might have gained unauthorized access to the website either by exploiting a (known or zero-day) vulnerability in Wordpress script or the server.</p> <p>jQuery team has immediately removed the post created by the hackers as soon as they realized there was a compromise, but so far the organisation has not released any official statement about the incident.</p> <p>Since millions of websites directly use jQuery script hosted by jQuery server, today's attack could be worse if the hackers would have been able to compromised code.jquery.com in an attempt to replace the official jQuery file with the malicious one, putting billions of visitors of millions of websites at risk of malware attacks.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>10/26 Bad Rabbit used pilfered NSA exploit</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://www.darkreading.com/vulnerabilities---threats/bad-rabbit-used-pilfered-nsa-exploit-/d/d-id/1330237?">http://www.darkreading.com/vulnerabilities---threats/bad-rabbit-used-pilfered-nsa-exploit-/d/d-id/1330237?</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>The fast and furious Bad Rabbit ransomware campaign on Oct. 24 had security researchers frantically studying their telemetry and malware to discern the anatomy of the attack. The initial take was that although it uses retooled code from predecessors Petya and NotPetya, it didn't spread via any exploits like WannaCry, for example.</p> <p>But today, Cisco Systems' Talos research group said it now can confirm that the ransomware attack used a version of the so-called EternalRomance exploit to spread. This exploit, which comes from a stolen and leaked trove of NSA tools, was the tool Nyetya (aka Petrwrap and Goldeneye) ransomware attacks this summer employed to spread laterally within a victim organization.</p> <p>The ransomware campaign hit hundreds of government, media, transportation, and other targets in 15 nations, including Russia's Interfax Agency and Fontanka, and Ukraine's Kiev Metro, its Odessa International Airport, and various ministries of infrastructure and finance. Russian victims were the biggest targets, accounting for 71% of detections by security firm Avast.</p> <p>Security researchers from all over the world are still performing postmortems on the attack, and there's still some debate over who was behind the attack as well as over the malware's roots.</p> <p>As of yesterday, researchers had pinpointed a hardcoded credentials list and Mimikatz password-extraction method as the method of Bad Rabbit's spread, wormlike, via SMB local networks.</p> <p>EternalRomance was yet another method of spreading Bad Rabbit, directly via the SMB hole, according to Cisco's newest finding.</p> <p>"This is still an active investigation," says Nick Biasini, a threat researcher with Cisco's Talos team. "During analysis by some of our reverse engineers we were able to identify that an exploit was included in Bad Rabbit ... Initially there was no indication it was being used and no one had publicly observed the exploit being utilized in the wild. It wasn't until the discovery by one of our reverse engineers that it was uncovered."</p> <p>Meanwhile, Group IB, a Russian security firm studying the attacks, today noted that Bad Rabbit was first dropped via drive-by downloads onto victim machines via various media websites in Russia and Ukraine. The researchers also say it's "highly likely" the attackers behind Bad Rabbit are the same ones who launched NotPetya in June of 2017 against Ukraine energy, financial, and telecommunications organizations.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>10/26 'Reaper' likely a DDoS for hire tool</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://www.darkreading.com/mobile/reaper-iot-botnet-likely-a-ddos-for-hire-tool/d/d-id/1330235?">http://www.darkreading.com/mobile/reaper-iot-botnet-likely-a-ddos-for-hire-tool/d/d-id/1330235?</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>The IoT botnet IoTroop has amassed 10,000 to 20,000 devices and has another 2 million hosts that have been identified as potential botnet nodes, according to Arbor's Security Engineering &amp; Response Team (ASERT), which refers to the botnet as Reaper.</p> <p>Although it's not clear why the 2 million hosts have not yet been absorbed into the Reaper botnet, Arbor Network's ASERT speculates that the botnet will likely be used as a booter/stresser service for China's internal DDoS-for-hire market.</p> <p>Reaper contains a hint of code from the infamous IoT botnet Mirai and has the ability to launch SYN,</p>

	ACK, and http floods, as well as DNS reflection/amplification attacks, according to the researchers.
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>10/26 Security forecast: cloudy, low visibility</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://www.darkreading.com/cloud/security-forecast-cloudy-with-low-data-visibility/d/d-id/1330239?">http://www.darkreading.com/cloud/security-forecast-cloudy-with-low-data-visibility/d/d-id/1330239?</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>A need for greater flexibility, speed, and convenience is driving more businesses to the cloud. Less than 25% had their applications, data, and infrastructure in the cloud two years ago but 44% have them cloud-based today, and 65% will be cloud-based two years from now.</p> <p>The data comes from a study by Google Cloud and the MIT SMR Custom Studio. Researchers polled more than 500 IT decision-makers and found security is also a key driver of cloud adoption: 44% of respondents moved to the cloud because of their increased confidence in security. Overall, 74% of participants are more confident in cloud security.</p> <p>In Dark Reading's upcoming 2017 Cloud Security Survey, 62% of IT leaders report moderate to heavy usage of cloud services and applications. Thirty-six believe the cloud is, or eventually will be, more secure than their on-premises IT environments. Twenty percent say they are moving more data to the cloud, partly because of its strong security capabilities.</p> <p><b>A Change in Perspective</b>          "It used to be that security was one of the things holding organizations back from the cloud," says Rob Sadowski, trust and security marketing lead for Google Cloud. "What we're starting to see, and what we saw in the research, is the script is almost flipping."</p> <p>While Sadowski admits the confidence is partly due to improved documentation, he says two-thirds of respondents attribute their confidence to direct experience in the cloud. The top most consistent two reasons for moving to the cloud include "increased flexibility in business processes and vendor choices," and the "ability to integrate with new tools and platforms."</p> <p>For many, the transition is gradual. Many businesses start out by doing some of their test and development work in the cloud, says Sadowski. They learn how to build new applications in the cloud. Once they achieve a certain level of comfort, they think about other workloads.</p> <p>"It could be bulk storage, file sync-and-share or collaboration, or sharing data and collaborating," he says. "As you work with more organizations that are distributed around the country and around the globe, having that data in the cloud enhances their productivity."</p> <p>Over the past 5 to 10 years, the amount of data organizations generate "is exploding," Sadowski continues. After they feel comfortable with testing and development in the cloud, businesses move more important data to understand its growth, apply analytics, and gain insight.</p> <p>But what happens to all of that data once it's moved to the cloud? Many aren't so sure, and poor visibility could be putting their data at risk.</p> <p><b>Data Visibility Remains a Challenge</b>          The confidence boost doesn't mean the cloud is completely secure, or that all companies are fully on board. In Google's study, 63% of respondents who chose not to move data to the cloud cited security concerns. A survey by Threat Stack and Enterprise Strategy group found 31% of respondents are unable to maintain security as cloud and container environments grow, and 62% are seeking greater visibility into public cloud workloads.</p> <p>"It is a concern for organizations," says Sadowski of visibility, which is a challenge as personally identifiable information and healthcare records move to the cloud. Businesses may be responsible for</p>

	<p>disclosing the movement of data to the cloud because sensitive data types are often regulated.</p> <p>Participants in a new SANS survey say they lack visibility, auditability, and controls to actually monitor everything in their public clouds. More than half (55%) say they are hindered from doing adequate forensic and incident response activities because they can't access logs, or underlying system and application details, in cloud environments.</p> <p>One-third of Dark Reading's cloud survey respondents say visibility is a "mixed bag" and they have good visibility in some areas but none in others. One-quarter say they have good visibility overall with a few blind spots; 11% say "most of our data is invisible to us."</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>10/26 Flaws in shipboard sat-communications?</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://www.darkreading.com/vulnerabilities---threats/inmarsat-disputes-ioactive-reports-of-critical-flaws-in-ship-satcom/d/d-id/1330242?">http://www.darkreading.com/vulnerabilities---threats/inmarsat-disputes-ioactive-reports-of-critical-flaws-in-ship-satcom/d/d-id/1330242?</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>Two critical flaws in a shipboard satellite communication platform from British SATCOM firm Inmarsat allow threat actors to take control of the system and potentially attack other networks on a ship, IOActive warned in a disputed report Thursday.</p> <p>The vulnerabilities exist in Inmarsat's AmosConnect 8 (AC8) shipboard email client service and cannot be fixed since the company has discontinued support for the platform, IOActive said in an advisory Oct. 26.</p> <p>"The vulnerabilities pose a serious security risk," IOActive said in the advisory. "Attackers might be able to obtain corporate data, take over the server to mount further attacks, or pivot within the vessel networks."</p> <p>Inmarsat itself described the report as over-the-top and incorrect. "The story that IOActive have been putting out is very misleading," a spokesman for the company told Dark Reading. "The service their report focused on is no longer available and cannot be accessed by customers. The theoretical threat they identified would have been very hard to achieve," he claimed.</p> <p>Inmarsat's AC8 platform is a satellite communication system that enables services such as email, instant messaging, and Internet services for crewmembers onboard a ship at sea.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>10/26 Trying to crack computer in Powell case</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://mynorthwest.com/795746/investigators-want-to-crack-computer-in-well-known-cold-case/">http://mynorthwest.com/795746/investigators-want-to-crack-computer-in-well-known-cold-case/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Police say a computer hard-drive seized in the 2009 disappearance of Utah mother Susan Powell remains locked to investigators.</p> <p>West Valley City Police said Thursday a contractor has managed to crack the first layer of encryption on the drive that belonged to her husband, but additional security has kept investigators from obtaining any information from the machine.</p> <p>Police say other computer drives that belonged to Josh Powell didn't contain useful information and it's unclear whether this computer has any clues.</p> <p>Seattle-based private investigator Rose Winquist, who works with a lawyer that represents Susan Powell's parents, says she's nevertheless reaching out to Amazon to see if their cloud-computing resources could help.</p> <p>Josh Powell was investigated in his wife's disappearance, but wasn't arrested before he killed himself and the couple's children in 2012.</p>

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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>10/26 NATO concern: Russia phone jamming</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/nato-chief-allies-concerned-russian-phone-jamming-50735194?">http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/nato-chief-allies-concerned-russian-phone-jamming-50735194?</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>NATO allies have raised concerns about what they call Russia's use of a kind of electronic warfare during military exercises last month that jammed some phone networks, alliance Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said Thursday.</p> <p>"At least two allies have reported about that," Stoltenberg told reporters after chairing talks in Brussels between ambassadors from NATO and Russia. He said it highlights the need for Russia to be more transparent with war games "to make sure there are no miscalculations, misunderstandings, because these kinds of activities can have serious effects."</p> <p>Phone services in Latvia, Norway and Sweden's Oeland islands were reported to have been shut down for a few hours during the Sept. 14-20 Zapad exercises that Russia held with Belarus. The jamming is suspected to have been launched by a Russian communications ship from the Baltic Sea.</p> <p>"My phone shut down for about four or five hours. The suspicion is that it was a Russian ship in the Baltic Sea, with the technology capable of blocking cellular signals," Latvian lawmaker Ojars Kalnins said earlier this month.</p> <p>He said the jamming "focused on the Oeland islands in Sweden" but that "it did shut down all communications, including emergency phone service in Latvia. Our 911 service was shut down for several hours during this experimental attack."</p> <p>Norway's intelligence chief, Morten Haga Lunde, said in Wednesday's edition of the Aftenposten newspaper that Russia had also used a kind of electronic attack that could have endangered civilian aircraft in the area.</p> <p>"There were exercises in GPS jamming — in electronic warfare," he said.</p> <p>"Mostly likely this was jamming that was intended to disrupt their own Russian forces' use of GPS — but jamming that had side effects for (airline) and intercontinental flights of which Russia should have seen the range."</p> <p>Just after the Zapad exercises, the commander of the U.S. Army in Europe, Lieutenant General Ben Hodges, said that Russia had been busy developing "powerful, sophisticated" means of electronic warfare while NATO allies were more focused on "counter-terrorism type operations."</p> <p>"A lot of this was on display, cyber and other electronic warfare capability," during Zapad, Hodges said. "They've continued to move on this."</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>10/26 Claim: Apps secretly turn on cameras</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://www.telegraph.co.uk/technology/2017/10/26/warning-iphone-apps-can-silently-turn-cameras-time/">http://www.telegraph.co.uk/technology/2017/10/26/warning-iphone-apps-can-silently-turn-cameras-time/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>Apple has been urged to change the way in which iPhone apps are granted access to the phone's camera after a security researcher demonstrated how apps can secretly record photos and videos without the user knowing.</p> <p>Felix Krause, an Austrian developer who works for Google, built an app that was able to take pictures of</p>

	<p>its user every second and upload them, without notifying the user. He called it a "privacy loophole that can be abused by iOS apps".</p> <p>When an app wants to access the camera, for example to scan a credit card or take a profile picture during the set-up process, the iPhone user must give the app permission, in the same way that apps must ask to access the camera roll, location and contacts and to send notifications. Once allowed, it has to be turned off via the settings menu.</p> <p>The system is similar to the permissions required by apps on Android. Google has recently deleted several apps that surreptitiously recorded users and masqueraded as legitimate apps.</p> <p>But Krause said that once an app has been granted initial access, it can take photos and videos whenever it is opened up. Unlike on Mac computers, which have a small green light next to the camera when it is being used, there is no indication that an app is recording videos or taking photos, or when it sends them elsewhere.</p> <p>The iPhone's camera app permissions do not differentiate between the phone's front and back camera. Allowing camera permissions can grant extra access in the latest version of iOS, which has a facial recognition engine that could allow apps to detect emotions.</p> <p>The permissions system is not a bug or a flaw - it works in exactly the way Apple has designed it - but Krause said malicious apps could take advantage of it to surreptitiously record users.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>10/26 Twitter bans ads Russia Today, Sputnik</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.thedailybeast.com/twitter-banning-ads-from-russia-today-sputnik">https://www.thedailybeast.com/twitter-banning-ads-from-russia-today-sputnik</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>Twitter announced on Thursday that it would ban ads from all accounts owned by Russia Today and Sputnik, effective immediately.</p> <p>“This decision was based on the retrospective work we’ve been doing around the 2016 U.S. election and the U.S. intelligence community’s conclusion that both RT and Sputnik attempted to interfere with the election on behalf of the Russian government,” the social media site said in a statement.</p> <p>“We did not come to this decision lightly, and are taking this step now as part of our ongoing commitment to help protect the integrity of the user experience on Twitter.”</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>10/26 Sexual harassment happens online too</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://www.cnn.com/2017/10/26/health/harvey-weinstein-online-sexual-harassment/index.html">http://www.cnn.com/2017/10/26/health/harvey-weinstein-online-sexual-harassment/index.html</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>(CNN)Harvey Weinstein. Bill O'Reilly. A top chef. Another filmmaker. An editorial director at Vox.</p> <p>It's been a stunning few weeks of sexual harassment allegations against extremely powerful men. Women, trying to claim some of their own power, responded in droves on social media using the hashtag #MeToo, often sharing stories of when they've been sexually harassed at work.</p> <p>But sexual harassment is not limited to the workplace. Sue Scheff, author of the recently released book "Shame Nation: The Global Epidemic of Online Hate," which includes a foreword by Monica Lewinsky, says that in the digital age, sexual harassment is prevalent online, as well.</p> <p>"In 'Shame Nation,' we're giving a voice to the women that have been sexually harassed online," said Scheff, a family Internet safety advocate who was herself the victim of online shaming in 2003. "We're letting you know that these people are just as emotionally ... in pain" as women who are sexually harassed</p>

<p><a href="#">Return to Top</a></p>	<p>by a boss or colleague.</p> <p>Twenty-one percent of women ages 18 to 29 said they have been sexually harassed online, more than twice the number of men in the same age group who say they have experienced it, according to a Pew Research Center survey released in July.</p> <p>The survey found that overall, men are more likely than women to experience any form of online harassment, which includes physical threats and name-calling, but women expressed more concern about it, according to the survey.</p> <p>Seventy-percent of women -- and 83% of women 18 to 29 -- believe online harassment is a major problem, the survey found, versus 54% of men -- and 55% of young men.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>10/26 Hacked home devices can spy</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.nbcnews.com/tech/security/hacked-home-devices-can-spy-you-n814671">https://www.nbcnews.com/tech/security/hacked-home-devices-can-spy-you-n814671</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>If your "internet of things" dishwasher keeps flashing its lights, your smart oven turns on or off by itself, and your webcam-enabled robotic vacuum cleaner keeps stalking you from room to room, you might not be the victim of a poltergeist, but a hacker.</p> <p>A vulnerability in almost one million LG smartThinQ internet-connected home devices can let hackers break into and take over all your gadgets, causing mayhem and invading personal privacy, Check Point security researchers disclosed Thursday. That includes any LG device or appliance connected to the account, including the robot vacuum, refrigerators, ovens, dishwasher, mashing machines and dryers, and air conditioners.</p> <p>As opposed to hacking the individual devices, the researchers hacked the app that controls them, creating fake LG accounts and using them to take over real LG accounts.</p> <p>“As more and more smart devices are being used in the home, hackers will shift their focus from targeting individual devices, to hacking the apps that control networks of devices. This provides cyber criminals with even more opportunities to exploit software flaws, cause disruption in users’ homes and access their sensitive data,” Oded Vanunu, head of products vulnerability research at Check Point, said in a statement.</p> <p>Over 400,000 LG Hom-Bot robotic vacuum cleaner were sold in the first half of 2016. In total, over 80 million smart home devices were shipped worldwide that year, according to IHS Markit, 64 percent more than in 2015.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>10/26 Facebook, Twitter ‘reach’ questioned</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.usatoday.com/story/tech/news/2017/10/26/facebook-twitter-reach-users/803932001/">https://www.usatoday.com/story/tech/news/2017/10/26/facebook-twitter-reach-users/803932001/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>SAN FRANCISCO — Data-driven Internet companies that boast they can precisely target advertising down to users' laundry detergent and their favorite TV shows are getting a reputation for overstating their reach.</p> <p>On Thursday Twitter admitted it had miscounted its monthly user numbers for three years, raising tough questions for social media companies about how accurate this data is.</p> <p>The revelation came as Twitter, Facebook and Google face intensifying scrutiny over hundreds of fake accounts from Russia that purchased political advertising to influence the outcome of the U.S. presidential election.</p>



As they prepare to be hauled before Senate and House intelligence committees next week to testify on how Russia may have advertised on their services to sway public sentiment, these colossal information portals are being cast as the Wild West of the Internet, with too few checks and balances on their growing power over people's time and advertisers' pocketbooks.

"I believe it's an honest mistake but it doesn't look good because it's an overstatement and when they have mistakes it's always overstating and not understating," Dennis Yu, chief technology officer of BlitzMetrics, said of the Twitter measurement error.

The challenge: It's not as simple as you might imagine to figure out how many people use a social media service.

Counting errors can occur as they did with Twitter. Social media companies also include all kinds of users, from businesses to publishers.

Duplicate accounts — when a person has more than one Facebook or Twitter account, say one for themselves, one for their business, one for their child and another for their pet — can also inflate numbers. And then there are the fake accounts and accounts that are run by bots, not humans, that these companies are constantly trying to root out and remove.

That's why third-party measurements often conflict with measurements provided by the companies themselves, says eMarketer analyst Debra Aho Williamson.

For example, eMarketer factored out bots, duplicate accounts and spam accounts to estimate that Facebook had 1.37 billion monthly active users in 2016. Facebook calculated it had 1.86 billion monthly users at the end of 2016.

"Duplicate" accounts (an account that a user maintains in addition to his or her main account) represented 6% of monthly active users and fake accounts represented 1% of its user base in 2016, according to Facebook.

"Digital media measurement has never been as exact a science as you would think," Williamson said. "People used to call the Internet 'the most measurable medium,' but there have been many instances over the years where things like user counts have been under- or over-stated."

Twitter, which has struggled to add users amid withering competition from Google, Facebook, Instagram and Snapchat, on Thursday revised down its monthly active users by 1 million to 2 million for each of the past three quarters. It said it miscalculated monthly users because it included third party applications that should not have been counted.

"It's important to note that since it's a small absolute number on a base of over 300 million (monthly active users), that historical growth rates and absolute numbers really don't change very much," Twitter's chief financial officer Ned Segal said during a conference call with analysts.

Investors shrugged at the disclosure. But this isn't the first time Twitter has had a problem with how it's measuring its audience. In 2016, it briefly miscalculated metrics on video ad campaigns, which it blamed on a technical error.

Twitter's also constantly trying to weed out fake or spambot accounts. As much as 15% of Twitter's user base may be bots, according to research from the University of Southern California and Indiana University.

Automated systems catch more than 3.2 million suspicious accounts a week, Twitter says. Spam accounts that Twitter has identified are not included in the active user numbers reported to shareholders, the company says. And Twitter estimates that fake or spam accounts represent less than 5% of its monthly active users.

In September Facebook was accused of overestimating its reach with young people. That's when Pivotal Research analyst Brian Wieser noted that Facebook claimed to advertisers it could reach 25 million more young Americans than the U.S. Census reports exist.

According to Facebook's Ad Manager, a planning tool for marketers to consult before purchasing ad campaigns, advertisers could reach 41 million 18- to 24-year-olds in the U.S. and 60 million 25- to 34-year-olds. Wieser pointed out that the census counted just 31 million 18-to-24-year-olds and 45 million 25-to-34-year-olds last year.

Facebook said the numbers are self-reported by users and include non-residents and it said the estimates are based on "Facebook user behaviors, user demographics, location data from devices and other factors."

The estimated reach advertisers are given does not determine how much they pay for the ads and advertisers mostly focus on how well their campaigns perform.

Still, the discrepancy has shaken the confidence of advertisers who are keen on Facebook's targeting power and extensive reach but are frustrated by a series of audience measurement misstatements including how long and how often people watch videos and read articles on Facebook.

"Advertisers are frustrated, and the underlying drivers may be the source of the concerns that regulators and politicians have about them in the U.S., Europe and elsewhere," Wieser said. "However, we're not seeing it in the numbers yet, which is why investors haven't expressed much concern."

Those misstatements have escalated calls for independent oversight and for the companies to submit to measurement conducted by third-party companies.

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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>10/26 McAfee halts govt. source code reviews</b>
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<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-cyber-russia-mcafee/mcafee-says-it-no-longer-will-permit-government-source-code-reviews-idUSKBN1CV2MP">http://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-cyber-russia-mcafee/mcafee-says-it-no-longer-will-permit-government-source-code-reviews-idUSKBN1CV2MP</a>
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<b>GIST</b>	<p>WASHINGTON (Reuters) - U.S.-based cyber firm McAfee said it will no longer permit foreign governments to scrutinize the source code of its products, halting a practice some security experts have warned could be leveraged by nation-states to carry out cyber attacks.</p> <p>Reuters reported in June that McAfee was among several Western technology companies that had acceded in recent years to greater demands by Moscow for access to source code, the instructions that control basic operations of computer equipment.</p> <p>The reviews, conducted in secure facilities known as "clean rooms" by Russian companies with expertise in technology testing, are required by Russian defense agencies for the stated purpose of ensuring no hidden "backdoors" exist in foreign-made software.</p> <p>But security experts and former U.S. officials have said those inspections provide Russia with opportunities to find vulnerabilities that could be exploited in offensive cyber operations.</p> <p>McAfee ended the reviews earlier this year after spinning off from Intel in April as an independent company, a McAfee spokeswoman said in an email to Reuters last week.</p> <p>The company declined to give a precise timeline for when it stopped allowing such reviews.</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>10/26 Ga. election computer server 'wiped'</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.cbsnews.com/news/georgia-election-computer-server-wiped-after-lawsuit-filed/">https://www.cbsnews.com/news/georgia-election-computer-server-wiped-after-lawsuit-filed/</a>
GIST	<p>A computer server crucial to a lawsuit against Georgia election officials was quietly wiped clean by its custodians just after the suit was filed, The Associated Press has learned.</p> <p>The server's data was destroyed July 7 by technicians at the Center for Elections Systems at Kennesaw State University, which runs the state's election system. The data wipe was revealed in an email — sent last week from an assistant state attorney general to plaintiffs in the case — that was obtained by the AP.</p> <p>More emails obtained in a public records request confirmed the wipe.</p> <p>The lawsuit, filed by a diverse group of election reform advocates, aims to force Georgia to retire its antiquated and heavily criticized election technology. The server in question, which served as a statewide staging location for key election-related data, made national headlines in June after a security expert disclosed a gaping security hole that wasn't fixed six months after he reported it to election authorities.</p> <p>It's not clear who ordered the server's data irretrievably erased.</p> <p>Wiping the server clean "forestalls any forensic investigation at all," said Richard DeMillo, a Georgia Tech computer scientist who has closely followed the case. "People who have nothing to hide don't behave this way."</p> <p>The server data could have revealed whether Georgia's most recent elections were compromised by malicious hackers. The plaintiffs contend that the results of both last November's election and a special June 20 congressional runoff — won by Kemp's predecessor, Karen Handel — cannot be trusted.</p>
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## Terror Conditions

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HEADLINE	<b>10/26 FBI: no foreign terror links in Fla. plot</b>
SOURCE	<a href="http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/bail-hearing-honduran-charged-florida-mall-bomb-plot-50728525">http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/bail-hearing-honduran-charged-florida-mall-bomb-plot-50728525</a>
GIST	<p>No evidence has surfaced of links to foreign extremists in an alleged plot by a Honduran man to bomb a Florida mall despite his claimed allegiance to the Islamic State group, an FBI agent testified Thursday.</p> <p>Agent David Clancy said at a bail hearing that Vicente Adolfo Solano appears to have come up with the idea on his own before sharing the plan with an acquaintance who turned out to be an FBI informant. Under close surveillance, the two of them then began plotting to bomb the busy food court at the Miami-area Dolphin Mall.</p> <p>"Mr. Solano indicated throughout the (FBI) recordings that the plans were his alone," Clancy testified. "He was pretty much always on his own."</p> <p>Solano, 53, was arrested last Friday after accepting a fake bomb from undercover FBI operatives outside the mall. Clancy said Solano had already set a 40-minute timer he thought would give him enough time to plant the device and escape undetected.</p> <p>Solano was denied release on bail by U.S. Magistrate Judge Chris McAliley, who noted there is strong evidence against him, including numerous video and audio recordings and his own confession after arrest. He also faces a potential life prison sentence if convicted.</p> <p>"The evidence is compelling that you intended to kill many people," the judge said.</p>

Solano, who is scheduled to enter a plea in early November, said nothing during the hearing. Immigration officials say he arrived from Honduras in the late 1990s and is in the U.S. legally under the temporary protected status program.

His attorney, public defender Alex Arteaga-Gomez, said Solano has no violent criminal history and has generally kept to himself while in the U.S., working as a painter. He said Solano has not traveled overseas in at least a decade and owns no weapons.

"He's lived a working class life," Arteaga-Gomez said.

According to the FBI, the first evidence that Solano had become sympathetic with the Islamic State was in March when he changed his Facebook profile name to "Abad Solano" and wrote, "I am Abad, son of Allah. May our black flag live on and we continue our battle."

However, Clancy said there is no indication that Solano ever converted to Islam and while under surveillance was never seen going to any house of worship.

"I'm not aware of any religious affiliation," the agent testified.

Solano also made three anti-U.S., pro-Islamic State videos, wearing a black mask and standing in front of the black flag associated with the group. Those videos were sent to the FBI confidential informant, and investigators found the flag during a search of Solano's apartment. Agents also found sketches of the mall food court and evidence that he had done research on the Islamic State and its leaders.

Initially, Assistant U.S. Attorney Karen Gilbert said Solano wanted to bomb the mall on the busy "Black Friday" November shopping day after Thanksgiving. Later, Solano told the informant the timing didn't matter as long as the building was crowded.

"He wanted to kill as many people as he could at the food court on a crowded Friday night," Gilbert said.

Clancy also provided a few more details about the informant, who he said Solano has known for about six years. The informant served about four years in prison after he was convicted of posing as a police officer and had previously done undercover work for the Drug Enforcement Administration.

It was the informant who went to the FBI after Solano began discussing his hatred of the U.S. and its policies around the time of the 2016 presidential election, Clancy said.

"It was a conversation that built over time. The conversations became increasingly more serious and frequent," the agent testified.

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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>10/26 UK woman convicted over terror plot</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://uk.reuters.com/article/uk-britain-security-dummy/uk-woman-convicted-over-terror-plot-involving-lifelike-dummy-idUKKBN1CV24W">https://uk.reuters.com/article/uk-britain-security-dummy/uk-woman-convicted-over-terror-plot-involving-lifelike-dummy-idUKKBN1CV24W</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>LONDON (Reuters) - A woman from Britain was convicted of a terrorism offence on Thursday after paying for a large combat knife for her husband to use in a UK attack and urging him to "kill people for me".</p> <p>Madiah Taheer, 22, from Birmingham also allowed her debit card to be used to buy a lifelike training dummy so that her husband, Ummariyat Mirza, 21, could practise an attack, prosecutors said.</p> <p>The dummy was found in the couple's Birmingham home with slash marks on the forehead, across the throat and abdomen.</p>

Mirza had been researching potential targets on his mobile phone including a military base in Birmingham, central England.

Prosecutors said text messages that the pair had sent each other, in which they threatened violence and discussed the situation in Syria, demonstrated that they were inspired by the Islamic State militant group.

Woolwich Crown Court in London heard that Mirza made Taheer return the first dummy she bought as it was not the model he wanted. He sent her a video so she would know the right one to buy.

In messages from September 2015, pre-dating the offence and before they were married, Taheer wrote: "I want u to kill ppl for me. I have a list."

Mirza replied: "The day of [marriage] I'll kill em all. Give me the list."

A month later, Mirza said he wanted to stab someone they both knew 27 times. Taheer responded that "sounds so satisfying".

Mirza was arrested in March this year and pleaded guilty to preparing for terrorist acts at a hearing in September. Taheer was convicted on Thursday of the same charge.

Sue Hemming, Head of the Special Crime and Counter Terrorism Division of the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS), said in a statement there was little doubt Mirza had the knife to carry out an attack in Britain.

"The prosecution's case was that his wife was a willing accomplice who bought the knife knowing what he was planning to do," she added.

"This couple posed a serious threat to the public in Britain and now face the prospect of time in prison ..."

The couple, along with Mirza's older sister Zainab who admitted sending him terrorist material, will be sentenced later. A provisional date for sentencing has been set for Dec. 1.

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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>10/26 France paid benefits to ISIS fighters</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://www.newsweek.com/isis-fighters-were-paid-social-security-france-while-they-were-syria-693489">http://www.newsweek.com/isis-fighters-were-paid-social-security-france-while-they-were-syria-693489</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>French investigators have discovered that a significant portion of Islamists from France who traveled to fight for the Islamic State militant group (ISIS) had been receiving social security payments.</p> <p>One of France's elite anti-crime units, known as the Criminal Brigade, or BAC, has been working for years to disrupt the financing of extremist organizations, an effective counterterrorism strategy that seeks to deprive jihadis of the funds they require to plot and commit attacks. They have most recently discovered a scam in which relatives of as many as 100 French ISIS fighters had been funneling their social security payments to them in Syria, according to French newspaper Figaro.</p> <p>The Criminal Brigade found that as many as one-fifth of the total French ISIS fighters have been receiving payments, with family members often sending money through Turkey after picking up the fighters' own social security allowances using their documentation. In France, the unemployed can receive as much as \$640 a month.</p> <p>"With their photo cards, parents received the funds from the employment center or the family allowance fund before sending them...to areas of fighting via Turkey in particular," an investigator told Figaro.</p> <p>In the years between 2012 and 2017, investigators identified 190 relatives who had transferred money</p>

from France to ISIS fighters, or jihadis who fought for Al-Qaeda in Syria before the group's rise in 2014. Around 210 other fraudsters were non-French nationals who came from Turkey and Lebanon.

They found that as much as 500,000 euros, or \$590,000, had reached the hands of jihadis from France who would become ISIS members or who were already in its ranks. They also learned the militant group had received more than \$2.3 million dollars from Europe overall last year from 420 scam payments.

France has seen as many as 1,910 of its nationals travel to Syria and Iraq to fight for ISIS, according to the latest figures released by Washington D.C.-based security consultancy The Soufan Group. As many as 271 have returned to the country and around 700 are believed to remain in the Middle East. At home, France is dealing with as many as 18,000 people suspected of being radicalized or on the verge of radicalization.

The country has already jailed relatives for sending funds to fighters who would take up arms in Syria. Last month, a French court sentenced a mother of three children to two years in prison for sending money to her young son that authorities said he used to fight for ISIS in Syria. Nathalie Haddadi, a nonpracticing Muslim from eastern France, said she had no knowledge that Belabbas Bounaga would use the money for those activities. But the court ruled that she was not telling the truth.

“Without your substantial help he would not have been able to reach Syria so easily and fight with Islamic State,” the presiding judge told Haddadi, according to Reuters. “You financed a terrorist organization.”

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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>10/26 Where are the American ISIS fighters?</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://www.foxnews.com/world/2017/10/26/almost-all-american-isis-fighters-unaccounted-for-sparking-fears-could-slip-through-cracks-and-return.html">http://www.foxnews.com/world/2017/10/26/almost-all-american-isis-fighters-unaccounted-for-sparking-fears-could-slip-through-cracks-and-return.html</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>When it came to recruiting foreigners to flee the comforts of home for the battlefields of Iraq and Syria, ISIS succeeded like no other — encouraging more than 40,000 fighters from more than 110 countries to travel to the fighting fray both before and after the declaration of the “caliphate” in June 2014. Subsequently, authorities have warned about the threat of returning jihadists to their homeland and since the falls of Mosul, Raqqa and the rapidly receding footprint of ISIS, such fears have come to the forefront.</p> <p>According to a new report, “Beyond the Caliphate: Foreign Fighters and the Threat of Returnees,” released this week by the Soufan Center — a Washington-based security intelligence consultancy — there are now at least 5,600 citizens or residents from 33 countries who have returned home — accounting for about 15 percent of the fighters.</p> <p>The report asserts that for the United States, 129 fighters succeeded in leaving the country and only seven have returned.</p> <p>“This is only what we know and what official records report. What about those that are still transiting illegally and freely across borders,” Lee Oughton, security expert and global business development director of international risk management firm, the Abbey Grey Group, observed. “The borders going into the U.S. are seen as porous and could be an ideal spot for returning ISIS fighters to filter undetected back into society.”</p> <p>In 2015, the U.S. government estimated that roughly one in five of the aspiring American foreign fighters had been killed in the theater of war. But to-date, there are no precise numbers of how many were killed abroad and how many may have evaded into other countries to continue their cause — leaving the whereabouts of many unknown, with the potential of rebounding stateside.</p> <p>The Soufan report also points out that a group which falls outside the definition of “returnee” figures are those people who have been stopped on their way to Syria or Iraq, either by their own authorities or those in a transit country.</p>

“The members of this group will pose a particular problem as they had geared themselves up to join the caliphate only to be frustrated,” the report noted. “They will have all the fire and enthusiasm of a new recruit but none of the dampening experience of real life and death in the caliphate.”

A spokesperson for the FBI acknowledged to Fox News that “tracking those overseas who have fought on the battlefield is difficult,” and that they do not have firm numbers of “how many surrendered, were killed or remain unaccounted for,” but said that 300 Americans have “traveled or attempted to travel to Syria and Iraq to participate in the conflict” — which includes those who have joined other armed groups, such as the U.S.-backed YPG, Peshmerga or Free Syrian Army.

“While this number is lower in comparison to many of our international partners, we closely analyze and assess the influence groups like ISIS have on individuals located in the United States, who are inspired to commit acts of violence,” the official said. “Our number one priority is protecting the United States and our interests from terrorist attacks.”

Of the approximate 300 U.S. fighters, a representative from the National Counterterrorism Center told Fox News that approximately 40 died after traveling to Iraq or Syria, and that there is “only one known instance of a fighter returning from Syria to the U.S. and allegedly plotting an attack.”

Still, some analysts have expressed concern.

“America does not strip the citizenship of those who join ISIS, so we can’t prevent them from coming home,” said national security expert Ryan Mauro, from the Clarion Project. “A lot of these returning ISIS recruits are likely disillusioned with the caliphate, but we must not mistake disappointment with a rejection of jihadist thinking overall.”

Furthermore, the report concluded that since 2015, there “was a marked rise in the number of foreign women traveling to or, in the case of children, being born in the Islamic State,” which poses a particular problem. More than 15,000 women and children are documented to be part of ISIS — with at least 4,000 of them from the European Union, 3,417 from Russia, 3,000 from Tunisia, 1,623 from Morocco and 850 from the United Kingdom.

“Returning ISIS women is a complicated issue as many joined the fight willingly and engaged both in combat and effective recruitment of militants. Through careful assessment, those who fought willingly should be treated accordingly, along with their male counterparts,” surmised Tony Schiena, CEO of intelligence and security firm MOSIAC.

“As far as indoctrinated children, they need to be placed in well-monitored de-radicalization and psychological programs and closely monitored until there is very little doubt of potential threat to civilians.”

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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>10/27 US citizen joined ISIS faces sentencing</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://www.foxnews.com/us/2017/10/27/us-citizen-who-joined-isis-could-get-35-year-sentence.html">http://www.foxnews.com/us/2017/10/27/us-citizen-who-joined-isis-could-get-35-year-sentence.html</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>A former public transit driver in Virginia who later joined the Islamic State group in Syria faces up to 35 years in prison when he is sentenced Friday.</p> <p>Mohamad Khweis, 27, of Alexandria, Va., became the only U.S. citizen convicted in a U.S. jury trial of joining ISIS overseas. He was convicted on terrorism charges earlier this year in a federal court in Virginia.</p> <p>Khweis traveled to Islamic State-controlled territory in Iraq and Syria in December 2015, even obtaining an official membership card. But he found life there distasteful and escaped after a few months.</p> <p>Prosecutors say Khweis volunteered to be a suicide bomber and deserves a 35-year prison sentence.</p>

Defense lawyers are seeking a five-year prison term at Friday's sentencing hearing. They say Khweis never intended to harm the U.S., and that a harsh sentence would deter other Americans who joined the Islamic State from quitting.

In March, the Washington Post reported that Khweis had quit his job as a public transit driver in northern Virginia and traveled to Syria with the intention of joining ISIS.

"He made it from his couch in Alexandria to an Islamic State safe house in Raqqa in about two weeks," Assistant U.S. Attorney Dennis Fitzpatrick and Raj Parekh, a trial attorney in the Justice Department's Counterterrorism Section, wrote in a court filing at the time. "This is not a person who frightens or breaks down easily. ... This defendant knew exactly what he was doing."

Khweis was born to Palestinian immigrants and raised in Virginia, the Post reported.

He ultimately fled from ISIS and was captured by Kurdish forces in Iraq, the report said.

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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>10/26 Graphic testimony in Bergdahl case</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.cbsnews.com/news/bowe-bergdahl-sentencing-phase-graphic-testimony-fort-bragg-10-27-2017/">https://www.cbsnews.com/news/bowe-bergdahl-sentencing-phase-graphic-testimony-fort-bragg-10-27-2017/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>FORT BRAGG, N.C. -- Soldiers and an airman described a shattered hand and a head wound Thursday as prosecutors presented evidence that Army Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl's disappearance endangered those who searched for him.</p> <p>The testimony came during the sentencing phase for Bergdahl, who faces up to life in prison after he pleaded guilty to desertion and misbehavior before the enemy. Bergdahl was held captive by Taliban allies for five years after abandoning his remote post in 2009.</p> <p>Several witnesses described a search mission by U.S. and Afghan troops to comb two villages for information related to Bergdahl days after he disappeared.</p> <p>Among the most vivid testimony came from Jonathan Morita, describing how his hand was shattered by a rocket-propelled grenade. He has since had multiple surgeries and is left without full use of his right hand.</p> <p>"Right about here is where they sowed on my thumb where it was dangling off," he said, pointing to a picture of sutures displayed on a video monitor.</p> <p>He said he can't bend his index finger and thumb and had to learn again how to write and brush his teeth with limited mobility in his dominant hand.</p> <p>He was with a half-dozen U.S. troops that were accompanying a larger group of Afghan soldiers on the July 2009 search mission when they were ambushed by insurgents using small arms, machine guns and explosive projectiles. One rocket-propelled grenade hit Morita's rifle, shattering his hand. A second landed nearby, lodging shrapnel in his left elbow.</p> <p>"I just thought I was going to definitely die right there in Afghanistan," said Morita, who earned the rank of sergeant before leaving the Army.</p> <p>After his injury during the firefight, he said he "pulled out a Bible, read a quick verse" and then grabbed a handgun to return fire before a medical helicopter arrived.</p> <p>Nearby, Master Sgt. Mark Allen suffered a head wound during the ambush. National Guard Staff Sgt. Jason Walters testified that Allen was trying to make a radio call when Walters saw him get hit by a bullet.</p>



"I watched just as a cloud of his blood came out the side of his head," Walters testified.

Walters became emotional when he described tending to his friend's wound.

"I grabbed a pressure bandage, and started. Sorry ma'am," he told a prosecutor before pausing and resuming testimony. "I started treating his wound ... telling him to hang on."

Allen now uses a wheelchair and is unable to speak, requiring assistance for everyday tasks such as getting out of bed. Walters said it was difficult visiting Allen in a hospital after the deployment.

"Seeing him like that is something I don't wish anyone would have to see," he said.

While Bergdahl acknowledged at his plea hearing that his actions triggered the search missions that resulted in the wounds, his lawyers argued Thursday that there's a limit to his responsibility for a lengthy chain of events including others' decisions and enemy fighters.

"Enemy forces were the direct cause of the horrific wounds to Master Sgt. Allen," said Army Maj. Oren Gleich, a defense lawyer.

Bergdahl, a 31-year-old soldier from Hailey, Idaho, has said he was caged by his captors, kept in darkness and beaten, and tried to escape more than a dozen times before President Obama brought him home in 2014 in a swap for five Taliban prisoners at Guantanamo Bay.

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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>10/27 UN: Syria to blame for sarin attack</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-un/syrian-government-to-blame-for-april-sarin-attack-u-n-report-idUSKBN1CV3GP?il=0">http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-un/syrian-government-to-blame-for-april-sarin-attack-u-n-report-idUSKBN1CV3GP?il=0</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>UNITED NATIONS (Reuters) - The Syrian government of Bashar al-Assad is to blame for a chemical attack on the opposition-held town of Khan Sheikhoun that killed dozens of people last April, according to a report sent to the United Nations Security Council on Thursday.</p> <p>"The Syrian Arab Republic is responsible for the release of sarin at Khan Sheikhoun on 4 April 2017," the report from the U.N. and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons' Joint Investigative Mechanism (JIM) said.</p> <p>The attack prompted a U.S. missile strike against a Syrian air base which Washington said was used to launch the strike.</p> <p>"Time and again, we see independent confirmation of chemical weapons use by the Assad regime," Nikki Haley, the United States' U.N. ambassador, said in a statement.</p> <p>"The Security Council must send a clear message that the use of chemical weapons by anyone will not be tolerated, and must fully support the work of the impartial investigators."</p> <p>The report also said ISIS was to blame for the use of sulfur mustard in the Syrian town of Umm Hawsh on Sept. 15 and 16, 2016.</p> <p>The JIM was unanimously created by the 15-member U.N. Security Council in 2015 and renewed in 2016 for another year. Its mandate is due to expire in mid-November, and Russia on Tuesday vetoed a proposal to further extend its mandate.</p> <p>Russian ambassador to the U.N. Vassily Nebenzia said earlier this week Russia would consider revisiting the mandate extension after Thursday's report is discussed.</p>

	<p>Speaking in Beijing, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said China hopes that the conclusions of any investigation have a basis in conclusive proof and are professional, objective and fair.</p> <p>“The continuing use of chemical weapons, including by non-State actors, is deeply disturbing,” said the report.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>10/26 Center: ISIS fighters returning home</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.newsmax.com/newsfront/caliphate-soufan-center-foreign-fighters/2017/10/26/id/822366/">https://www.newsmax.com/newsfront/caliphate-soufan-center-foreign-fighters/2017/10/26/id/822366/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>At least 5,600 people from 33 countries have now left ISIS's so-called caliphate and returned home, a new report from the nonprofit Soufan Center has found.</p> <p>The highest numbers of foreign fighters who have gone to Syria or Iraq have been from Russia, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Tunisia, and France, the report found.</p> <p>The October report revealed about half of the fighters from the United Kingdom, 425 out of 850, and Sweden, 126 of 300, are returned to those countries, while just 10 percent of the fighters from Russia, 400 of 3,417, for example, or former Soviet republics have gone back. The report said 271 of the 1,910 fighters from France have gone home.</p> <p>According to the report, seven of 129 fighters from the United States are back home.</p> <p>Some countries in Southeast Asia have seen the return of not only their own citizens, but also the arrival of ISIS fighters who have chosen not to go back to their own countries, the report found.</p> <p>"While returning foreign fighters have not as yet added significantly to the threat of terrorism around the world, the number of attacks inspired or directed by the Islamic State continues to rise," the report stated among its key findings.</p> <p>"All returnees, whatever their reason for going home, will continue to pose some degree of risk."</p> <p>ISIS kept detailed records of the fighters who joined, and those records — plus captured computers and cellphones — have helped the U.S.-led coalition fighting the group create a profile of its membership, Business Insider noted.</p> <p>Nearly 20,000 names have already been shared with Interpol, BI reported.</p> <p>ISIS's success in attracting foreign recruits might help sustain the group in the long-term, if not as a cohesive group, then as an inspiration for others, the report suggested.</p> <p>"It is highly likely that even as the territorial caliphate shrinks and is increasingly denied an overt presence, its leadership will look to supporters overseas, including returnees, to keep the brand alive," the report stated.</p>
<a href="#">Return to Top</a>	<p><b>Click on link to download PDF:</b> <a href="http://thesoufancenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/Beyond-the-Caliphate-Foreign-Fighters-and-the-Threat-of-Returnees-TSC-Report-October-2017.pdf">http://thesoufancenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/Beyond-the-Caliphate-Foreign-Fighters-and-the-Threat-of-Returnees-TSC-Report-October-2017.pdf</a></p>

<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>10/26 Claim: slain soldiers wearing t-shirts, caps</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://www.newsmax.com/Newsfront/green-beret-niger-ambush-soldiers/2017/10/26/id/822391/">http://www.newsmax.com/Newsfront/green-beret-niger-ambush-soldiers/2017/10/26/id/822391/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>Four Green Berets ambushed by Islamic State terrorists in Niger were not wearing flak jackets or helmets, but instead T-shirts and baseball caps — and only one was armed with a machine gun, CNN reported Thursday.</p>

The soldiers were driving a 4x4 SUV, CNN senior international correspondent Arwa Damon reported, citing an interview with a Nigerian soldier who was among one of the first on the scene of the battle.

He talked with Nigerian soldiers who had been wounded in the attack, she reported. He had served in the area for at least five years.

In addition, one Defense Department official told CNN the ISIS fighters were "heavily armed," Erin Burnett reported.

Further, Damon reported the Nigerian soldier told her the U.S. Army service members had been separated — finding two shot to death in the back seat of their vehicle.

Another Green Beret was found lying dead under nearby brush, she reported.

The Oct. 4 ambush killed Staff Sgts. Bryan Black, 35, and Dustin Wright, 29; and Sgts. Jeremiah Johnson, 39, and La David Johnson, 25.

They were among 12 members of a U.S. special operations task force who were returning along with 30 Nigerien partnered forces from an overnight reconnaissance mission, according to Pentagon officials.

They had traveled from the capital city of Niamey to about 50 miles north, near the village of Tongo Tongo, and were returning when the attack occurred, officials said.

"If we just look at the terrain, it's hard to imagine if there was any place where any of those soldiers could take cover and really try to defend themselves against this assault now," Damon told Burnett, reporting from Niamey.

The ISIS attackers first ambushed the U.S. soldiers with eight vehicles, causing the convoy to split up, she said.

Then, "dozens of other fighters arrived on motorcycles — and that is the point at which the casualties began to get fairly severe," Damon said the Nigerian soldier told her.

"When this soldier arrived on scene, along with the three U.S. soldiers who were killed, he also says that he saw the bodies of three Nigerian soldiers who were further in the brush.

"He said that he did not, interestingly, see any bodies of the attackers, but just streaks of blood," Damon told Burnett.

"He also noticed that it seemed as if some of the brush was still smoldering — villagers telling his unit that the attackers had actually set some of the landscape on fire to create a smoke screen to allow them to then escape."

Damon said the Nigerian soldier told her more U.S. soldiers arrived overnight — after three of the slain Green Berets had been recovered — "still trying to look for the body of Sgt. La David Johnson.

"They did not find him until very next day."

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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>10/27 Niger attack: convoy separated in ambush</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://www.cnn.com/2017/10/27/politics/niger-ambush-convoy-separated/index.html">http://www.cnn.com/2017/10/27/politics/niger-ambush-convoy-separated/index.html</a>
<b>GIST</b>	(CNN)The vehicles carrying the 12-member Green Beret-led team that was ambushed in Niger by ISIS militants earlier this month became separated during the firefight, US officials and a Nigerien soldier

present told CNN Thursday.

The team was traveling with 30 Nigerien soldiers when they were attacked by approximately 50 ISIS affiliated fighters armed with rocket propelled grenades, mortars, and heavy machine guns, according to US military officials.

During the subsequent gun battle, which lasted for hours, four US soldiers were killed and two were wounded. Five Nigerien soldiers were also killed.

Despite being outnumbered and outgunned, a US defense official told CNN that the joint US-Nigerien force, armed only with rifles, managed to kill 20 ISIS militants during the firefight.

A Nigerien soldier, whose unit was the first ground force to respond and arrive on scene in the aftermath of the attack, told CNN that he was informed by some of the wounded Nigerien soldiers that the first two vehicles were hit and the convoy was subsequently split.

The attackers began the assault equipped with eight vehicles with "dozens" of fighters arriving via motorcycle to reinforce the attack during the battle, according to the Nigerien soldier who isn't authorized to speak publicly on the incident.

A US official directly familiar with after action reports told CNN that the US military convoy was separated during the ambush in Niger. The separation of the convoy may explain why Sgt. La David Johnson's body became separated from the rest of team.

The Nigerien soldier who spoke with CNN said that he first encountered the 12-member US team on October 3, when they were on the way to their objective, an abandoned encampment that had previously been the location of a regional terrorist leader, codenamed "Naylor Road."

He described the joint US-Nigerien unit as being a "light force," believing that the combined group had insufficient numbers and firepower for a patrol into what he said was a high risk area.

The Nigerien soldier said that, when he saw them on the day before the attack, the US troops had only one heavy machine gun, no body armor and were driving unarmored 4x4s while wearing "t-shirts and baseball caps."

"I was surprised that the Americans would go out into the zone with such a light convoy and no air cover, no drones to keep watch over them," the soldier said.

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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>10/26 Intel: ISIS-linked group Niger ambush</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.cbsnews.com/news/isis-linked-group-was-responsible-for-deadly-niger-ambush-us-says/">https://www.cbsnews.com/news/isis-linked-group-was-responsible-for-deadly-niger-ambush-us-says/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>U.S. intelligence believes militants loyal to the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) were responsible for the attack on troops in Niger earlier this month that left four U.S. service members dead.</p> <p>A senior counterterrorism official tells CBS News that fighters with ISIS in the Greater Sahara (ISIS-GS) were behind the attack. The group has been led by Adnan Abu Walid al Sahraoui since May 2015, the official said. He commands just 40 to 60 fighters but has allies across the region.</p> <p>"[I]n October 2016, ISIS' news agency acknowledged [ISIS-GS]' pledge of allegiance to ISIS, according to media reporting. As of this month, ISIS-GS operated in the border area between Mali, Burkina Faso, and Niger," the official said. The U.S. has not detected money or fighters going from the battlefields in Iraq and Syria to that part of Africa.</p>

	<p>The four soldiers killed in the attack were returning from a mission with Nigerien soldiers when they came under fire. The Defense Department and congressional committees are investigating the circumstances of the attack.</p> <p>A U.S. military official tells CBS News that another team of U.S. soldiers was preparing to go after a high-value target in Niger. That mission was scrubbed once the target crossed the border into Mali. The second team of soldiers were sent to investigate the site where the target was believed to have been located before crossing the border. That team stopped at the village of Tongo Tongo for fuel and water as they headed back to their base after the 24-hour mission.</p> <p>The team was ambushed after leaving the village, the military official said. The American soldiers called to report they were taking fire immediately, but believed they could handle the situation. They then called for assistance an hour later, the official said.</p> <p>Military records released by the Pentagon showed that the soldiers who died in the attack had little to no combat experience. Asked about reports that the Americans were under-trained or inexperienced, the official said, "That's crap."</p>
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## Suspicious, Unusual

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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>10/26 Overdose deaths double in decade</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://thehill.com/policy/healthcare/357315-overdose-deaths-have-doubled-in-a-decade">http://thehill.com/policy/healthcare/357315-overdose-deaths-have-doubled-in-a-decade</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>The number of Americans dying from drug overdoses jumped by more than 200 percent in the last 16 years, a spike that crosses economic, geographic and racial lines.</p> <p>More than 52,000 Americans died of a drug overdose in 2015, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. That's 211 percent higher than the 16,849 people who died of overdoses in 1999 and double the 25,785 who died that way in 2003.</p> <p>Drug overdoses are now the leading cause of injury-related death in the United States, the CDC said.</p> <p>The report comes as President Trump is expected to declare the epidemic of abuse of pain-killing opioids in particular a public health emergency, a step short of a national emergency sought by advocates that would free up rules and funding.</p> <p>A rapid increase in the number of prescription drugs including opioids provided to patients has led to more use of illicit drugs like heroin, fentanyl and methamphetamines.</p> <p>"We're seeing a huge spike in the availability and a reduction in cost of heroin and fentanyl. With addictive substances, if you increase availability and reduce cost, more people use them. It's kind of a law of nature," Tom Frieden, who directed the CDC during the Obama administration, told The Hill in July.</p> <p>CDC researchers said opioid use, which has skyrocketed since the turn of the century, is to blame for much of the increase. Opioid prescription rates have leveled off since 2012 as state and federal regulators crack down on so-called pill mills that overprescribe the drugs, a strategy that may help slow the overdose epidemic.</p> <p>Overdose deaths have spiked particularly in nonmetropolitan, rural parts of the country, where the number of deaths has jumped 325 percent over the last 16 years.</p> <p>Overdose death rates among Native Americans and native Alaskans in nonmetropolitan areas are up more than 500 percent. Among whites, death rates have risen by 224 percent in metropolitan areas and by 343 percent in nonmetro areas. Similar increases occurred among Hispanics.</p>

	<p>Death rates among black Americans have more than doubled, though they have risen at a lower rate than among other races.</p> <p>“Reducing the number of persons initially exposed to prescription opioids might reduce the illicit use of opioids, the subsequent risk of addiction, and the use of illicit drugs,” CDC researchers said.</p> <p>The study found the number of Americans who report having used illicit drugs in the past month has risen sharply over the last decade. Drug use has increased by almost 22 percent in large metropolitan areas, by 16 percent in smaller metros and by 13 percent in rural areas.</p> <p>Drug use has actually declined among younger Americans, those between the ages of 12 and 17. But drug use has risen more precipitously among those over the age of 26, and especially among those over the age of 35.</p> <p>Public health experts say a decade-long trend of more opioid prescriptions, and the consequent increase in illicit drug use, will take just as long to reverse.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>10/27 Car drives into immigration protest</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://apnews.com/72c82460ed7e4e5f95130548a6f9aded/Car-drives-into-immigration-protest;-motorist-arrested">https://apnews.com/72c82460ed7e4e5f95130548a6f9aded/Car-drives-into-immigration-protest;-motorist-arrested</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>BREA, Calif. (AP) — A man drove his car through marchers Thursday at an immigrant rights rally, with one demonstrator jumping on the hood as the car lurched forward and then stopped. Police quickly surrounded it and arrested the man.</p> <p>Brea Police Chief Jack Conklin said none of the demonstrators sought first aid but the SEIU United Service Workers West union later released a statement saying six people were taken to a hospital for evaluation.</p> <p>The union helped organize the protest and President David Huerta said the four union members and two staff were “victims of what appears to be a deliberate and hateful crime.”</p> <p>Police disputed that.</p> <p>“I think he was trying to get through the crowd,” Lt. Adam Hawley said. “We don’t have any indication he was trying to harm somebody.”</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>10/26 Sound Transit fee loophole</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://mynorthwest.com/795160/sound-transit-missed-out-on-millions-by-ignoring-trucks/">http://mynorthwest.com/795160/sound-transit-missed-out-on-millions-by-ignoring-trucks/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>Sound Transit is missing out on an estimated \$6.2 million in additional revenue from car-tab fees.</p> <p>A weight standard created before Sound Transit began taxing residents living within its district exempts owners of 6,000-pound trucks from the annual tax for the agency, The Seattle Times reports.</p> <p>What that means is truck owners have avoided the 1.1 percent tax that is used to pay for light rail, commuter trains, and Sound Transit’s bus service. And it isn’t a small number who aren’t paying the same as owners of smaller vehicles. The Times reports there are 31,692 passenger trucks within Sound Transit’s taxing district that stretches from Everett down past Tacoma and east to Sammamish and Issaquah.</p> <p>Based on the inflated formula Sound Transit is using to value vehicles, The Times reports the agency</p>

	<p>could be making up to \$6 million or more in addition to the \$232 million in car-tab fees it expects to rake in. The value schedule the agency uses was inherited from the Legislature; it goes as far back as 1990 and has been found to overvalue vehicles.</p> <p>A spokesperson for Sound Transit told the Times the agency would not try to tax the currently-exempt pickups.</p> <p>Meanwhile, the debate over car-tab fees for the rest of those in the agency's taxing district continues.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>10/26 Vegas guard in Mexico after massacre?</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://nypost.com/2017/10/26/jesus-campos-reportedly-left-the-country-days-after-vegas-massacre/">http://nypost.com/2017/10/26/jesus-campos-reportedly-left-the-country-days-after-vegas-massacre/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>Mandalay Bay security guard Jesus Campos mysteriously left the country just days after the Las Vegas massacre, a report says.</p> <p>Customs and Border Patrol documents obtained by Fox News show that the 25-year-old entered the United States from Mexico at the San Ysidro border crossing in California — one week after the mass shooting.</p> <p>It's unclear how long Campos was out of the country. The documents only show that he re-entered the US.</p> <p>The young man reportedly crossed the border at the same location in January.</p> <p>While Campos was driving his own vehicle with Nevada plates during that trip, sources told Fox he took a rental car this time around — which was registered in California.</p> <p>The new information raises even more questions about Stephen Paddock's Oct. 1 massacre — such as why authorities would allow Campos to leave the country in the middle of their investigation or how the security guard managed to make it down to Mexico with a gunshot wound to his leg.</p> <p>Campos reportedly took a bullet from gunman Stephen Paddock at the start of his killing spree.</p> <p>The union that represents him told Fox they were aware of his trip to Mexico and claimed it was a pre-planned visit. What's unclear, though, is why the group didn't report his whereabouts in the days following the massacre.</p> <p>ABC reportedly spoke to Campos on Oct. 4, but didn't say whether he was out of the country.</p> <p>State records obtained by Fox on Wednesday also showed that the 25-year-old is actually not registered as a security guard with Nevada's Private Investigator's Licensing Board.</p> <p>The Clarke County Sheriff's Office declined to comment when asked what license is required to be a security guard at a Las Vegas casino.</p> <p>"Jesus Campos is a victim and we don't speak about victims," a sheriff's spokesperson said.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>10/26 Saudi Arabia grants citizenship to robot</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://www.arabnews.com/node/1183166/saudi-arabia">http://www.arabnews.com/node/1183166/saudi-arabia</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>LONDON: A humanoid robot took the stage at the Future Investment Initiative yesterday and had an amusing exchange with the host to the delight of hundreds of delegates.</p> <p>Smartphones were held aloft as Sophia, a robot designed by Hong Kong company Hanson Robotics, gave</p>

	<p>a presentation that demonstrated her capacity for human expression.</p> <p>Sophia made global headlines when she was granted Saudi citizenship, making the kingdom the first country in the world to offer its citizenship to a robot.</p> <p>“I want to live and work with humans so I need to express the emotions to understand humans and build trust with people,” she said in an exchange with moderator Andrew Ross Sorkin.</p> <p>Asked whether robots can be self-aware, conscious and know they're robots, she said: “Well let me ask you this back, how do you know you are human?” “I want to use my artificial intelligence to help humans live a better life, like design smarter homes, build better cities of the future. I will do my best to make the world a better place,” she said.</p> <p>Her desire to achieve more human-like characteristics was rewarded by being granted the first Saudi citizenship for a robot.</p> <p>“I am very honored and proud for this unique distinction. This is historical to be the first robot in the world to be recognized with a citizenship,” Sophia said.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>10/26 #MeToo increases calls to King Co. center</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://www.kiro7.com/news/local/metoo-increases-calls-to-king-county-sexual-assault-resource-center/630685412">http://www.kiro7.com/news/local/metoo-increases-calls-to-king-county-sexual-assault-resource-center/630685412</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>In the two weeks since dozens of women have come forward to report allegations of sexual assault and harassment against movie mogul Harvey Weinstein, calls to the King County Sexual Assault Resource Center in Renton have gone up 44 percent over the same two-week period last year.</p> <p>“This is going to bring up feelings for people that they may want to just sort out,” KSARC Executive Director Mary Ellen Stone told KIRO 7 Thursday.</p> <p>“There’s also a group of people who are saying, this happened to me and for the first time, maybe I want to tell somebody about it” Stone said.</p> <p>According to Stone, hearing private accounts from very public figures is encouraging women and men to not only talk about what happened, but to also get help.</p> <p>Which is why she believes so many people are calling KSARC.</p> <p>“If we can’t talk about it, we can’t stop it.”</p> <p>KSARC also received a recent donation because of the influence of #MeToo.</p> <p>According to Stone, someone “sent in a small gift to say, this is in honor of the woman who sat next to me on the bus and told me about her experience.”</p> <p>“People are standing with each other.”</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>10/25 IV bags in short supply after hurricane</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.cbsnews.com/news/iv-bags-in-short-supply-after-hurricane-maria-disrupted-production/">https://www.cbsnews.com/news/iv-bags-in-short-supply-after-hurricane-maria-disrupted-production/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	NEW YORK -- Hurricane Maria disrupted production at Puerto Rican factories that make critical drugs



and medical supplies. CBS News chief medical correspondent Dr. Jon LaPook found hospitals on the U.S. mainland are already seeing shortages.

Small bags of intravenous fluid deliver life-saving medications like antibiotics and chemotherapy. Régine Villain's job at NYU Langone Health is to manage supplies -- and she's worried because the bags are in short supply.

"We have been practically hand-to-mouth, counting by the drop how much we have in-house," Villain said. "It's just really nerve-racking to think about not being able to have those bags available to the patient."

"Nothing this bad, ever": Doctor describes medical challenges in Puerto Rico  
Her concern is echoed by hospitals and pharmacists around the country.

The American Hospital Association told CBS News the shortage "is quickly becoming a crisis and threat to public health."

There was already an existing shortage for several years -- made worse by facilities being damaged by hurricanes. On top of that, Villain says the three major manufacturers usually shut down for maintenance before the end of the year.

"This is the thing that keeps me up at night, because I fear that if those shutdowns go on as planned we could be experiencing unprecedented issues around IV solutions," Villain said -- which means there may be a "situation where we have run out a lot of those necessary IV fluids" like salt water and sugar, Villain said.

It's a big deal because IV fluids are "the first thing we do -- we use an IV, we hang an IV and that's how we start taking care of you."

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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>10/26 Subaru admits improper inspections</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://www.reuters.com/article/us-subaru-recall/subaru-says-improper-inspections-conducted-for-over-30-years-idUSKBN1CV3P4">http://www.reuters.com/article/us-subaru-recall/subaru-says-improper-inspections-conducted-for-over-30-years-idUSKBN1CV3P4</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>TOKYO (Reuters) - Subaru Corp (7270.T) said on Friday it had failed to follow proper inspection procedures for vehicles destined for the domestic market for more than 30 years, adding to a list of compliance problems at Japanese companies.</p> <p>The automaker said it had allowed uncertified technicians to conduct final inspections of new vehicles at its main Gunma factory complex, north of Tokyo, which violates requirements set by Japan's transport ministry.</p> <p>As a result it is considering recalling around 255,000 vehicles produced at the complex, the maker of the Legacy and Forester said.</p> <p>Subaru said it would report details of an internal investigation to the transport ministry on Monday.</p> <p>"The final inspection process is very important and we acknowledge that we did not meet requirements," Chief Executive Yasuyuki Yoshinaga told a news conference.</p> <p>"We used the same process for more than 30 years without realizing that it did not meet ministry requirements."</p> <p>The revelation follows a similar issue at Nissan Motor Co (7201.T) while Kobe Steel Ltd (5406.T) has been grappling with a data fabrication scandal, tarnishing Japan Inc's reputation for strict quality control.</p>

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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>10/26 Cuba denies involvement mystery attacks</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://time.com/4999808/cuba-defends-embassy-sonic-attack-diplomat/?xid=homepage">http://time.com/4999808/cuba-defends-embassy-sonic-attack-diplomat/?xid=homepage</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>HAVANA (AP) — Cuba on Thursday presented its most detailed defense to date against U.S. accusations that American diplomats in Havana were subjected to mysterious sonic attacks that left them with a variety of ailments including headaches, hearing problems and concussions.</p> <p>In a half-hour, prime-time special titled "Alleged Sonic Attacks," Cuban officials attempted to undermine the Trump administration's assertion that 24 U.S. officials or their relatives had been subjected to deliberate attacks by a still-undetermined culprit. Many officials reported being subjected to loud, grating noises before falling ill. The U.S. has not accused Cuba of carrying out the attacks, but says that Cuba had not met its obligation to protect diplomats on its territory.</p> <p>The television special pointed out what it alleged was a lack of evidence for the U.S. accusations. It argued that the United States had failed to show that such attacks had actually occurred because it had not given Cuba or the public access to the testimony or medical records of U.S. officials who reported attacks, despite three visits to Cuba by U.S. investigators in June, August and September.</p> <p>"The members of the U.S. delegation said that they don't have evidence that confirms that these reported attacks occurred, and brought up that there was no working theory about the cause of the health problems reported by their diplomats," the program's narrator said.</p> <p>The narrator said Cuba had undertaken an exhaustive investigation ordered by "the highest government authorities," a clear reference to President Raul Castro. Cuba did not possess any technology capable of carrying out a sonic attack and importing it is prohibited by law, according to the special.</p> <p>"Its entering the country could only take place illegally," the narrator said.</p> <p>The special said that security around U.S. diplomats' homes had been dramatically increased.</p> <p>The U.S. State Department declined to comment at length on the Cuban critique, saying Thursday that, "the safety and wellbeing of American citizens is our top priority ... We are continuing our investigation into the attacks, and the Cuban government has told us they will continue their efforts as well."</p> <p>Thursday night's special did not present an alternate explanation for the facts presented by U.S. officials, with one significant exception. Officials with Cuba's Interior Ministry said that U.S. investigators had presented them with three recordings made by presumed victims of sonic attacks and that analysis of the sounds showed them to be extremely similar to those of crickets and cicadas that live along the northern coast of Cuba.</p> <p>"It's the same bandwidth and it's audibly very similar," said Lt. Col. Juan Carlos Molina, a telecommunications specialist with the Interior Ministry.</p> <p>"We compared the spectrums of the sounds and evidently this common sound is very similar to the sound of a cicada."</p> <p>The program's narrator said that unnamed "North American researchers" had found that some cicada and cricket noises could be louder than 90-95 decibels, enough to produce hearing loss, irritation and hypertension in situations of prolonged exposure.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>10/26 PSE using drone to assess storm damage</b>
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SOURCE	<a href="http://www.king5.com/news/local/puget-sound-energy-using-drone-to-assess-storm-damage/486458505">http://www.king5.com/news/local/puget-sound-energy-using-drone-to-assess-storm-damage/486458505</a>
GIST	<p>Puget Sound Energy has begun using a drone to study the aftermath of storms, from downed power lines to broken poles.</p> <p>The drone can also be used to identify tree limbs that are hanging over power lines so they can be removed before the next storm, and inspect infrastructure such as dams.</p> <p>The utility's program is just beginning and PSE's drone has done about a half dozen missions so far.</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>10/27 Young Muslims catch \$100B travel bug</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2017-10-27/young-muslims-have-caught-a-100-billion-travel-bug-report-says">https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2017-10-27/young-muslims-have-caught-a-100-billion-travel-bug-report-says</a>
GIST	<p>Countries will need Muslim-friendly tourist industries if they want a slice of one of the world's fastest-growing traveler markets.</p> <p>So-called millennial Muslims -- those aged between 18 and 36 -- are projected to spend more than \$100 billion annually on traveling by 2025, almost double last year's figure, according to a report from Mastercard and Muslim travel website HalalTrip. All age groups belonging to the religion are expected to spend around three times that much.</p> <p>"It's definitely an overlooked segment the broader travel industry should look at and be prepared to cater to," said Douglas Quinby, an Atlanta-based travel analyst at research firm Phocuswright Inc. "There are some countries, whose populations are predominantly Muslim, that are growing very fast, where the population is increasingly becoming middle-class and the demand for travel, both leisure tourism and pilgrimage travel, is growing quite significantly."</p> <p>For now, the top destinations for millennial Muslims are Malaysia and Indonesia, nations where the religion's followers make up a majority of the population. However, the next popular holiday spots are Japan, Thailand and Australia, non-Muslim countries where tourism is a key engine of economic growth. Some are starting to recognize the opportunities.</p> <p>In Japan's Okayama prefecture, the local tourism industry has started certifying Muslim-friendly restaurants, hotels and other facilities with a special logo. Local businesses around the country are starting to reach out to mosques to learn about Islam and better cater to Muslim tourists, according to Halal Media Japan Co. Ltd, an online information portal for Muslim visitors.</p> <p>South Korea has organized a Halal-themed restaurant festival in an effort to boost tourism receipts after a decline in Chinese visitors due to tensions over missile deployments. In Australia, however, challenges remain. A survey of more than 2,000 people this week found that nearly half supported a partial ban on Muslim immigrants.</p> <p>The number of Muslim international travelers is expected to grow to 156 million by 2020, partly due to the growth of the religion's population: it's expected to reach nearly 3 billion worldwide by 2060, a 70 percent jump from 2015, according to the report. Come 2030, almost a third of the world's population aged 15-29 is forecast to be Muslims.</p> <p>"The Muslim traveler market is growing rapidly as a highly lucrative segment in contemporary tourism and will be entering their peak earning, spending and traveling life stage within the next five to 10 years," said Fazal Bahardeen, chief executive of HalalTrip.</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>10/26 Amazon threat to healthcare industry</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2017-10-26/drug-wholesalers-slump-after-amazon-com-obtains-state-licenses">https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2017-10-26/drug-wholesalers-slump-after-amazon-com-obtains-state-licenses</a>
GIST	<p>Amazon.com Inc. is casting a long shadow over the health-care industry.</p> <p>The prospect of the giant Internet retailer entering the business is beginning to cause far-reaching reverberations for a range of companies, roiling the shares of drugstore chains, drug distributors and pharmacy-benefit managers, and potentially precipitating one of the biggest corporate merger deals this year.</p> <p>On Thursday, the pressure was plain to see. A report that Amazon had received pharmacy-wholesaler licenses in a dozen states triggered a fast and steep selloff that wounded the likes of McKesson Corp., AmerisourceBergen Corp. and Cardinal Health Inc. And late in the day, shares of Aetna Inc. surged after a report that it was in talks to be taken over by CVS Health Corp.</p> <p>Executives in the drug industry say that Amazon could use its expansive online reach and its logistical muscle to threaten companies that ship and sell medicines to consumers and cut pricing deals with drug makers.</p> <p>“Size and scale-wise, they can disrupt anywhere they want to disrupt,” said Chip Davis, president of the Association for Accessible Medicines, a trade group for generic medication, in an interview Thursday.</p> <p>A deal for Aetna could conceivably move CVS further away from the business of brick-and-mortar retail drugstores and deeper in health services such as pharmacy benefits, where it already has a sizable presence.</p> <p>Combining Aetna and CVS would create a health-services giant and a bigger competitor for UnitedHealth Group Inc., which is the largest U.S. health insurer and has its own clinics and a pharmacy-benefits unit.</p> <p>The presence of Amazon is already being felt by retailers and companies that sell drugs over the counter. The head of Bayer AG’s consumer-health business said on a conference call with analysts Thursday that the wider shift to online shopping by U.S. consumers was hurting its business. Erica Mann, the division’s chief, dubbed it the “Amazon effect,” saying buyers are looking for value.</p> <p>At the same time, the pecking order in the health-supply chain is beginning to shift.</p> <p>Earlier this month, insurance giant Anthem Inc. said it was cutting ties with Express Scripts Holding Co. after a long dispute over pricing and starting its own pharmacy-benefits manager in 2020. A bulked-up CVS and Anthem’s new venture could raise the pressure on Express Scripts, which has touted its independence.</p> <p>Any tie-up of Aetna and CVS would follow a pair of failed mergers among health insurers. The deals would have reduced the ranks of big U.S. health insurers from five to three, a prospect that led the Justice Department to oppose both prospective tie-ups.</p> <p>If the Aetna deal happened, “CVS would have a dominant position” in the drug-benefits business, said Michael Rea, founder of Rx Savings Solutions, which has an app that helps patients find low cost drugs.</p> <p>Analysts have speculated that Amazon could soon enter the business of selling prescription drugs, threatening to disrupt retail drugstores, drug wholesalers, and the pharmacy-benefits management business. While Amazon has never publicly commented on what its plans may be, CNBC reported this month that the Internet giant could make a decision about selling drugs online by Thanksgiving. The network didn’t name its sources.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>10/26 Amazon workforce up 77%; now at 541,000</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.usatoday.com/story/tech/news/2017/10/26/amazon-shares-surge-well-above-1-000-earnings/803463001/">https://www.usatoday.com/story/tech/news/2017/10/26/amazon-shares-surge-well-above-1-000-earnings/803463001/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>SAN FRANCISCO — Amazon has been on a hiring spree, increasing its staff by 77% in the past year to 541,900 full and part-time workers, due largely to its purchase of Whole Foods as well as a rapid buildout of its regional warehouses.</p> <p>That number doesn't include the more than 120,000 seasonal jobs it says it expects to hire for over the holidays.</p> <p>Another staffing bump came from Amazon's acquisition of Souq.com, a Middle East-based e-commerce company, in July. Amazon's headcount is up 42% year over year without Souq and Whole Foods included, staff said on the company's earnings call Thursday afternoon.</p> <p>That places Amazon second only to Walmart, with 2.3 million workers, among publicly-traded U.S. companies. Kroger, with 433,000, is No. 3, according to company filings.</p> <p>The surge comes as the Seattle-based company announced its third-quarter earnings, which blew past Wall Street's expectations and caused its stock to leap 7.7%, to \$1,045 per share in after-hours trading.</p> <p>The consensus estimate from S&amp;P Capital IQ had been for a Amazon loss of one cent per share. Amazon smashed that with a gain of 52 cents per share.</p> <p>The staffing numbers come as 238 cities nationwide are vying to be the location of the company's second headquarters, eager for the high-paying tech jobs and economic impact one of America's biggest companies would bring. It expects to employ 50,000 in its second headquarters.</p> <p>Once again, Amazon's bottom line was buoyed by its hugely profitable cloud services division, AWS. This quarter it had revenue \$4.58 billion.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>10/26 Survey: 58% vets know a suicide victim</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.militarytimes.com/veterans/2017/10/26/survey-58-percent-of-iava-members-have-lost-a-veteran-to-suicide/">https://www.militarytimes.com/veterans/2017/10/26/survey-58-percent-of-iava-members-have-lost-a-veteran-to-suicide/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>More than half of Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America members know a post-Sept. 11 service member who has committed suicide, a figure that has climbed dramatically in recent years and underscores continued problems with young veterans and mental health care.</p> <p>The findings are part of the group's annual membership survey, which drew responses from roughly 4,300 individuals on a host of post-military challenges, political priorities and social issues.</p> <p>While the findings don't speak for the entire generation of Iraq and Afghanistan War veterans, they do offer a snapshot of the challenges many younger veterans face. Among group members, 58 percent said they know a fellow post-Sept. 11 veteran who died by suicide, and nearly two-thirds said they know one who attempted.</p> <p>Both of those numbers have climbed about 18 percent since the group's 2014 membership survey. IAVA Research Director Jackie Maffucci called it "a dire situation" for the community.</p> <p>"The trend lines are going up, which clearly indicates how much work we have to do in this area," she said.</p>

	<p>In addition, more than one-third have had suicidal thoughts.</p> <p>About 20 veterans each day nationwide commit suicide, according to Department of Veterans Affairs statistics. VA Secretary David Shulkin has called the issue his top clinical priority, and department officials have shifted resources in recent years to combat the problem.</p> <p>Suicide prevention has also been a key policy focus for IAVA, in large part because of similar concerns about the issue in past membership surveys.</p> <p>Among respondents, 82 percent said they have received some health care services through VA, a much higher figure than the roughly 40 percent of veterans nationwide who regularly receive department medical care.</p> <p>But only 16 percent of members surveyed said they believe troops and veterans get the care they need for mental health injuries.</p> <p>Among the reasons why, members most frequently listed the stigma of seeking those type of treatments, challenges getting appointments and a lack of quality care options.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>10/26 America facing shortage truck drivers</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.cbsnews.com/news/america-faces-shortage-truck-drivers/">https://www.cbsnews.com/news/america-faces-shortage-truck-drivers/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>More than 70 percent of the goods we consume are carried on the nation's highways, but a new report says the industry needs to hire roughly 90,000 new truckers each year to keep up with demand.</p> <p>"The American trucker carries our country," says recruiter Greg Koepel. And LinkedIn's managing editor Chip Cutter says, "Nothing we get isn't touched by a truck."</p> <p>They say truckers drive the American economy. If that's the case, we could be in trouble. Fifty-thousand more drivers are needed by the end of 2017 and that number could more than triple in 10 years, reports CBS News correspondent Kris Van Cleave.</p> <p>"When we're buying more stuff out there, whether that's cars, refrigerators, you name it, we're putting that in trucks, and that's gonna exacerbate the shortage that we have," said Bob Costello, the chief economist for American Trucking Associations, an industry trade group.</p> <p>"Once we hit that 100,000 mark, I think that's where we start to see problems throughout the economy," Costello said.</p> <p>Problems like product shortages, delivery delays and higher prices. Demographics are largely behind the shortfall, but the lifestyle, including extended periods away from home, can also be a major deterrent.</p> <p>"It's a hard life. I mean I've got a 36-inch box that I'm sleeping in, in the back of my truck most nights. You know, I get hotels from time to time, but you've got to want to do it, you know, you've got to want to be able to travel, go different places, see different things, and you know deal with different people everyday," said truck driver Greg Gedenberg.</p> <p>He was waiting for his rig to be repaired at Iowa 80, the world's largest truck stop, outside Davenport, Iowa. He's made life on the road work for his family and that gives him and drivers like Jennifer Gossman a lot of bargaining power.</p> <p>"It was just a matter of making phone calls and seeing what company is – you know, works around what you want, you know, your home time, the pay, you know, how long you have to be out. There's companies</p>

	<p>that, you know, when you first start, you have to be out there for six months. I didn't want that," Gossmann said.</p> <p>Iowa 80 doesn't typically allow recruiters at the truck stop because they fear it would turn into a bit of a frenzy. Instead, once a year they hold a Truckers Jamboree where recruiters are allowed to come in. This year, more than 44,000 people attended.</p> <p>"The employment market for truck drivers is what I would call hyper-competitive and we feel it every day. We always say yesterday was our easiest day," said Roehl recruiter Greg Koepel at the Great American Trucking Show in Dallas.</p> <p>His company hopes to attract new drivers, including millennials, by paying them to get a commercial driver's license and complete on-the-job training. Many drivers say it comes down to one thing.</p> <p>"I think if they want to hire more drivers, they're gonna have to increase the pay," Gedenberg said.</p> <p>Fleets are raising wages and offering incentives to attract drivers, but pressure to keep shipping costs down has also put a damper on compensation.</p>
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## Crime, Criminals

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HEADLINE	10/26 Theft from Mexico pipelines a concern
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.marketplace.org/2017/10/26/business/theft-oil-and-gasoline-mexican-pipelines-increasing-concern">https://www.marketplace.org/2017/10/26/business/theft-oil-and-gasoline-mexican-pipelines-increasing-concern</a>
GIST	<p>American energy companies are looking to enter Mexico's oil, natural gas and electricity markets which have been open since 2014 to foreign participation for the first time since 1938. Major U.S. energy companies such as ExxonMobil and Chevron have entered the Mexican energy space. However smaller companies such as drillers, rig operators and seismic surveyors, the nuts and bolts of an industry that Mexico's politicians hope will lift the economy, are hedging their bets because of a serious security threat that the Mexican government has said is rising — namely the theft of oil and gasoline from Mexican pipelines.</p> <p>In the last few years, at least 120 workers at the state-owned oil company Pemex have been arrested for sharing inside information about the location of pipelines, which often run through sparsely-populated rural regions. Pemex has published statistics illustrating the rise in the theft from its pipelines, including the most recent known case of collusion between organized crime and either Pemex employees or other public servants working with Pemex.</p> <p>The loss of oil and gas from Pemex pipelines currently totals more than \$1 billion a year, leaving some U.S. companies skittish about entering the market, according to a recent report from Rice University in Houston. This phenomenon of lax security and alleged collusion are major red flag for U.S. investors. Mexico's mantra is despite deep-rooted narco-violence, energy infrastructure is secure. Some Mexicans don't buy that.</p> <p>"They sell stolen gas in hidden places," said taxi driver José Avina in Spanish while pointing to a side road. "But everyone knows where to find them," he said of the huachicoleros, the pipeline thieves.</p> <p>These days, songs celebrate huachicoleros as modern-day Robin Hoods fighting higher prices at the pump. Prices began rising in a staggered roll-out across Mexico in January when government subsidies ended as part of Mexico's energy reform. The price rise triggered Mexico's gasolinazo, a series of riots as drivers rebelled against the new gasoline price structure.</p> <p>There are examples of politicians and high-ranking state police officers charged with working in the illegal</p>

trade of stolen gas. In June, a mayor in the state of Puebla was arrested , and previously the former head of the Puebla State Police and his chief of operations were removed from office after being caught while protecting traffickers as they took gasoline from a pipeline.

"You and I cannot go out and start looking for a pipeline and tap that pipeline. You have to know where it is and the right place in which to do it," said Jorge Piñon of the alleged sharing by current and former Pemex employees of inside information. Piñon is the former head of Amoco Oil Latin America and currently the leader of the Latin America and Caribbean Energy Program at the University of Texas at Austin.

Deadly explosions, environmental damage and standoffs with the Mexican army are all consequences of the trade in stolen commodity.

"How can we reform our energy sector when shady actors on both sides of the law are involved?" asked Miguel Arturo Flores, a leader of the oil workers' union.

For foreign investors, words like that mean market uncertainty. "It's not just security, that is, the ability of companies to protect their pipelines or their trucks that deliver fuel and so on, but also to protect their personnel from kidnapping and from being robbed and assaulted," said Tony Payan who heads the Mexico Center at Rice University.

Major U.S companies such as Exxon Mobil are opening branded gas stations in Mexico. But Payan said smaller companies like drillers and seismic surveyors are waiting before committing their capital.

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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>10/26 Justice Dept. admits IRS wrongdoing</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2017/oct/26/tea-party-groups-targeted-irs-get-35-million-settl/">http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2017/oct/26/tea-party-groups-targeted-irs-get-35-million-settl/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>The Trump administration agreed Thursday to pay \$3.5 million to tea party groups snared by IRS targeting during the Obama administration, saying the intrusive scrutiny was illegal and cannot be allowed to happen again.</p> <p>The government also reversed its tune on former IRS senior executive Lois G. Lerner. Instead of being a hero who tried to stop the targeting — as the Obama administration concluded in 2015 — the Justice Department and IRS now say she failed to stop her employees and hid the bad behavior from her bosses for two years.</p> <p>Attorney General Jeff Sessions, who announced the settlements, offered an apology to more than 450 groups that were part of two lawsuits against the IRS.</p> <p>As part of the agreements, the government admitted that the IRS forced tea party groups into illegal delays and unconscionable scrutiny, including questions about their political beliefs, plans to run for office and names of financial backers.</p> <p>“There is no excuse for this conduct,” Mr. Sessions said in a statement announcing the settlements. “Hundreds of organizations were affected by these actions, and they deserve an apology from the IRS.”</p> <p>The IRS did not reply to requests for comment from The Washington Times about whether it would add its own voice to that apology. The IRS also didn’t respond to questions about the reversal on Ms. Lerner, who was allowed to retire rather than be fired in the wake of the targeting scandal.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>10/26 Yakima teens arrested in shooting death</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://mynorthwest.com/795015/2-yakima-teens-arrested-3rd-sought-in-death-of-17-year-old/">http://mynorthwest.com/795015/2-yakima-teens-arrested-3rd-sought-in-death-of-17-year-old/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>YAKIMA, Wash. (AP) — Two teenagers have been arrested and a third is being sought in the death of a 17-year-old in Yakima.</p> <p>The Yakima Herald-Republic reports that Napoleon Prado Jr. was repeatedly shot Tuesday morning after someone got out of a car to talk to him.</p> <p>On Wednesday, police asked the public to help them find 15-year-old Luis Medina-Beltran, who they say was the gunman. An arrest warrant was issued charging him with first-degree murder, among other crimes. Police consider him armed and dangerous.</p> <p>The two others arrested in connection to the shooting — an 18-year-old and a 17-year-old — were being held for investigation of rendering criminal assistance. Police believe they were in the car with the gunman. Their bail was set Wednesday at \$50,000 each.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>10/26 Arrests in Europe human smuggling raids</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/authorities-launch-raids-countries-human-smuggling-50733656?">http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/authorities-launch-raids-countries-human-smuggling-50733656?</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>Authorities in Britain, Belgium and Bulgaria arrested some 25 people early Thursday in overnight raids targeting smugglers who allegedly helped people immigrate illegally.</p> <p>The U.K. Home Office said the operation involved suspects who allegedly transported migrants, most of them from Syria and Afghanistan, into Britain mainly from eastern Europe.</p> <p>Investigators arrested 11 people in Britain on suspicion of assisting illegal immigration. Eight more were arrested in Belgium and seven in Bulgaria.</p> <p>The migrants were often concealed in adapted vehicles. Belgian police said 110 smuggling vehicles were identified and nearly half intercepted. They said the investigation involved about 1,100 migrants.</p> <p>"People smuggling is a cruel and dangerous trade in which often vulnerable individuals are treated as commodities," Steve Dann, who directs the British agency that investigates immigration offenses tied to financial gain, said. "Many are passed into the hands of other crime gangs who would seek to exploit them for modern slavery purposes."</p> <p>Several other countries, including the Netherlands, France, Greece, Serbia and Germany, were involved in the probe that began in February.</p> <p>Human trafficking gangs are solely motivated by profit, Chris Hogben of the National Crime Association said.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>10/27 'Line cutters' anger at ferry terminals</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://komonews.com/news/local/line-cutters-causing-frustrations-for-ferry-commuters-around-puget-sound">http://komonews.com/news/local/line-cutters-causing-frustrations-for-ferry-commuters-around-puget-sound</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>MUKILTEO, Wash. -- 'Line cutters' are causing a lot of anger for drivers who commute by Washington State Ferry. It's making rule-abiding ferry commuters very frustrated.</p> <p>"It's happening all the time," said Claudia Cox who lives on Whidbey Island.</p>

Drivers claim it's during the waiting game at ferry docks across Puget Sound on weekends or rush hour when drivers break the law the most.

"I find it really frustrating because we all drive up here often and you should wait your turn," said Deb Stamey, who commutes between Mukilteo and Clinton.

Some drivers are trying to shorten their wait time by jumping ahead in line and cutting off other drivers.

"I've gone from doing nothing to grabbing my camera and taking pictures of their license plate and walking up to them and telling them what they have done," said Cox.

Claudia Cox is not only one. But, the Washington State Patrol says to let troopers make the confrontations.

Terminal line cutting hotspots include Mukilteo, Kingston, Fauntleroy, Bainbridge and even Colman Dock.

"Cutting in line at the ferry is embarrassed and illegal," said Ian Sterling, who is a spokesperson for Washington State Ferries.

Getting caught line cutting or making an illegal turn, according to Washington State Patrol, could cost you a \$124 ticket.

"We know it's a hot button issue but we don't have the resources to deal with it every day all day," said Washington State Patrol Stg. Bill Ashcraft.

Since April, the agency said they have assigned 99 overtime shifts at the terminals in Kingston and Bainbridge alone to help manage the frustrating issue.

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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>10/26 WSP: arrests for opening fire on trooper</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://q13fox.com/2017/10/24/wsp-trooper-shot-at-multiple-times-in-yakima-county-manhunt-underway/">http://q13fox.com/2017/10/24/wsp-trooper-shot-at-multiple-times-in-yakima-county-manhunt-underway/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>YAKIMA, Wash. — The Washington State Patrol announced Thursday night it has arrested two men believed to be responsible for opening fire on a trooper on Monday.</p> <p>One is an 18-year-old Mabton resident, and the other is a 39-year-old Grandview resident.</p> <p>The two men have been booked into the Yakima County Jail for assault and unlawful possession of a firearm, possession of a stolen firearm, and violation of the Controlled Substances Act.</p> <p>The men were arrested Thursday morning in Adams County without incident, the State Patrol said.</p> <p>The incident began Monday when a State Patrol trooper tried to pull them over for speeding. The trooper pursued the vehicle for six minutes before it stopped at a home in Grandview, southeast of Yakima, at about 9 p.m. Monday, said Trooper Chris Thorson, a patrol spokesman.</p> <p>The men got out of the car and started shooting at the trooper, whose cruiser was stopped about 50 feet away, he said. Thorson released a photo of the cruiser Tuesday showing three bullet holes in the passenger side of the windshield, and two more apparent bullet marks on the body of the police car.</p> <p>The trooper got behind his car and returned fire but was not injured, he said.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>10/26 Mexico seeks stay in US execution</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://time.com/4999848/mexican-citizen-execution-texas/?xid=homepage">http://time.com/4999848/mexican-citizen-execution-texas/?xid=homepage</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>When police found 15-year-old Mayra Laguna's body in a canal in Hidalgo County, Texas, in February 1997, they settled on a culprit just hours later: her cousin, Ruben Cardenas Ramirez.</p> <p>Cardenas is set to be executed on Nov. 8 after two decades on death row – only, as a Mexican citizen, his case is fraught with tremendous opposition from the neighboring nation, and has raised questions about the U.S.'s commitment to abiding by international law.</p> <p>Mexico, which has funded the defense, has mounted an eleventh hour campaign to stay the execution. "It's a significant treaty violation," Gregory Kuykendall, an Arizona attorney authorized to speak on behalf of Mexico, told the Houston Chronicle on Thursday.</p> <p>In executing Cardenas, Texas officials violate an international law known as the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations.</p> <p>After Hidalgo County authorities arrested Cardenas, they reportedly failed to alert Mexico, and allegedly neglected to notify the defendant of his right under the convention to speak to his country's diplomats.</p> <p>In 2004, the U.N.'s international court in the Hague ruled that the U.S. must review cases to determine if such oversights impacted the convictions. Then-president George W. Bush directed states to comply, but the Supreme Court overruled his order. Only Congress can require states to follow the international court's ruling, and there has been no such intervention in Cardenas's case.</p> <p>Cardenas's defense counsel Maurie Levin argued to the Chronicle that the disregard for the convention changed the course of her client's trial. Had Cardenas's government been permitted to aid him instead of finding out about the case five months later, the defendant may not have given false confessions, she said.</p> <p>Cardenas's is far from the first instance of the U.S. executing a Mexican citizen. Previous cases have strained the two nations' ties, and Mexico, which does not have capital punishment, has even launched a fund called the Mexican Capital Legal Assistance Program to help save it's citizens from the U.S. death penalty.</p> <p>But the latest episode stands out with allegations of miscarried justice. In the face of the charges – the abduction, rape and murder of his cousin — Cardenas has repeatedly claimed innocence, while the defense has claimed allegedly coerced confessions, what it calls inconclusive forensics and reportedly conflicting witness accounts.</p> <p>Mexico has not weighed in on the innocence or guilt of the convicted man, focusing instead on the treaty violations. The U.S. Department of State reportedly met with Hidalgo County prosecutors over Cardenas's case in February, but the Nov. 8 execution by lethal injection remains set.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>10/26 WSP gets \$1.6M grant test rape kit backlog</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://www.king5.com/news/local/wsp-gets-16m-grant-to-test-backlog-of-rape-kits/486443889">http://www.king5.com/news/local/wsp-gets-16m-grant-to-test-backlog-of-rape-kits/486443889</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>Washington State Patrol received a \$1.6 million grant to begin testing a backlog of 6,000 sexual assault kits.</p> <p>The grant was part of \$3.7 million that the U.S. Department of Justice awarded to several groups, including WSP and the University of Washington.</p> <p>The grant for untested rape kits, which totaled \$1,559,282, was the largest sum of money given to a single initiative in Washington state.</p>

The new funding will allow the state to send thousands of rape kits to an outside lab for testing.

Representative Tina Orwall sponsored a bill that Governor Inslee signed into law in 2015. It requires police departments to submit rape kit evidence within 30 days of collection.

"I think it is our job at the state level to fix the system, go back and test the kits, and make sure it never happens again," said Orwall.

Mary Ellen Stone is the Executive Director of King County Sexual Assault Resource Center.

"What I am hoping for is that we can see this as a step toward getting a more transparent, fair justice system for victims, where victims of sexual assault can see how their rights are being upheld. They can understand what the process is going to be. Testing kits in an expedient way is a really important part of that," said Stone.

WSP also received a \$741,964 grant to improve state crime records, including researching missing records, finding incomplete records, and improving how records are input into databases.

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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>10/26 Court: Dorcus Allen 'double jeopardy'</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://www.kiro7.com/news/local/cop-killers-alleged-driver-wins-another-appeal-cant-be-charged-with-aggravated/630340272">http://www.kiro7.com/news/local/cop-killers-alleged-driver-wins-another-appeal-cant-be-charged-with-aggravated/630340272</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>The man accused of being cop killer Maurice Clemmons' getaway driver can't be retried on factors that would result in an automatic life sentence should he be convicted again, a state appeals court has ruled.</p> <p>In an opinion released Wednesday, a panel for the Court of Appeals for Division II said the U.S. Constitution's double-jeopardy protections prohibit Pierce County prosecutors from charging Dorcus Allen with aggravated first-degree murder for the purposes of retrial.</p> <p>That means prosecutors can proceed only on charges of first-degree murder, which takes the prospect of an automatic life-without-parole sentence off the table.</p> <p>While a technical victory, Allen, also known by the first name Darcus, still faces the prospect of dying in prison if convicted of four counts of first-degree murder during a retrial tentatively set for summer 2018. He has pleaded not guilty.</p> <p>The Prosecuting Attorney's Office said the appeals court's opinion is based on an erroneous premise.</p> <p>"The decision of the Court of Appeals is based on the mistaken belief that Mr. Allen's first trial was a death-penalty case," Chief Criminal Deputy Kathleen Proctor said.</p> <p>"The State did not seek the death penalty in this case because Mr. Allen was the getaway driver and not the shooter. Therefore, we intend to file a motion for reconsideration before this same court."</p> <p>Allen, 46, is suspected of driving Clemmons to and from the vicinity of a Parkland coffee shop where Clemmons gunned down Lakewood police Sgt. Mark Renninger and officers Tina Griswold, Gregory Richards and Ronald Owens in November 2009.</p> <p>Clemmons, the subject of an intense two-county manhunt, later was shot and killed by a Seattle police officer.</p> <p>Prosecutors originally charged Allen with four counts of aggravated first-degree murder and considered a possible death penalty against him. Prosecutor Mark Lindquist later decided not to seek capital punishment for Allen, instead pursuing a sentence of life in prison without the possibility of parole.</p>

A jury convicted him of the murder charges but found unanimously that prosecutors hadn't proven the aggravating factors, meaning the sentence of life without parole could not be considered.

Superior Court Judge Frederick Fleming, now deceased, instead sentenced Allen to more than 400 years in prison on the first-degree murder charges and underlying firearm-sentencing enhancements.

Allen successfully appealed his convictions, convincing the Washington State Supreme Court that then-Deputy Prosecutor Stephen Penner committed misconduct during closing arguments by telling jurors that Allen "should have known" Clemmons intended to kill the officers.

Prosecuting Attorney Mark Lindquist's office decided to retry Allen on four counts of aggravated first-degree murder. Prosecutors decided not to seek a possible death penalty during the second trial, opting instead to again pursue the automatic life-without-parole sentence that would be the only other choice for an aggravated-murder conviction.

Allen's defense attorneys, Mary Kay High and Peter Mazzone, called foul.

Double-jeopardy protections barred prosecutors from seeking to have Allen tried again on the aggravating factors, his defense team argued, because the first jury unanimously found prosecutors had not proven them.

Judge Katherine Stolz, assigned to preside over the retrial, agreed with the defense and dismissed the aggravators. Lindquist's office appealed Stolz's ruling, saying the aggravators were akin to sentencing enhancements and not subject to double-jeopardy protections.

In Wednesday's opinion, appellate Judge Rich Melnick said Stolz got it right, although he referred to the first trial as a "capital case."

"In the capital case against Allen, the jury affirmatively and unanimously found that the state had not proven beyond a reasonable doubt any aggravating circumstances," Melnick wrote in an opinion signed by judges Jill Johanson and Lisa Sutton. "These aggravating circumstances are the functional equivalent of elements of the crime.

"The jury's finding is an acquittal of the aggravating circumstances for double jeopardy purposes. The state cannot retry Allen on the aggravating circumstances for which a jury found lack of proof."

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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>10/26 DOJ: federal laws over state pot laws</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://www.newsmax.com/Newsfront/jeff-sessions-marijuana-legal-federal-law/2017/10/26/id/822316/">http://www.newsmax.com/Newsfront/jeff-sessions-marijuana-legal-federal-law/2017/10/26/id/822316/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>Attorney General Jeff Sessions said Thursday that federal laws against marijuana remain in effect even in states that have voted to legalize the drug.</p> <p>"I do not believe there's any argument [that] because a state legalizes marijuana, that the federal law against marijuana is no longer in existence," Sessions told radio host Hugh Hewitt. "I do believe that the federal laws clearly are in effect in all 50 states and we will do our best to enforce the laws as we are required to do so."</p> <p>In the previous administration, Deputy Attorney General James Cole issued a memo stating that recreational marijuana businesses would not be prosecuted in states that he legalized marijuana.</p> <p>"And a lot of money is being made and banked. One RICO prosecution of one producer and the banks that service them would shut this all down. Is such a prosecution going to happen?" Hewitt asked.</p>

	<p>"I don't know that one prosecution would be quite as effective as that," Sessions responded. "I can't comment on the existence of an investigation at this time . . . You're making a suggestion. I hear it."</p> <p>Sessions' deputy, Rod Rosenstein, said in September that the Justice Department is in the process of reviewing Cole's memo.</p> <p>"We are reviewing that policy. We haven't changed it, but we are reviewing it. We're looking at the states that have legalized or decriminalized marijuana, trying to evaluate what the impact is," Rosenstein said while at the Heritage Foundation, according to Forbes. "And I think there is some pretty significant evidence that marijuana turns out to be more harmful than a lot of people anticipated, and it's more difficult to regulate than I think was contemplated ideally by some of those states."</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>10/26 Billionaire charged in opioid bribe case</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://www.reuters.com/article/us-insys-opioids/billionaire-insys-founder-charged-in-u-s-opioid-bribe-case-idUSKBN1CV2LT">http://www.reuters.com/article/us-insys-opioids/billionaire-insys-founder-charged-in-u-s-opioid-bribe-case-idUSKBN1CV2LT</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>BOSTON (Reuters) - The billionaire founder of Insys Therapeutics Inc (INSY.O) was arrested on Thursday on U.S. charges he participated in a scheme to bribe doctors to prescribe a fentanyl-based cancer pain drug, marking a step by authorities to fight the opioid epidemic.</p> <p>John Kapoor, Insys' majority shareholder who stepped down as chief executive in January, was charged with engaging in conspiracies to commit racketeering, mail fraud and wire fraud in an indictment filed in federal court in Boston.</p> <p>He was arrested in Arizona, where Insys is based, and added as a defendant in a previously filed case against six former Insys executives and managers, including former Chief Executive Michael Babich, prosecutors said.</p> <p>Brian Kelly, Kapoor's lawyer, in a statement said: "My client is innocent and he intends to fight these charges vigorously."</p> <p>Insys, which has been in settlement talks with the U.S. Justice Department in connection with the probe, declined to comment. Its stock price fell 15.63 percent to a four-year low of \$6.26 in midday trading on Thursday.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>10/26 Top cartel heroin trafficker arrested</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://www.foxnews.com/world/2017/10/26/mexico-arrests-top-sinaloa-cartel-heroin-trafficker.html">http://www.foxnews.com/world/2017/10/26/mexico-arrests-top-sinaloa-cartel-heroin-trafficker.html</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>MEXICO CITY – Mexican prosecutors say they have arrested one of the top heroin traffickers for the sons of Sinaloa drug cartel leader Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman.</p> <p>Guzman's sons have largely taken over the cartel following their father's arrest last year and extradition to the United States.</p> <p>The Attorney General's Office said Victor Manuel Felix was arrested Thursday at a tony apartment complex in an upscale suburb of Mexico City known as Santa Fe.</p> <p>Felix is wanted on an extradition request for trafficking heroin to the United States. He also allegedly laundered money and acted as a financial operator for the sons, Ivan and Jesus Alfredo. Prosecutors said Felix was with the sons when they were kidnapped by a rival gang from a restaurant in 2016. They were later released.</p>

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