

Washington State Fusion Center
INFOCUS



THURSDAY – 30 Nov 2017

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Event Calendar

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

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HEADLINE	11/29 Drone maker DJI slams ICE report
SOURCE	https://www.forbes.com/sites/thomasbrewster/2017/11/29/us-fear-dji-drones-hand-data-to-china-falsehoods/#339f57f33175
GIST	<p>DJI has been trying to get in contact with the Department for Homeland Security (DHS) this month to complain about what appears to be an official memo claiming the company's drones are likely collecting sensitive data from U.S. critical infrastructure and could well be sending it back to the firm's homeland government in China.</p> <p>The unclassified document, dated August 2017 and released publicly earlier this month, contained research from DHS' Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) that suggested the Chinese government could have access to all the images, GPS locations and personal data collected by the drones themselves, as well as DJI's Android and iOS apps used to control them. Though it appeared the document was leaked, ICE said it would comment neither on the report's legitimacy, nor on DJI's attempts to reach out and have the record corrected about its handling of user data.</p> <p>The report made some startling claims. Of particular concern was the possibility DJI unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) could be collecting "detailed imagery of power control panels, security measures for critical infrastructure sites, or materials used in bridge construction." DJI automatically uploaded the data to servers in Taiwan, China and Hong Kong, where the Chinese government may be able to obtain access, according to the report, first published by sUAS News. There was high confidence a foreign government with access to such information "could easily coordinate physical or cyberattacks against critical sites," the document read. It also raised a concern China could pass on the information to a terrorist organization or another body hostile to America.</p> <p>And it asserted with high confidence that DJI was "selectively targeting government and privately owned entities within these sectors to expand its ability to collect and exploit sensitive U.S. data." The document claimed at least ten large organizations working across railroad, utility, media, farming, education and federal law enforcement sectors were using DJI drones. Separately, Forbes found public records showing that various federal agencies had purchased DJI equipment in recent months. For instance, in May the Department of Defense spent \$35,388 for DJI Mavic Pro drones via Florida-based contractor Flymotion.</p> <p>The report came in response to "several requests for information received from the intelligence and law enforcement communities." It was "based on information derived from open source reporting and a reliable source within the unmanned aerial systems (UAS) industry."</p> <p>DJI slams report</p> <p>Even though it was itself unsure about the validity of the ICE report, DJI wasn't happy about the allegations. In a statement posted online, the company said it didn't think the report was reliable. The company claimed it was based on "clearly false and misleading claims from an unidentified source."</p> <p>The drone maker continued: "As DJI explained to ICE, the allegations in the bulletin are so profoundly wrong as a factual matter that ICE should consider withdrawing it, or at least correcting its unsupportable assertions. DJI further urged ICE to consider whether the source of the allegations may have had a competitive or improper motive to interfere with DJI's legitimate business by making false allegations about DJI." Amongst various grievances it had with the report, the company said it did not access customer flight logs, photos or videos unless they were actively uploaded by the user.</p> <p>Corporation communications director for DJI, Adam Lisberg, told Forbes ICE still hasn't been in touch, despite the company's law firm, McDermott Will & Emery, contacting the agency "to point out the many obvious falsehoods and inaccuracies." DJI, which believes the document was leaked, wants ICE to correct</p>

	<p>or withdraw the memo. It has handed a formal summary of all its disagreements with the assessment but thus far, it's had no response.</p> <p>Federal government has shown signs of anxiety around DJI of late, but nothing like the level of suspicion raised in the memo. In August, it emerged the U.S. Army had banned DJI drones over concerns about vulnerabilities in the systems. There was no warning about sensitive data being collected and shared with China.</p>
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HEADLINE	11/29 Gig Harbor new panhandling ordinance
SOURCE	http://www.thenewstribune.com/news/local/community/gateway/g-news/article187153498.html
GIST	<p>The Gig Harbor City Council passed a new ordinance at Monday night's meeting that aims to curb vehicle collisions that come when drivers stop to give to panhandlers money or other items.</p> <p>The new Traffic Safety Ordinance will make it unlawful for drivers to interact with pedestrians or exchange money or goods on certain roadways within city limits.</p> <p>Prohibited roadways include roads within 200 feet of a roundabout, within 200 feet of an overpass or within 500 feet of the Olympic Drive and Point Fosdick Drive intersection, said Gig Harbor Police Chief Kelly Busey.</p> <p>Anyone found guilty of violating the new ordinance will be charged with a misdemeanor. Those charged with a misdemeanor can be held in jail for up to 90 days or fined \$1,000.</p>
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HEADLINE	11/29 Railroad police break up protest camp
SOURCE	http://mynorthwest.com/830651/railroad-police-officers-break-up-anti-fracking-protest-camp/
GIST	<p>OLYMPIA, Wash. (AP) — Authorities in the Washington state capital of Olympia say they confronted dozens of anti-fracking protesters who had blocked the railroad tracks for more than week.</p> <p>Olympia police tweeted early Wednesday, warning people to stay away from the area near downtown where Union Pacific Railroad officers confronted 20 to 30 masked protesters.</p> <p>The crowd dispersed and officials are sweeping the encampments for bombs to clean up the site.</p> <p>The protesters wanted to block trains carrying ceramic proppants, or fracking sand, and related materials from the Port of Olympia, though railroad companies said there were no shipments scheduled.</p> <p>The port handles cargo used in the hydraulic fracking extraction process, which extracts oil and gas from rock.</p> <p>A similar protest last year ended with a dozen people arrested by officers in riot gear.</p>
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HEADLINE	11/29 Seattle mayor: traffic will get worse
SOURCE	http://mynorthwest.com/830689/seattle-mayor-says-traffic-will-get-worse-before-it-gets-better/
GIST	<p>Traffic in Seattle is bad, and newly-sworn-in Mayor Jenny Durkan has already warned us it's only going to get worse. But Mayor Durkan wants to make sure she isn't blamed for the problem.</p> <p>During an interview with Seattle's Morning News, Durkan said, "In many ways, traffic in Seattle in the</p>

	<p>next four years is going to be worse and it will not be the mayor's fault.”</p> <p>The city's newest mayor has a range of ideas to help curb the traffic problem, from staggering work times to expanding transit options. But, apparently, Durkan doesn't believe any of those ideas will be able to fix the problem during her first term as mayor. In fact, it's likely going to take more than one solution.</p> <p>“There's no one thing that is going to fix it,” she said. “So we're going to have to do a whole bunch of smaller things.”</p> <p>Meanwhile, the population in Seattle and Washington state as a whole continues to see rapid growth. The top city for growth — not surprisingly — is Seattle, followed by Vancouver, Spokane, Federal Way, Kent, Tacoma, Auburn, Redmond, and Everett, according to the Office of Financial Management. The population estimate for Washington's incorporated cities and towns reached 4.7 million in April. But populations in unincorporated areas increased by 40,600 people as well, which means more people potentially driving into work.</p> <p>Durkan has mentioned several times that more needs to be done to reduce the number of solo drivers heading into Seattle.</p> <p>“If we can do a better job at having fewer cars driving into the city, we will, in many ways, improve what happens in the city,” she said.</p>
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HEADLINE	11/29 Recall: Toys-R-Us clay craft kit
SOURCE	http://www.cnn.com/2017/11/29/health/toys-r-us-clay-mold-recall/index.html
GIST	<p>(CNN) — Toys "R" Us is recalling about 6,000 "totally me!" clay craft kits after mold was discovered in the clay, the US Consumer Product Safety Commission said Wednesday.</p> <p>There have been three reports of mold in clay and no reported injuries. Consumers should stop using the clay craft kits immediately and return them to any Toys "R" Us or Babies "R" Us store for a refund or store credit.</p> <p>Mold found in this product poses respiratory risks and infections to people who have "compromised" immune systems, lung damage or a mold allergy, according to the safety commission.</p> <p>The "totally me!" kits were sold by Toys "R" Us and Babies "R" Us stores and online throughout the United States from January to October for just over \$10. Model number AD11244 is printed on the bottom of the box. They were manufactured in China.</p>
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HEADLINE	11/29 Search for missing women in Tacoma
SOURCE	http://q13fox.com/2017/11/29/vanished-search-for-five-women-missing-in-tacoma-includes-possibility-of-a-serial-killer/
GIST	<p>TACOMA — The discovery of a partial human skull last month in a wooded area in East Pierce County has reignited interest in solving some long-term missing persons cases.</p> <p>Investigators won't know if the skull fragment is from a man or a woman until DNA test results are complete.</p> <p>“Anytime there are human remains found in the state, loved ones of missing persons from around the state and sometimes bordering states will reach out and make sure that we are making that comparison and</p>

	<p>ruling out or checking on their loved ones,” said Carrie Gordon with the Washington State Patrol’s Missing and Unidentified Persons Unit.</p> <p>There are more than 1,800 missing persons statewide and 146 of those are women in Pierce County.</p> <p>Investigators are taking a regional approach to try to solve these cases because serial offenders don’t pay attention to law enforcement jurisdictions.</p> <p>They are starting in Tacoma where five women and teens went missing between 1994 and 2010.</p> <p>All of them worked as prostitutes in the areas around Puyallup Avenue and in downtown Tacoma.</p> <p>“I can’t say that we have any evidence linking these five cases together but it’s certainly possible that one or more of these women were victims of some serial offender who may be in prison already or may be in custody for another crime or it could be somebody that we don’t know about yet,” said Det. Lindsey Wade with Tacoma Police.</p> <p>Sixteen years ago Thursday, Green River Killer Gary Ridgeway was arrested.</p>
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HEADLINE	11/30 Mayor expands free college tuition program
SOURCE	http://q13fox.com/2017/11/30/durkan-to-expand-free-college-tuition-program-in-seattle/
GIST	<p>SEATTLE -- In one of her first acts as Seattle's new mayor, Jenny Durkan announced a plan to expand the Seattle Promise College Tuition Program.</p> <p>Wednesday's executive order created a framework for implementation, beginning with expanding the college tuition in the Fall of 2018 to provide a second year of college for current students enrolled at South Seattle College.</p> <p>Building on the success of the 13th Year Promise Scholarship, the Seattle Promise College Tuition program will provide two full years (90 credits) of courses for students graduating from a Seattle Public School.</p> <p>“Making college a reality for Seattle’s public school students is a critical first step towards creating opportunity and addressing our city’s crushing affordability crisis,” said Mayor Durkan.</p> <p>“The City of Seattle must play an active role in reducing and removing financial barriers that keep our high school graduates from going to college or getting the technical training. They need this education to have a shot at a good, family wage jobs.”</p> <p>The program is still in the planning stage, but the city hopes to have a budget to fund it by spring.</p>
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HEADLINE	11/29 DOJ: new efforts fight opioid crisis
SOURCE	https://www.upi.com/Top_News/US/2017/11/29/Justice-Dept-announces-12M-new-efforts-to-fight-opioid-crisis/5731511981030/?utm_source=fp&utm_campaign=lh&utm_medium=9
GIST	<p>Nov. 29 (UPI) -- U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions on Wednesday announced \$12 million in grants, a field office and special coordinators to help law enforcement combat the opioid crisis.</p> <p>Sessions appeared with Acting DEA Administrator Robert Patterson at the Department of Justice, where he announced new efforts to fight illegal manufacturing and distribution of methamphetamine, heroin and prescription opioids.</p>

"Today we are facing the worst drug crisis in American history, with one American dying of a drug overdose every nine minutes," Sessions said. "That's why, under President Trump's strong leadership, the Department of Justice has been taking action to make our drug law enforcement efforts more effective."

The grants will assist law enforcement with \$7.2 million going directly to agencies in eight states with high per capita levels of treatment admissions for opioids. That includes \$1.4 million for the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, \$1.3 million for the Vermont State Police and \$1.1 million for the New York State Police.

The Community Oriented Policing Services Office will award \$5 million to state agencies "that have demonstrated numerous seizures of precursor chemicals, finished methamphetamine, laboratories and laboratory dump seizures," the department said.

On Jan. 1, the DEA will also establish a new division based in Louisville, Ky., to focus on illicit drug trafficking in Kentucky, Tennessee and West Virginia. Sessions said the divisions will include 90 special agents and 130 task force officers.

"By creating a new division in the region, this restructuring places DEA in lockstep with our partners in the area to do just that," Patterson said. "This change will produce more effective investigations on heroin, fentanyl and prescription opioid trafficking, all of which have a significant impact on the region."

By Dec. 15, every U.S. attorney will designate an opioid coordinator to work with prosecutors and local law enforcement officials to coordinate drug prosecutions.

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HEADLINE	11/30 Atlantic hurricane season ends for 2017
SOURCE	https://www.upi.com/Top_News/US/2017/11/30/As-hurricane-season-ends-2017-settles-firmly-into-record-book/7711511317614/?utm_source=fp&utm_campaign=ls&utm_medium=1
GIST	<p>Nov. 30 (UPI) -- The 2017 Atlantic hurricane season officially ends Thursday after wreaking havoc on a number of U.S. and foreign communities this year -- some of which are still rebuilding, now weeks or months after the fact.</p> <p>Eighteen named storms were recorded in 2017 -- from Tropical Storm Arlene in April to Tropical Storm Rina in November. Ten became hurricanes, and six of those attained "major" classification (Category 3 strength or greater) -- exceeding the predictions of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, which said this year saw the most active hurricane season since 2010.</p> <p>This year also set new storm records.</p> <p>In August, five out of six hurricanes -- Harvey, Irma, Jose, Lee and Maria -- became "major" within 30 days. Three of them -- Harvey, Irma and Jose -- formed consecutively.</p> <p>Officials estimate this year's storms caused nearly \$370 billion in damage worldwide and \$202 billion in the United States.</p> <p>In the aftermath, Congress passed several pieces of legislation to provide aid to U.S. states and territories affected by such a harmful season. President Donald Trump signed a \$15.25 billion aid package in September, and later committed \$36.5 billion in additional relief.</p>
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HEADLINE	11/30 Active shooter drills too scary for kids?
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SOURCE

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/active-shooter-drills-lockdowns-too-scary-for-schoolchildren/>

GIST

Chances are your youngster will come home from school one day and ask, "Who is Mr. Lock?" Mr. Lock isn't a real person, but he's not a storybook character, either.

When "Mr. Lock, come to the office!" blares out of a school public address system, every teacher and student springs into action. Pupils make a dash for a classroom, library or any supposedly safe area. Teachers slam and then bar the classroom door with a desk or file cabinet. Pupils crouch behind a wall or hide under a desk in absolute silence in case they hear gunshots.

Is this scary for young children? Absolutely. It's so scary that many schools don't even refer to it as a "lockdown," preferring to use euphemisms such as Mr. Lock. Either way, parents of children as young as nursery school age have to explain what it means, how to react and how much or how little to be afraid. Elementary school children have been recruited into a very young army.

School shootings have been a grisly part of the American scene since 1999, when a pair of teenage boys went on a rampage at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colorado, killing 12 helpless students and a teacher in what was then the "deadliest school shooting in history."

At that time the threat was from fellow students who brought guns to class to settle scores. School officials reacted by installing metal detectors, hiring armed security guards and focusing on lockdown drills in high schools.

But the learning curve got steeper and intensified after the 2012 massacre at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut, where 20 young children and six faculty members lost their lives when a 20-year-old outsider shot his way into the school. This time, a mentally disturbed man was determined to kill as many children as possible -- and he was more than capable and willing to break doors and windows to get at his victims.

The end result: 20 states now have specific laws requiring "lockdown" drills in all public schools, and 30 states have broad emergency plans that may encompass lockdowns.

While many other school districts, as well as private schools, have chosen to adopt Mr. Lock on their own, some have gone even further. Police are invited into schools to act as "perpetrators" wearing black face masks, shooting off blanks that simulate gunshots, stalking students and "shooting" them with air guns to create victims with fake blood. To make the situation as real, and chaotic, as possible, they're accompanied by emergency teams.

Is this really necessary? Just how far should an "active shooter" drill go before it causes more harm than good? Will young children, children with autism or special needs, such as those who can't run and hide, be permanently scarred when their school becomes a mock battlefield?

There's no easy answer. Many say lockdowns are enough, arguing that schools are still essentially safe places and that children should learn the same basic rules they learn in fire drills: Listen to the adult giving directions, stay calm and act in an orderly manner. This kind of lockdown should be a "routine part of the school culture," said Kenneth Trump, president of National School Safety and Security Services.

During the most recent actual shooting case at the Rancho Tehama Elementary School in Northern California, the lockdown worked, thanks to an alert staff. Despite spraying the school with bullets from the outside, only one student was wounded by the shooter who got frustrated and left. He was killed by police shortly thereafter.

"Lockdowns are the gold standard, and almost all school safety experts recommend them," said Katherine Cowan, director of communications for the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP). But Cowan also pointed out that research on the subject is limited. And some advocate taking a more aggressive approach to active shooter drills -- like fighting back.

"We've taught a generation of Americans to be passive and wait for police," said Greg Crane, a former police officer and a founder of the ALICE school safety program. ALICE, the acronym for Alert/Lockdown/Inform/Counter/Evacuate, contends that children have to go beyond the lockdown phase and challenge a shooter in their immediate area by shouting, throwing books, distracting him or her and running in different directions to make themselves tougher targets.

"I have made it my life's work to dismiss lockdown as a sole response plan," said Crane.

Both sides have their advocates -- and critics. Dr. Stephen Brock of NASP claims ALICE training is an "overreaction and potentially dangerous" with the unrealistic premise of teaching 8-year-olds to attack mass shooters with pencils and magic markers.

The lockdown at Newtown probably saved many children. But what was equally important was the willingness of six staff members to sacrifice their lives by delaying the shooter's access to the children.

Even though schools may have a reputation for safety, each active shooter incident seems to breed the potential for another. And for parents, there's no guarantee that a private school or high-end public school will keep your child safe. "This isn't just an inner-city problem anymore," said Cowan.

"There's no cookbook approach," said Dr. Peter Crist, a Stockton, New Jersey, psychiatrist with a family practice. "Kids need to feel safe. Schools have policies, but they might terrify one youngster while motivating another. It has to be geared to the age of the child. And adults can't abdicate their authority and leave it to the school."

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HEADLINE	11/29 Man inspired ice-bucket challenge dies
SOURCE	http://time.com/5042254/anthony-senerchia-ice-bucket-challenge-als/?xid=homepage
GIST	<p>Anthony Senerchia Jr., who was an inspiration for the viral ALS Ice Bucket Challenge, died on Saturday at the age of 46, ending a 14-year battle with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis.</p> <p>“He worked tirelessly to raise awareness for ALS and was directly responsible for the world-renowned Ice bucket challenge,” his obituary said, calling him “a fireball who tried everything in life.”</p> <p>Senerchia was diagnosed with ALS, commonly known as Lou Gehrig’s disease, in 2003.</p> <p>“It’s a difficult disease and tough when you’re losing,” his wife, Jeanette, told the Journal News Media Group. “Your body is failing you. But he was a fighter... He was our light. He made our life better.”</p> <p>The ALS Ice Bucket Challenge went viral and raised \$115 million during two months in 2014 — money that went largely to fund research. And Anthony Senerchia played a significant role in getting it started.</p>
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HEADLINE	11/30 Opioid crisis impacts farmers harder
SOURCE	https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2017-11-30/opioid-crisis-impacts-farmers-harder-than-their-rural-neighbors
GIST	<p>The U.S. opioid crisis that’s sweeping through America’s heartland has hit farmers harder than the wider rural population.</p> <p>Almost three-quarters of U.S. farmers and farm workers say they have been directly affected by opioid dependence, either from taking an illegal dose or dealing with a habit themselves, or by knowing someone who has used. That compares with about 45 percent for the rural population as a whole, according to a poll commissioned by the American Farm Bureau Federation and the National Farmers Union, the two biggest</p>

	<p>U.S. farmer groups.</p> <p>"We've known for some time that opioid addiction was a serious problem in farm country, but numbers like these are heartbreaking," Farm Bureau President Zippy Duvall said in a statement. "Opioids have been too easy to come by and too easy to become addicted to."</p> <p>Of respondents, 16 percent of farmers and farm workers say they have personally struggled with addiction, more than three times the rate in the rural population as a whole, according to the survey published Thursday.</p> <p>Opioid addiction is a scourge that President Donald Trump has called a national public health emergency. House and Senate committees are meeting this week to discuss ways to fight the epidemic, and the president's nominee to be the next chairman of the Federal Reserve, Jerome Powell, said addiction is one reason some men aren't in the labor market.</p> <p>Farm workers have been especially vulnerable to opioid abuse because of the prevalence of equipment-related injuries that lead to dependency-enabling prescriptions, former Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack has said.</p> <p>About two-thirds of rural adults say it would be easy for someone in their community to gain access to the addictive painkillers, while three in four who work in agriculture would say the same.</p> <p>The depth of the problem is prompting the the conservative-leaning Farm Bureau to work with Farmers Union, a group generally more sympathetic to Democrats, to launch a public-awareness campaign against opioid abuse in agriculture.</p> <p>"The opioid crisis is not just some talking point or abstract issue -- it is an enormous challenge for both rural and urban America, and we as a country need to come to grips with it," said Roger Johnson, president of the Washington-based National Farmers Union.</p>
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HEADLINE	11/29 Pentagon: \$42B foreign arms sales 2017
SOURCE	https://www.newsmax.com/newsfront/pentagon-us-weapons-sales-42-billion/2017/11/29/id/828890/
GIST	<p>The Pentagon on Wednesday said the U.S. Defense Security Cooperation Agency sold nearly \$42 billion in weapons to other nations in 2017, a 25 percent rise from last year.</p> <p>The DSCA, which implements foreign arms sales and is part of the U.S. Department of Defense, said sales included \$32.02 billion funded by partner nations through the Foreign Military Sales system.</p> <p>Under the FMS program, the U.S., "may sell defense articles and services to foreign countries and international organizations when the president formally finds that to do so will strengthen the security of the U.S. and promote world peace."</p> <p>"We deliver not only the most effective defense systems to our partners, but we also ensure a 'Total Package' approach that includes the provision of training, maintenance, and sustainment, to support full spectrum capability for our partners," DSCA Director LTG Charles W. Hooper said in a statement.</p> <p>The State Department on the same day approved \$500 million in sales of artillery rocket systems and air-to-air missiles to Poland, a move the Russian government criticized since it believes it undermines regional security.</p>
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HEADLINE	11/29 International tourism to US declines
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SOURCE	https://www.newsmax.com/newsfront/international-tourism-plummets-2017/2017/11/29/id/828895/
GIST	<p>Fewer people are traveling to the United States from international destinations, according to new government data.</p> <p><u>The Hill</u> cited figures from the <u>National Travel and Tourism Office</u>, which shows a 3.9 percent drop in international visitors from June 2016 to June 2017.</p> <p>Other key figures in the data:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The number of international travelers arriving in the U.S. was 8.3 percent lower in March 2017 than it was in March 2016. • The number of international travelers arriving in the U.S. was 8.5 percent lower in May 2017 than it was in May 2016. • There was an increase of 7 percent in April 2017 vs. April 2016. • 9.4 percent fewer people legally entered the U.S. from Mexico in the first six months of this year vs. the same time period in 2016. <p>The Trump administration has tried to stop people from certain countries with a terror presence from coming to the U.S. via executive orders. The directives were <u>partially shot down by the courts</u>.</p> <p>On the other hand, several countries have issued warnings to their citizens to exercise caution when traveling to the U.S. <u>USA Today</u> reported in August that some of the reasons for the warnings included mass shootings, police violence, anti-Muslim and anti-LGBT sentiment, and the Zika virus.</p>
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HEADLINE	11/29 US warns NKorea leadership
SOURCE	https://www.newsmax.com/Newsfront/north-korea-nikki-haley-war-nuclear/2017/11/29/id/828889/
GIST	<p>The United States warned the North Korean leadership that it would "utterly destroyed" if war were to break out, after Pyongyang test fired its most advanced intercontinental ballistic missile, putting the U.S. mainland within range.</p> <p>The Trump administration has repeatedly said all options were on the table in dealing with North Korea, including military ones, but has said it still prefers a diplomatic option.</p> <p>Still, speaking at an emergency U.N. Security Council meeting, U.S. ambassador Nikki Haley warned: "If war comes, make no mistake, the North Korean regime will be utterly destroyed."</p> <p>Haley said the United States has asked China to cut off oil supply to North Korea. U.S. President Donald Trump, who has vowed to halt North Korea's nuclear and missile programs, spoke with Chinese President Xi Jinping earlier on Wednesday.</p> <p>China is North Korea's sole major ally and they share a long border and significant trade.</p> <p>"We have never sought war with North Korea, and still today we do not seek it. If war does come, it will be because of continued acts of aggression like we witnessed yesterday," Haley said.</p>
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HEADLINE	11/30 Lebanon PM decries Hezbollah region role
SOURCE	http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/lebanese-pm-decries-hezbollahs-involvement-regions-wars-51479428?
GIST	Lebanese Prime Minister Saad Hariri says he fears that Hezbollah's military role in regional conflicts will end up costing his country dearly.

	<p>But Hariri also expressed optimism that the crisis over his resignation, which he later suspended, is about to fizzle out. Hariri spoke to the Paris Match magazine in an interview published on Thursday.</p> <p>He also said his resignation was meant to let the world know that Lebanon cannot tolerate the militant Hezbollah group's meddling in the affairs of Gulf countries — a reference to Yemen, where the kingdom is fighting Shiite rebels. Hezbollah denies having a military role there.</p> <p>Hariri tweeted late Wednesday that consultations following his resignation were "positive." It is not clear what, if any, concessions is Hezbollah offering to ensure Hariri would return to office.</p>
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HEADLINE	11/29 USAF relieves Thunderbirds commander
SOURCE	http://abcnews.go.com/US/air-force-relieves-commander-thunderbirds/story?id=51468010
GIST	<p>The commander of the U.S. Air Force Air Demonstration Squadron, famously known as the Thunderbirds, was relieved last week after the Air Force determined it had "lost confidence" in his leadership style.</p> <p>Lt. Col. Jason Heard is the first Thunderbirds commander to be relieved of duty.</p> <p>The Thunderbirds, based at Nellis Air Force Base in Las Vegas, are the Air Force's flying aerobatic team. They perform for audiences across the country.</p> <p>According to an Air Force press release, Heard lead the Thunderbirds "through a highly successful show season," but Brig. Gen. Jeannie Leavitt, 57th Wing Commander, "lost confidence in his leadership and risk management style."</p> <p>"Leavitt determined that new leadership was necessary to ensure the highest levels of pride, precision and professionalism within the team," the release stated.</p> <p>Leavitt was said the decision was "incredibly difficult to make," but added it was in the "best interests of the Thunderbird team."</p> <p>The team's former operations officer has temporarily assumed responsibility.</p>
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HEADLINE	11/30 Puerto Rico hurricane death toll rises
SOURCE	http://abcnews.go.com/US/puerto-ricos-hurricane-maria-death-toll-rises-58/story?
GIST	<p>It's been 70 days since Hurricane Maria slammed into Puerto Rico, but the island's infrastructure remains in a state of disarray and the death toll continues to increase.</p> <p>Three additional deaths were announced on Wednesday by the U.S. territory's Department of Public Safety, bringing the storm's death toll there to 58.</p> <p>"One of the cases was reported in Carolina, regarding a person who was bleeding from the mouth during the hurricane, but could not be transported to the hospital on time," the Department of Public Safety said in a statement announcing the death toll's increase. "Later, the person was taken to the hospital, treated, and diagnosed with pneumonia and a collapse of the right kidney. However, days later the person died in the hospital."</p> <p>The second fatality, according to the Department of Public Safety, was reported in Vieques, "about a person who died when the boat in which he was traveling sank. However, on October 25, 2017, FURA personnel of the Puerto Rico Police carried out a mission to recover the body of the person who has not yet been identified and who is currently in the Department of Forensic Sciences under the identification</p>

	<p>process."</p> <p>The third death involved a person who inhaled gases that emanated from a gas lamp when it accidentally fell at his home in Cayey. The unidentified individual also suffered burns.</p> <p>The government's official death toll count has faced scrutiny following the storm. The Department of Public Safety, which is the agency keeping track of the count, said in late October that there had been more than 900 cremations in Puerto Rico following the storm, but they were not counted as a part of the storm-related death toll because those cremated were designated to have died due to natural causes.</p>
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HEADLINE	11/29 Misconduct claims major media profiles
SOURCE	http://abcnews.go.com/US/sexual-misconduct-claims-brought-major-media-players/story?id=51456859
GIST	<p>Numerous accusations of sexual misconduct against high-profile media figures have been made in recent months, largely coming after the allegations of widespread abuse by Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein.</p> <p>The fallout has been severe -- here are some of the biggest names who have turned from covering the news to being a part of it.</p> <p>Roger Ailes, Fox News Fox News Chairman and CEO Ailes resigned from the company on July 21, 2016.</p> <p>His resignation came about a month after former anchor Gretchen Carlson, a mainstay of the network for 11 years, left Fox News and filed a lawsuit against her former boss. In it, she alleges that Ailes had "sabotaged" her career after she "refused his sexual advances," and that her job was terminated in retaliation for rebuffing him and complaining to him about sexual harassment.</p> <p>Fox News and Ailes have denied Carlson's allegations in the past.</p> <p>Four months after he resigned, then-Fox News anchor Megyn Kelly said that she had been sexually harassed by Ailes and didn't come forward sooner because it would have been a "suicide mission."</p> <p>"He tried to kiss me three times [in his office], so I rejected that, and when I rejected that, he asked me when my contract was up," Kelly said on "Good Morning America." "As soon as I left his office, I called a lawyer, and I did bring the matter to a supervisor at Fox News."</p> <p>Days later, his former employee Laurie Luhn told ABC News' "20/20" that for much of the more than two decades that she worked for him, she was harassed, intimidated and pressured by him into performing sexual favors.</p> <p>"I went through such hell for so many years. I finally felt safe when... I saw that other women were speaking up," Luhn told ABC News "20/20."</p> <p>Ailes died on May 18 at the age of 77. The Palm Beach County Medical Examiner ruled his death was accidental.</p> <p>Bill O'Reilly, Fox News It was announced that O'Reilly would not be returning to Fox News on April 19, nearly six months before the Weinstein scandal broke.</p> <p>"After a thorough and careful review of the allegations, the company and Bill O'Reilly have agreed that</p>

Bill O'Reilly will not be returning to the Fox News Channel," 21st Century Fox said in a statement.

The star host has been dogged by misconduct claims -- some sexual in nature -- since an April 1 story in The New York Times detailed alleged settlements made between the host and five women who accused him of harassment and sexual misconduct.

In O'Reilly's first statement about his departure, he said: "It is tremendously disheartening that we part ways due to completely unfounded claims. But that is the unfortunate reality many of us in the public eye must live with today."

Five days after his departure, O'Reilly said that he was "sad" that he would no longer be hosting "The O'Reilly Factor."

Months later, in October, another New York Times story reported that O'Reilly had made a \$32 million settlement with an accuser one month before O'Reilly's contract with Fox News was re-signed, securing him a reported \$25 million a year.

Mark Halperin, MSNBC

Five women came forward in an Oct. 26 report by CNN alleging sexual harassment while Halperin was the political director at ABC News in the late 1990s.

The Washington Post later spoke to nine women who said they either knew of or experienced directly unwanted contact from Halperin.

"During this period, I did pursue relationships with women that I worked with, including some junior to me. I now understand from these accounts that my behavior was inappropriate and caused others pain. For that, I am deeply sorry and I apologize. Under the circumstances, I'm going to take a step back from my day-to-day work while I properly deal with this situation," Halperin said to CNN in his first statement on the issue.

He issued another statement on Oct. 27 saying that he is "profoundly sorry" and noted that because some of the accounts "have not been particularly detailed (and many were anonymous) making it difficult for me to address certain specifics. But make no mistake: I fully acknowledge and apologize for conduct that was often aggressive and crude."

MSNBC announced it has removed Halperin from his role as a political contributor at the network. The book Halperin was working on about the 2016 presidential election has been canceled and HBO has pulled the plug on a project the network was planning with him.

Charlie Rose, CBS

Multiple women accused Charlie Rose of sexual misconduct in interviews with The Washington Post. Three unnamed women came forward in a story published by Business Insider later. It is unclear if the women overlap with those in the Post story.

Five women told The Washington Post that Rose, an anchor for "CBS This Morning" and host of an interview program that aired on public television, groped them while they worked or sought to work for the interview program; two said that he walked naked in front of them; and one accused Rose of firing her after he allegedly touched her inappropriately and made sexually charged remarks to her.

Rose issued an apology to the Post and later, he shared it on Twitter.

"In my 45 years in journalism, I have prided myself on being an advocate for the careers of the women with whom I have worked," he said in a statement to the newspaper. "Nevertheless, in the past few days, claims have been made about my behavior toward some former female colleagues."

Rose added that he didn't "believe that all of these allegations are accurate."

He was initially suspended by CBS and later fired.

Matt Lauer, NBC

NBC News fired "Today Show" host Matt Lauer today after a colleague accused him of "inappropriate sexual behavior in the workplace," the network said.

NBC News chairman Andrew Lack announced Lauer's termination in a memo this morning, which was obtained by ABC News. He said the company received "a detailed complaint from a colleague" Monday night "about inappropriate sexual behavior in the workplace by Matt Lauer."

The details about the alleged inappropriate behavior have not been publicly disclosed, though Variety published a story late Wednesday afternoon with personal accounts by unnamed women describing Lauer's alleged sexual misconduct they had witnessed or experienced.

In the story, current and former NBC staffers claimed that Lauer allegedly exposed himself to a female employee, gave a separate female an employee an inappropriate gift and spoke of his colleagues in lewd ways.

ABC News has not been able to verify these additional claims and a request for comment from Lauer's camp and NBC was not immediately returned.

Lauer has not made any public statements since his dismissal.

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HEADLINE	11/29 Can NKorea missile strike D.C.?
SOURCE	https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/world/2017/11/29/analysts-north-korea-nuclear-program/904293001/
GIST	<p>SEOUL — North Korea declared Wednesday it achieved its goal of developing a nuclear-tipped missile that could strike the "whole mainland of the U.S." Yet some analysts called that boast premature.</p> <p>The isolated regime run by Kim Jong Un based its claim on a test of an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) that appeared capable of reaching 8,100 miles — the longest distance the North has achieved during years of development. That puts Washington D.C. — about 6,800 miles away — well within range.</p> <p>Still, analysis said the missile would require many more tests to become accurate and reliable. Plus they doubted North Korea had mastered the complex technology required to arm a long-range missile with a nuclear warhead.</p> <p>The South Korean government estimated that Pyongyang is a year away from that accomplishment.</p> <p>In a government statement, North Korea said the ICBM it launched at 3:17 a.m. local time, a Hwasong-15, was the "greatest ICBM" and that it could be fitted with a "super-large heavy nuclear warhead." It said the missile reached a height of 2,780 miles and covered a distance of 590 miles before splashing down in the Sea of Japan. If accurate, it would have a range of about 8,100 miles, according to calculations by David Wright, an expert at the Union of Concerned Scientists.</p> <p>Despite North Korea's claims, Michael Elleman, a ballistic missile analyst for 38 North, a program of the U.S.-Korea Institute at Johns Hopkins University, said the launch showed that North Korea appeared to have only taken a "minor step forward" with its ICBM technology.</p>

	<p>"Many more tests are needed to establish the missile's performance and reliability," Elleman said, noting that the missile's re-entry vehicle capability is unclear. This technology is necessary to re-enter the atmosphere and deliver a payload."</p> <p>Elleman said he believed that a "viable ICBM capable of reaching the West Coast of the U.S. mainland is still a year away, though North Korea continues to progress."</p> <p>Chad O'Carroll, managing director of Seoul-based information and analysis firm Korea Risk Group, said that even if North Korea is claiming that the ICBM part of its nuclear missile program is now complete, that may just mean that it is ready to begin mass production of the Hwasong-15. It is not clear if it has mastered the technology to miniaturize a nuclear warhead. O'Carroll said that Pyongyang does not appear to have submarine-launched nuclear capability, which it has been working on.</p>
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HEADLINE	11/29 Michigan wants all lead pipes replaced
SOURCE	https://www.newsmax.com/health/health-news/us-michigan-lead-rules/2017/11/29/id/828828/
GIST	<p>Gov. Rick Snyder's administration is planning to require the replacement of every underground lead service pipe in Michigan within 20 years while delaying by four years a deadline to implement the nation's toughest lead limit for drinking water, in the wake of the Flint lead crisis.</p> <p>Under draft rules that environmental regulators want to finalize early next year, Michigan's "action level" for lead in drinking water would gradually drop to 10 parts per billion by 2024, not 2020 as initially proposed. The current federal threshold of 15 ppb has been criticized by the governor as too weak.</p> <p>State officials plan to give communities 20 years to replace an estimated 500,000-plus lead service lines in a state with the third-most in the U.S. That is longer than a 10-year window that had been envisioned when Snyder first called for tougher lead restrictions more than 1½ years ago.</p> <p>The Associated Press reviewed a summary of the draft rules Tuesday in advance of a public information session to be hosted by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality on Wednesday night. The proposal — which was revised due to feedback from water utilities, environmental groups, health experts and others in recent months — is subject to change before and after it is officially released for public comment in January and a hearing is held, potentially late that month.</p> <p>Eric Oswald, director of the Drinking Water and Municipal Assistance Division, said in a phone interview that "the ultimate goal here is to get lead out of the system" by pushing municipalities to replace the old lead pipes running from water mains to houses or else face "difficult" new operational rules including stricter sampling requirements.</p> <p>Rather than mandating that a minimum number of lines be replaced each year, the draft rules call for utilities to replace 5 percent on average each year over 20 years. That provides flexibility in case it makes sense to do more replacements in a single year in conjunction with a water main or other large project, Oswald said.</p> <p>Snyder initially outlined lead proposals in April 2016, months after apologizing for his administration's role in the Flint water emergency. Lead leaching from old pipes and fixtures caused elevated levels in children and left residents to drink and bathe with bottled or filtered water. Experts suspect a deadly Legionnaires' disease outbreak was tied to the improperly treated river water, too.</p> <p>Oswald said there has been "a lot of pushback" against replacing lead pipes, which would be expensive and cost thousands of dollars per line. Under a legal settlement in Flint, the state and federal governments are spending up to \$97 million alone to replace lead and galvanized-steel lines that bring water into 18,000 homes.</p>

That is a shift from an earlier plan to prohibit partial replacement of lines. Researchers have found that removing just part of a line can actually make lead exposure worse.

Oswald said banning partial replacements is "not feasible" due to property rights issues, but he added there would be "very tight controls" if a homeowner refuses to let a line be fully replaced.

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HEADLINE	11/29 EU-Africa summit on migration flow
SOURCE	http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/merkel-africa-curb-illegal-migration-flow-51454366
GIST	<p>European Union and African leaders pledged Wednesday to do more to help thousands of migrants stranded in squalid detention centers in Libya, the main jumping-off point for desperate people setting out in unseaworthy boats in search of better lives in Europe.</p> <p>While youth and development are the main themes of their EU-Africa summit in Ivory Coast, migration is an agenda topping issue, pushed further into the public eye after recent footage of migrants at a slave auction in Libya drew international horror and condemnation.</p> <p>Opening the meeting in Abidjan, Ivory Coast President Alassane Ouattara said the security of Europe and Africa will "depend on our capacity to resolve the crisis in Libya and to bring an end, by all available means, to the inhuman treatment inflicted on migrants."</p> <p>French President Emmanuel Macron said that he, leaders from other EU and African countries that include Libya, and the United Nations were discussing going after human traffickers with "concrete, military and police actions on the ground to trace back these networks."</p> <p>"It is not a question today of saying that we will declare war," Macron told French broadcasters France 24 and RFI. "There is a state that is in a political transition, Libya ... but there is stronger police action that must be done to dismantle these networks."</p> <p>"These smugglers are deeply linked to many terrorist networks and feed, sometimes finance, sometimes are the same as those who make war with us and who kill people every day" in much of northern Africa," Macron said.</p> <p>German Chancellor Angela Merkel said that "it's very important that we simply support Africans to put a stop to illegal migration, so people don't have to either suffer in horrible camps in Libya or are even being traded."</p> <p>Already Burkina Faso's foreign affairs minister has recalled his ambassador from Libya, calling it "unacceptable to have slaves in this 21st century."</p> <p>Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari said Wednesday that all Nigerians stranded in Libya and other parts of the world will be brought home and "rehabilitated," calling it appalling that "some Nigerians were being sold like goats for few dollars in Libya."</p> <p>Nigeria's government said on Twitter that 242 Nigerian migrants returned home from Libya on Tuesday and that more than 4,000 stranded there have "safely returned home" this year.</p> <p>Europe has struggled to slow the flow of tens of thousands of Africans making the dangerous crossing of the Mediterranean through development aid and other means, including funds to tighten border controls. But many Africans feel pressured to make the journey, risking death and abuse, saying high unemployment and climate change leave them little choice.</p> <p>At least 3,000 drown or go missing annually in attempts to cross the Mediterranean, but with Africa's population forecast to rise significantly in coming decades many more are likely to take the risk.</p>

	<p>To focus efforts, the EU, African Union and United Nations also announced that they would set up a special task force to help protect migrants, notably those detained in conflict-torn Libya.</p> <p>Details of its work must be fleshed out, but the main aim is to "save and protect lives of migrants and refugees along the routes and in particular inside Libya."</p> <p>The task force, which will work closely with Libyan authorities, will also try to speed up the process of returning willing migrants to their home countries and finding new homes for those fleeing violence or conflict and who need international protection.</p> <p>Belgian Prime Minister Charles Michel has urged his European counterparts to work more closely with Africa on tackling migration and security, another issue high on the agenda as the threat of extremism grows in West Africa and elsewhere.</p> <p>"What counts for us is the capacity to be efficient, pragmatic, in a win-win strategy that serves our mutual interests," Michel, 41, told The Associated Press on Tuesday.</p>
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HEADLINE	11/29 China 'grave concern' NKorea launch
SOURCE	https://www.yahoo.com/news/china-expresses-grave-concern-over-north-korean-missile-073154381.html
GIST	<p>BEIJING (Reuters) - China expressed "grave concern" on Wednesday after North Korea fired what appeared to be an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) that landed close to Japan.</p> <p>China hopes all parties act cautiously to preserve peace and stability, foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang told a regular news briefing.</p>
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HEADLINE	11/29 American Airlines scheduling glitch
SOURCE	https://www.dallasnews.com/business/american-airlines/2017/11/29/american-airlines-working-correct-glitch-left-scores-flights-without-pilots
GIST	<p>American Airlines Group Inc. is rushing to resolve a scheduling fault that gave time off to too many pilots in December -- a flaw that has left more than 15,000 flights without sufficient crew during the holiday rush, according to a union for the carrier's pilots.</p> <p>The Allied Pilots Association estimated the number of affected flights, from Dec. 17 to Dec. 31, based on information provided by the carrier, said Dennis Tajer, a spokesman for the union. American spokesman Matt Miller declined to quantify the potential number of flights involved, saying the airline expects to correct the problem and avoid cancellations.</p> <p>"We are working through this to make sure we take care of our pilots and get our customers to where they need to go over the holidays," Miller said.</p> <p>The computer-system problem will force American to rebuild its staffing schedule, similar to what airlines must do after major weather disruptions, said John Cox, chief executive officer of consultant Safety Operating Systems and a former commercial airline pilot. Revenue will take a hit if American has to scrub many flights. At a minimum, the carrier is likely to face higher labor costs just as investors are stepping up scrutiny of airline expenses.</p> <p>"It will be a challenge, but I don't think there will be mass cancellations," Cox said. "There's going to be a lot of midnight oil spent on it, but I think they'll get the vast majority of them covered one way or</p>

	<p>another."</p> <p>The Fort Worth, Texas-based carrier is offering pilots 150 percent of their normal hourly wage to pick up some of the flights, the top rate laid out in their contract, Miller said.</p> <p>The APA, representing 15,000 American pilots, has filed a grievance, saying the proposed solution violates its labor pact. The union wants to consult with American to find a solution that will motivate pilots to give up vacation they've already been granted after years of working over the holidays, Tajer said.</p> <p>"This is certainly not routine," Tajer said. "This is a crisis right now, and in that crisis, they've gone solo."</p> <p>The glitch caused the scheduling system to show that American had ample staffing coverage for some planned flights when it actually didn't, Miller said. The carrier has made adjustments to the system and expects it to operate smoothly from now on. American, the world's largest airline, operates about 6,700 flights a day.</p>
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HEADLINE	11/29 Moody's: cities' climate risks credit rating
SOURCE	https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2017-11-29/moody-s-warns-cities-to-address-climate-risks-or-face-downgrades
GIST	<p>Coastal communities from Maine to California have been put on notice from one of the top credit rating agencies: Start preparing for climate change or risk losing access to cheap credit.</p> <p>In a report to its clients Tuesday, Moody's Investors Service Inc. explained how it incorporates climate change into its credit ratings for state and local bonds. If cities and states don't deal with risks from surging seas or intense storms, they are at greater risk of default.</p> <p>"What we want people to realize is: If you're exposed, we know that. We're going to ask questions about what you're doing to mitigate that exposure," Lenny Jones, a managing director at Moody's, said in a phone interview. "That's taken into your credit ratings."</p> <p>In its report, Moody's lists six indicators it uses "to assess the exposure and overall susceptibility of U.S. states to the physical effects of climate change." They include the share of economic activity that comes from coastal areas, hurricane and extreme-weather damage as a share of the economy, and the share of homes in a flood plain.</p> <p>Based on those overall risks, Texas, Florida, Georgia and Mississippi are among the states most at risk from climate change. Moody's didn't identify which cities or municipalities were most exposed.</p> <p>Bond rating agencies such as Moody's are important both for bond issuers and buyers, as they assign ratings that are used to judge the risk of default. The greater the risk, the higher the interest rate municipalities pay.</p> <p>Bloomberg News reported in May that towns and counties were able to secure AAA ratings despite their risks of flooding and other destruction from storms, which are likely to be more frequent and intense because of climate change. If repeated storms and floods are likely to send property values -- and tax revenue -- sinking while spending on sea walls, storm drains or flood-resistant buildings goes up, investors say bond buyers should be warned.</p> <p>Jones said Tuesday that the company had been pressured by investors to be more transparent about how it incorporates climate change into the ratings process. Some praised the move, while also urging it to go further.</p>
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Cyber Awareness

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HEADLINE	11/30 Japan: cryptocurrency money laundering
SOURCE	https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2017/11/30/national/crime-legal/police-say-170-cryptocurrency-laundering-cases-suspected-six-months-april/#.Wh_YWVWGNGE
GIST	<p>Police said Thursday 170 cases of suspected money laundering linked to cryptocurrencies were reported by currency exchange operators in Japan in the six months through Oct. 1.</p> <p>The first such report by the National Police Agency was conducted after the law on prevention of transfer of criminal proceeds was revised in April, requiring cryptocurrency exchange operators to report transactions suspected to be involved in money laundering.</p> <p>The exchange operators are believed to have reported cases that involved frequent questionable transactions. After analyzing the cases, the agency said it has provided information to relevant investigative authorities.</p> <p>Cryptocurrencies such as bitcoin, Ethereum and Ripple allow quick international transactions while keeping users anonymous. But because of varying restrictions in each country, it is difficult to track if they are used in crimes.</p> <p>Cryptocurrencies have been used as a means of concealing criminal transactions linked to illegal drugs and child pornography.</p>
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HEADLINE	11/29 'Perfect storm' data security threats
SOURCE	https://www.information-management.com/news/firms-face-growing-data-threats-cybersecurity-talent-shortage
GIST	<p>A 'perfect storm' of data security threats is looming at the same time that organizations complain they are woefully understaffed with cybersecurity professionals.</p> <p>Two recent studies paint an alarming view of the state of data security. The CyberSeek report from CompTIA, which tracks supply and demand in the cybersecurity space, says cybersecurity jobs must double in order to meet current demand. Meanwhile, the 2017 RedSeal Resilience Report says a majority of organizations lack the tools and resources they need to protect their data assets.</p> <p>The data threat landscape is evolving much faster than security teams can respond, according to the RedSeal report. Some 79 percent of respondents said they can't access insights that help to prioritize their response to a data security incident, while 55 percent said they can't react quickly enough to limit damage in the event of a major security incident.</p> <p>Most alarming, only 20 percent of organizations said they are extremely confident that they can continue running as usual after discovering a cyberattack or data breach.</p> <p>Contributing to the data security problem overall is a lack of preparedness at many organizations, the study found. A majority (55 percent) of organizations said they do not test their data security strategies frequently enough. The most common reasons cited were that security defense strategies are too resource intensive (cited by 29 percent), takes too much time (cited by 29 percent) or is outside the budget (cited by 27 percent).</p> <p>"On average, it has been nine months since organizations created a complete blueprint, model or map of their entire network," the study said. "This means pathways through their constantly changing network – and access to their most valuable assets – are neither confirmed to be secure nor clearly known at all."</p>

HEADLINE	11/29 Some foreign hackers out of US reach
SOURCE	http://thehill.com/business-a-lobbying/362458-feds-find-some-foreign-hackers-are-out-of-reach
GIST	<p>Federal officials are increasingly finding it difficult to prosecute foreign hackers who target U.S. businesses, with some suspects evading apprehension long after charges are filed.</p> <p>Two recent cases underscore the difficulty of prosecuting and bringing hackers to justice in an age when cyber criminals and state-sponsored hackers are increasingly targeting institutions for financial and other gains.</p> <p>This week, U.S. prosecutors in Pittsburgh announced charges against three Chinese nationals who allegedly stole confidential business information from two U.S. companies, Moody's Analytics and Trimble Inc., and the German manufacturing giant Siemens AG to gain commercial advantage.</p> <p>The defendants worked for a purported Chinese cybersecurity firm called Boyusec, which cyber threat researchers have previously linked to China's Ministry of State Security.</p> <p>U.S. officials tried in October 2015 to secure Beijing's cooperation in apprehending the hackers, keeping in line with a 2015 agreement intended to bolster cyber crime cooperation with China. But the U.S. "received no meaningful response," a Justice Department spokesman told The Hill.</p> <p>The indictment against the Chinese nationals was filed in late September and kept under seal until Monday.</p> <p>"We have pursued every available avenue to hold the actors accountable in this case and have determined that there is no longer a law enforcement justification to keep the charges under seal," Justice Department spokesman Wyn Hornbuckle said.</p> <p>"We will continue to press the Chinese government to take steps to prevent this kind of behavior in the future and to hold the actors accountable under Chinese law," he said.</p> <p>The announcement came less than a week after U.S. prosecutors in New York speedily and publicly charged an Iranian hacker for breaching networks belonging to HBO. The hacker allegedly stole unaired episodes of popular programs and then demanded \$6 million in bitcoin payments from the company while threatening to release the data.</p> <p>The individual charged, Behzad Mesri, is said to have worked for the Iranian military. Like the Chinese hackers, he remains out of the reach of U.S. law enforcement.</p> <p>"These indictments are more to make a political statement to China, Iran and other countries which either protect or sponsor hackers," said Hanley Chew, a former federal prosecutor specializing in cyber crime.</p> <p>"It's both a warning to the individual hacker and, to the extent that the hacker is state-sponsored, also to the country, that says that we take these matters very seriously," Chew added.</p> <p>Law enforcement officials have long faced an uphill battle in bringing hackers to justice, given the difficulty of attributing attacks and gathering enough evidence to successfully prosecute them.</p> <p>The feat becomes trickier when the perpetrators cross national boundaries and officials are forced to rely on "mutual legal assistance treaties" with other countries to obtain the necessary information to investigate and prosecute crimes. The Justice Department is currently engaging with Congress to reform the process by which officials gain access to electronic evidence overseas.</p>

“This is definitely a growing problem both domestically and internationally,” said Chew, who is now a lawyer at Fenwick & West. “As more and more personal data is being stored online ... there are likely to be more unauthorized intrusions as the targets become more tempting and the potential rewards for this activity becomes much greater.”

Typically, an indictment targeting a foreigner is kept under seal and the arrest warrant circulated to other countries via Interpol, so that if the defendant travels overseas, he can be apprehended by an allied country and extradited to the United States.

In both recent cases, officials signaled that they concluded it was unlikely they would apprehend the hackers through such means.

“We had to make an assessment whether there was a realistic chance of actually getting him or luring him to a place where we could get him and then we weighed that against the importance of sending a message that we can and will, even when you are immediately beyond our reach, charge you and make a public statement like this,” Joon H. Kim, acting U.S. attorney for the Southern District of New York, said of the Mesri indictment last Tuesday.

“And that was the balancing that we did, and we decided this was the right time to do it,” he said.

Officials do see some successes in cyber crime cases. On Tuesday, a Canadian man pleaded guilty to charges related to the 2014 Yahoo hacking campaign that affected 500 million people. The individual, Karim Baratov, was arrested in Canada in March and extradited to the United States.

However, his alleged accomplices — two Russian security service officers charged by the Justice Department in March — remain at large.

Officials can also apply pressure by imposing sanctions.

Before U.S. officials announced the charges against Mesri, The Washington Post reported that the Justice Department was prepared to announce several investigations involving Iranians, spurring concerns among some in law enforcement that the Trump administration was planning to go public with the cases in order to urge Congress to impose fresh sanctions against Tehran.

In September, the Treasury Department sanctioned seven Iranian nationals and an Iran-based computer security company for their role in distributed denial of service attacks targeting U.S. financial organizations. The Justice Department under the Obama administration had announced charges against the hackers in March 2016.

Officials say that all options are on the table to punish foreign and state-sponsored hackers.

“Our overall goal is to diminish the threat and send messages that will change behavior. We are looking to impose costs wherever we can,” said William Sweeney Jr., assistant director-in-charge of the New York Office of the FBI, when announcing the charges against Mesri last week.

“That means we will look to publicly identify operators like this with indictments. We will seek civil actions to seize their computers and we will pursue sanctions with the Treasury Department,” he said.

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HEADLINE	11/29 Report: attacks, breaches could get worse
SOURCE	http://www.ctvnews.ca/sci-tech/cyber-attacks-and-security-breaches-could-get-worse-in-2018-mcafee-report-1.3699765
GIST	After a year marked by devastating cyber attacks and breaches, online attackers are expected to become even more destructive in 2018, security researchers said Wednesday.

A report by the security firm McAfee said the ransomware outbreaks of 2017 offer just a taste of what's to come as hackers develop new strategies and "business models."

McAfee researchers said that as ransomware profitability fades in the face of new defenses, hackers will turn to new kinds of attacks that could involve damage or disruption of computers and networks.

Attackers will also look to target wealthy individuals and aim at connected devices which offer less security than computers and smartphones.

"The evolution of ransomware in 2017 should remind us of how aggressively a threat can reinvent itself as attackers dramatically innovate and adjust to the successful efforts of defenders," said Steve Grobman, McAfee's chief technology officer.

McAfee also predicted wider use of cyber attacks "as a service," allowing more hackers for hire to have an impact.

Raj Samani, chief scientist at McAfee, said the events of 2017 showed how easy it is to commercialize hacking services.

"Such attacks could be sold to parties seeking to paralyze national, political and business rivals," Samani said.

McAfee's 2018 Threats Predictions Report also said privacy is likely to be eroded further as consumer data -- including data involving children -- is gathered and marketed by device makers.

"Connected home device manufacturers and service providers will seek to overcome thin profit margins by gathering more of our personal data -- with or without our agreement -- turning the home into a corporate store front," the McAfee report said.

The report said parents "will become aware of notable corporate abuses of digital content generated by children," as part of this effort to boost profitability.

McAfee said it expects some impact for the May 2018 implementation of the European Union's General Data Protection Regulation, which limits how data is used and sold and which would affect companies with operations in the EU.

The GDPR regulation "makes 2018 a critical year for establishing how responsible businesses can preempt these issues, respecting users' privacy, responsibly using consumer data and content to enhance services, and setting limits on how long they can hold the data," said McAfee vice president Vincent Weafer.

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HEADLINE	11/29 Europol arrests over 100 'money mules'
SOURCE	https://www.infosecurity-magazine.com/news/euro-police-arrest-over-100-money/
GIST	<p>European law enforcers are celebrating after identifying hundreds of money mules and making over 100 arrests as part of a coordinated global clampdown.</p> <p>During the European Money Mule Action (EMMA) which ran from November 20-24, police from 26 countries supported by Europol, Eurojust and the European Banking Federation (EBF) made 159 arrests.</p> <p>In addition, cops claimed to have identified 766 money mules and conducted 409 interviews. Importantly, the operation targeted not only the mules themselves but also their organizers — 59 of whom were identified.</p>

Money mules are recruited by cybercrime gangs to launder cash stolen in online campaigns, often lured by the promise of easy cash.

Many are unaware that they're actually playing a vital role in the cybercrime ecosystem, with police claiming that the funds they help launder are often pumped back into organised crime — including drug dealing, human trafficking and online fraud.

In the EMMA campaign period, Europol claimed that support from 257 banks and private-sector partners uncovered 1719 money mule transactions, with total losses amounting to almost €31m (£27m, \$37m).

Some 90% of these were linked to cybercrime offenses including phishing, online auction fraud, Business Email Compromise (BEC) and CEO fraud.

“EMMA3 shows how a close public-private partnership between law enforcement, judicial authorities and the banking sector is essential to effectively tackle the illegal activity of money muling. We remain fully committed to working together in the fight against money laundering and other financial crimes and to further support joint initiatives like EMMA,” noted a statement from Europol, Eurojust and the European Banking Federation.

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HEADLINE	11/29 Used storage devices sold still w/data
SOURCE	https://www.infosecurity-magazine.com/news/secondhand-storage-devices/
GIST	<p>Buying second-hand data storage devices, like remote hard drives, is a fairly common practice—but all too often, those devices contain traces of data that enterprising new users can recover fairly easily.</p> <p>To analyze the issue, Kroll Ontrack purchased 64 drives from various sources over eBay (from private sellers/consumers in the US, Germany, France, Italy, the Asia-Pacific region, Poland and the UK). It looked at whether the used drives had been successfully wiped clean or still contained any traces of data. The study found that traces of data remained on 30 drives (47%), while the remaining 34 drives had been successfully cleaned (53%).</p> <p>Alarmingly, these innocent oversights allowed the new owners critical access into the previous owners' identity. Eighteen of the 64 drives examined were found to contain critical or highly critical personal information. Nearly a third (21 drives) contained personal photos, private documents, emails, videos, wedding photos, audio or music. User account information was discovered on eight drives, including log-in data such as first name and last name, contact details, email address, online account names and passwords.</p> <p>“Despite user efforts to erase data, it can often be recovered if not done properly—this makes selling personal digital devices a matter of identity protection,” the firm said. “However, the likelihood of finding access to personal information was not the most concerning finding, but rather how sensitive that information often was. For the careless or uninformed user, selling personal data devices is little more than selling your identity.”</p> <p>In the case of one drive, it had belonged to a company that used a service provider to erase and resell old drives. Despite that, the drive still contained a wealth of highly sensitive information, including user names, home addresses, phone numbers and credit-card details. It also contained an employee list of around 100 names that included information about work experience, job titles, phone numbers, language abilities, vacation dates and a 1MB offline address book.</p> <p>Transactional data was recovered from nearly every seventh drive (9 drives). This included company names, salary statements, credit-card numbers, bank account info, investment details and tax returns.</p>

	<p>One drive still contained a record of browser history, while explicit data was located on another.</p> <p>“The personal realm was not the only one affected, as work-related information also finds its way very often onto private devices,” Kroll Ontrack said. “As such, business data extracted from the drives was also not in short supply.”</p>
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HEADLINE	11/29 Report: 25% insider threats ‘hostile’
SOURCE	https://www.infosecurity-magazine.com/news/only-a-quarter-of-insider-threats/
GIST	<p>Only about a quarter (25%) of insider threats are hostile, new research has revealed, with the remaining 75% due to accidental or negligent activity.</p> <p>NTT Security’s 2017 Global Threat Intelligence Center (GTIC) Quarterly Threat Intelligence Report for the third quarter, based on analysis of data from across the company’s global client base, shows that employees often put an organization at risk without even knowing it—about 30% of the time, as a matter of fact.</p> <p>Accidental insider threats can take on a variety of forms: Accidental disclosure (e.g., unsecured databases, default internet-facing username and password logins); improper or accidental disposal of physical records (e.g., disposal of paper without shredding, losing sensitive documents, documents or equipment being stolen, etc.); or accidental damage (e.g., accidental misconfiguration or command which results in loss of data or connectivity, like a network engineer who accidentally reverses the parameters in a command line and copies an old backup over the production system, instead of copying the production database to a backup).</p> <p>Statistically, miscellaneous errors account for around 30% of all accidental behaviors. These include publishing errors, disposal errors or the inadvertent delivery of information to the wrong person (email autofills can often be to blame for this).</p> <p>“Whether it’s an accidental insider threat, where an employee sends sensitive documents to a competitor’s email or a negligent insider threat, where an employee downloads unauthorized software and spreads a virus through the company, organizations must have a cybersecurity plan in place to minimize these risks,” said Steven Bullitt, vice president of Threat Intelligence & Incident Response, GTIC, NTT Security.</p> <p>The report also documented that in instances when organizations do not have a proactive cybersecurity plan in place, the consequences can be devastating. In fact, NTT Security has seen damages due to insider breaches reach more than \$30 million. Even in organizations that have well-defined incident response plans, they often don’t provide adequate remediation provisions for insider breaches, leaving the organization less prepared to react quickly.</p> <p>Overall, the report uncovered a notable increase in the number of security events in general during Q3, up 24% from the second quarter. Phishing campaigns and malware infections both increased by more than 40% from the quarter before.</p> <p>In terms of targets, the finance industry had the most detections for malicious activity, representing a whopping 25% of all cyberattacks. Rounding out the top five targeted industries were: manufacturing at 21%, business services at 16%, health care at 13% and technology at 12%.</p>
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HEADLINE	11/29 Hackers target UK shipping giant
SOURCE	http://www.securityweek.com/hackers-target-uk-shipping-giant-clarkson
GIST	Clarkson, one of the world’s largest providers of shipping services, informed the public on Tuesday that it

	<p>has suffered a security breach and the hackers may release some data taken from its systems.</p> <p>Clarkson provided only few details citing the ongoing law enforcement investigation, but the information it made public suggests that it was targeted by cybercriminals who tried to get the company to pay a ransom in order to avoid having its data leaked online.</p> <p>The shipping giant said the attackers gained access to its systems using a single compromised user account, which has been disabled following the incident.</p> <p>The company had been expecting the hackers to publish some data on Tuesday, but so far there haven't been any reports of that happening.</p> <p>“As a responsible global business, Clarksons has been working with the police in relation to this incident,” Clarkson said in a statement. “In addition, the data at issue is confidential and lawyers are on standby wherever needed to take all necessary steps to preserve the confidentiality in the information.”</p>
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HEADLINE	11/29 New custom RAT targets east Asia
SOURCE	http://www.securityweek.com/new-custom-rat-hits-targets-east-asia
GIST	<p>A newly discovered custom remote access Trojan (RAT) has been used in attacks on personnel or organizations related to South Korea and the video gaming industry, Palo Alto Networks reveals.</p> <p>Called UBoatRAT, and distributed through Google Drive links, the RAT obtains its command and control (C&C) address from GitHub and uses Microsoft Windows Background Intelligent Transfer Service (BITS) to maintain persistence.</p> <p>The malware was initially spotted in May 2017, when it was a simple HTTP backdoor using a public blog service in Hong Kong and a compromised web server in Japan for C&C. Since then, the developer added various new features to the threat and released updated versions during summer. The analyzed attacks were observed in September.</p> <p>While the exact targets aren't clear at the moment, Palo Alto Networks believes they are related to Korea or the video games industry, due to the fact that Korean-language game titles, Korea-based game company names, and some words used in the video games business were used for delivery.</p> <p>UBoatRAT, the security researchers say, performs malicious activities on the compromised machine only when joining an Active Directory Domain, which means that most home user systems won't be impacted, since they are not part of a domain.</p> <p>The malware is delivered through a ZIP archive hosted on Google Drive and containing a malicious executable file disguised as a folder or a Microsoft Excel spread sheet. The latest variants of the malware masquerade as Microsoft Word document files.</p>
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HEADLINE	11/29 Google warns of Tizi spyware
SOURCE	https://www.scmagazine.com/tizi-spyware-looks-to-steal-whatsapp-skype-and-viber-data/article/710206/
GIST	<p>Google is warning users of a socially engineered spyware named Tizi that that looks to steal sensitive data from popular social media sites including WhatsApp, Skype, and Viber.</p> <p>The spyware is a backdoor family with some rooting capabilities and was used in targeted attacks against devices in African countries including Kenya, Nigeria, and Tanzania although installations have also been</p>

	<p>spotted in the U.S. though in lower numbers, according to a Nov. 27 Google security blog post.</p> <p>The malware authors even went as far as creating a website and social media post that promote the malware advertising it as a workout app. Researchers discovered the malware in September 2017 after spotting an app with rooting capabilities that exploited old vulnerabilities.</p> <p>This app was then traced to other malicious apps in the Tizi family with the oldest dating back to October 2015. Once identified, Google Play Protect was used to disable Tizi-infected apps on affected devices and users were notified.</p>
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HEADLINE	11/29 Study: cryptocurrency mobile apps risks
SOURCE	https://www.scmagazine.com/study-90-percent-of-top-cryptocurrency-apps-carry-security-and-privacy-risks/article/710383/
GIST	<p>A study of 90 cryptocurrency mobile applications available on Google Play found that 90 percent of them contain security vulnerabilities or privacy risks.</p> <p>Web security company High-Tech Bridge conducted the research, using dynamic, static, and interactive testing to search mobile apps for weaknesses, including the top ten mobile flaws listed by the Open Web Application Security Project (OWASP).</p> <p>“We took the most popular cryptocurrency mobile applications from Google Play from the ‘Finance’ category and tested them for security flaws and design weaknesses that can endanger the user, his or her data stored on the device or send/received via the network, or the mobile device itself,” High-Tech Bridge reported in a Nov. 29 blog post.</p> <p>The company divided the apps into three groups of 30: the most popular apps with a maximum of 100,000 installations, the top apps with up to 500,000 installations, and the top apps with more than 500,000 installations.</p> <p>When combined together, 84.6 percent of the apps were determined to contain at least two high-risk vulnerabilities, while 84.3 percent were found with a minimum of three medium-risk bugs.</p> <p>Nearly half of the apps, 47 percent, were deemed vulnerable to man-in-the-middle attacks, while 48 percent were found to contain hardcoded sensitive data such as passwords or API keys. And 46.6 percent were said to feature functionality that can endanger user privacy.</p> <p>Moreover, researchers observed that 80.3 of the apps lacked any kind of hardening or protection on their back-end APIs or web services, while 19.3 percent have back-ends that can be exploited with the POODLE vulnerability.</p> <p>Many of the apps have encryption weaknesses as well: 61 percent send data without any encryption over HTTP, while 37 percent were found to have insufficient encryption altogether.</p> <p>Finally, 100% of the applications don't have any reliable protection against reverse-engineering, the study reveals.</p> <p>The three vulnerabilities from the OWASP that were found most frequently across all 90 cryptocurrency apps were improper platform usage, insecure data storage, and insufficient cryptography.</p>
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HEADLINE	11/29 New Ursnif malware silently targets banks
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SOURCE	https://www.scmagazine.com/new-ursnif-variants-modified-to-launch-malicious-tls-callback-technique-and-redirection-attacks/article/710416/
GIST	<p>New Ursnif variants being tested in the wild are using redirection attacks to target Australian banks and malicious TLS callback techniques to achieve process injection.</p> <p>The malware is based on the same code as the original Ursnif trojan, aka Gozi ISFB, but features modifications to the code injection level and to attack tactics, IBM Executive Security Advisor Limor Kessem said in a Nov. 28 blog post.</p> <p>Kessem also noted the malware appears to be in a testing phase with its authors taking extra steps to keep the malware silent by taking resources offline after each minor test. She said the malware operators opted to develop the redirection scheme, which is implemented through the configuration file and not embedded into the code itself, to target business and corporate banking customers.</p> <p>The majority of the new malware's DNA was adopted from the leaked Gozi ISFB code and the developer kept most parts of the original code injection method. The redirection attack diverts victims to a fake website hosted on an attacker controlled server.</p> <p>“The malware maintains a live connection with the bank's legitimate webpage to ensure that its genuine URL and digital certificate appear in the victim's address bar,” Kessem said in the post. “At that point, the malicious actors can use web injections to steal login credentials, authentication codes and other personally identifiable information (PII) without tripping the bank's fraud detection mechanisms.”</p> <p>The new malware suggests that a new group has joined the Australian cybercrime arena where cybergangs such as TrickBot and Dridex already have a foothold. So far, the malware authors appear to be laying low by keeping distribution limited and targeted as opposed to spreading infections far and wide and attracting unwanted attention.</p>
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HEADLINE	11/29 Amazon claims largest shopping day ever
SOURCE	https://www.newsmax.com/thewire/amazon-cyber-monday-biggest-sales/2017/11/29/id/828898/
GIST	<p>Cyber Monday was Amazon’s largest shopping day ever, topping July’s record-breaking Prime Day, the retail giant announced Wednesday.</p> <p>No specific sales numbers were given in the announcement, but Amazon said its Echo Dot virtual assistant was its biggest seller. Amazon Fire Stick for TV with Alexa Voice Remote and Amazon Fire Tablets were also top sellers, according to TechCrunch.</p> <p>Amazon reported its third-party sellers also had their biggest collective day ever with more than 140 million items sold between Thanksgiving and Cyber Monday.</p> <p>Worldwide sales on the Amazon app jumped 50 percent over last year as more mobile users shopped on their devices this year than ever before, the company said</p> <p>Amazon scored between 45 and 50 percent of all sales on Black Friday, accounting for well over \$1 billion in sales during that time period, Business Insider reported.</p> <p>Stocks for the online retailer are up 50 percent so far this year and were approaching \$1,200 per share Wednesday, pushing CEO and major shareholder Jeff Bezos’ net worth to over \$100 million during the shopping weekend, CNBC reported.</p>
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HEADLINE	11/29 What is bitcoin?
SOURCE	http://abcnews.go.com/Technology/wireStory/ap-explains-bitcoin-digital-currency-51456669
GIST	<p>The price of a single bitcoin has pierced the \$10,000 level and some experts say it could rise further. The world's most popular virtual currency allows people to buy goods and services and exchange money without involving banks, credit card issuers or other third parties.</p> <p>It has a fuzzy history, having been used by hackers to demand ransom and for the purchase of illegal drugs online. But recently it's become more popular with a different crowd: speculative investors.</p> <p>As its price keeps rising, here's a brief look at bitcoin.</p> <hr/> <h4>HOW BITCOINS WORK</h4> <p>Bitcoin is a digital currency that is not tied to a bank or government and allows users to spend money anonymously. The coins are created by users who "mine" them by lending computing power to verify other users' transactions. They receive bitcoins in exchange. The coins also can be bought and sold on exchanges with U.S. dollars and other currencies.</p> <hr/> <h4>HOW MUCH IS IT WORTH?</h4> <p>Bitcoin was trading over \$11,000 Wednesday before dipping to around \$9,800 later in the day, according to coindesk, a website that monitors the price. That's about a tenfold increase from the start of the year, when it was worth under \$1,000.</p> <p>The value of bitcoins can swing sharply, though. A bitcoin's value plunged by 22 percent against the dollar in just three days earlier this month.</p> <hr/> <h4>WHY BITCOINS ARE POPULAR</h4> <p>Bitcoins are basically lines of computer code that are digitally signed each time they travel from one owner to the next. Transactions can be made anonymously, making the currency popular with libertarians as well as tech enthusiasts, speculators — and criminals.</p> <hr/> <h4>IS IT REALLY ANONYMOUS?</h4> <p>Yes, to a point. Transactions and accounts can be traced, but the account owners aren't necessarily known. However, investigators might be able to track down the owners when bitcoins are converted to regular currency.</p> <hr/> <h4>WHO'S USING BITCOIN?</h4> <p>Some businesses have jumped on the bitcoin bandwagon amid a flurry of media coverage. Overstock.com accepts payments in bitcoin, for example. The U.S. exchange operator CME Group said in October that it plans to open a futures market for the currency before the end of the year, if it can get approval from regulators. Still, its popularity is low compared with cash and cards, and many individuals and businesses won't accept bitcoins for payments.</p>

Some high-profile banking executives have spoken against bitcoin, with JPMorgan Chase CEO Jamie Dimon calling it a "fraud."

That said, JPMorgan is starting to use the underlying technology behind bitcoin, known as blockchain, as a potential way for banks to more accurately track trading and assets.

SHOULD I OWN BITCOIN?

There are basically two reasons why an individual would want to buy bitcoin: to use it as a form of payment, or as an investment to store value.

Bitcoin's usage among mainstream merchants is limited. Microsoft accepts it as a form of payment on its Xbox and Windows Store platforms. Overstock.com accepts it. But don't expect to spend it at Wal-Mart or Amazon.

The virtual currency is a matter of debate among investors. Some, like Dimon and billionaire Mark Cuban, are strongly against it while others are enthusiastic about it. Wall Street is starting to build products around it. The more grounded investors see bitcoin as a highly speculative, highly risky investment that a person should not put all their money into, not unlike gold, commodities or traditional currencies.

HOW BITCOINS ARE KEPT SECURE

The bitcoin network works by harnessing individuals' greed for the collective good. A network of tech-savvy users called miners keep the system honest by pouring their computing power into a blockchain, a global running tally of every bitcoin transaction. The blockchain prevents rogues from spending the same bitcoin twice, and the miners are rewarded for their efforts by being gifted with the occasional bitcoin. As long as miners keep the blockchain secure, counterfeiting shouldn't be an issue.

HOW BITCOIN CAME TO BE

It's a mystery. Bitcoin was launched in 2009 by a person or group of people operating under the name Satoshi Nakamoto. Bitcoin was then adopted by a small clutch of enthusiasts. Nakamoto dropped off the map as bitcoin began to attract widespread attention. But proponents say that doesn't matter: The currency obeys its own internal logic.

An Australian entrepreneur last year stepped forward and claimed to be the founder of bitcoin, only to say days later that he did not "have the courage" to publish proof that he is.

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Terror Conditions

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HEADLINE	11/29 Report: drug trade, extremist violence
SOURCE	https://businessmirror.com.ph/report-confirms-link-between-drug-trade-and-extremist-violence-in-south/
GIST	Philippines - Shadow economies, particularly illegal-drugs trade, have financed extremist groups with their terror activities in Mindanao, leading to the explosion of violence in the country's southern island, a study by a peace organization said.

A report, titled “Conflict Alert 2017,” by the International Alert said the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) “saw an explosion of violence” in 2016 in the face of the national elections and the rise of President Duterte, whose administration vowed to eradicate the country’s drug menace.

According to the study, shadow economies have primarily caused the “sharp rise” in violent conflict. “The sharp rise in shadow economy-related incidents coincided with the start of President Duterte’s term of office, specifically after a nationwide and coordinated antidrug campaign was announced in July 2016,” the report said.

“The volume of illegal drug-related violence grew sixfold from the previous year. Bulk of shadow economy-related conflicts took place in Maguindanao, with illegal-drugs cases in this province comprising most of the cases,” the study added.

The rise in violence was unexpected, the report noted, because there was no “all-out war” declared in the ARMM like in 2000. Nonetheless, “there were 4,356 incidents in 2016, or an 89-percent increase” in cases of violence as compared to 2015.

The study added all provinces in the ARMM witnessed a spike in violent incidents, especially in Maguindanao and Basilan.

Aside from this, the report said much of the conflict cases arose from deadly shadow economies, most of which resulting from illegal drugs and illicit firearms. There were 1,498 shadow economies-related cases in 2016, or a 181-percent increase from 534 incident in 2015.

Common crimes were also found frequent, as there were 535 incidents logged in 2016, or a 15-percent hike from the recorded 467 cases in 2015. Common crimes include carjacking, robbery and conflict arising from intoxication, among others.

The study said it is without doubt this caused the conflict in Marawi City, Lanao del Sur, where the Daesh-inspired Maute Group laid siege in May, leading to a five-month fighting between government troops and terrorists.

The fighting has left more than 1,000 dead, and has displaced about 400,000 residents. Although the conflict has ended with the liberation of Marawi City in October, the Islamic town has yet to see daylight, with the government only beginning to roll out its rehabilitation program.

“It is obvious that urban violence will increasingly feature in the conflicts of the future due to some conducive factors, namely, highly dense population, fractious nature of alliances with different groups, ideology and affiliations in the area. Wars waged in urban areas will require new strategies and new alliances,” the report said.

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HEADLINE	11/29 Transit cop faces terrorism trial
SOURCE	https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/public-safety/this-police-officer-is-accused-of-being-an-isis-supporting-neo-nazi-he-says-he-just-has-a-dark-sense-of-humor/2017/11/28/10750026-ad13-11e7-9e58-e6288544af98_story.html?utm_term=.04cd0a3ac961
GIST	Nicholas Young is sure a jury will agree he’s no radical Islamic terrorist. First he might have to convince jurors he’s not a neo-Nazi. “I can’t wait to go to trial,” Young said in a phone interview from a Virginia jail. “Frankly, my case isn’t like any other terrorism-related case that anyone’s ever brought forward.”

He's right. Young is the only U.S. police officer to ever face terrorism charges — a case brought after he was under FBI surveillance during six of the 13 years he patrolled the D.C. Metro system.

The 36-year-old Alexandria native is also a Muslim convert who used to dress up as a Nazi officer in reenactments, according to court documents, and kept a prayer list that included Saddam Hussein and Adolf Hitler. And he's a Ron Paul supporter who used his vacation time to fight in a civil war on the other side of the world.

At a trial set for December in Alexandria, federal prosecutors plan to pursue a novel argument. They will paint Young as a violent-minded believer in an alliance between Islamist and white supremacist terrorism at a time when both are sowing fear across the country.

"It's a unique case; it's a unique defendant," Assistant U.S. Attorney Gordon Kromberg said in court last month. "The defendant was an adherent of both. . . . The common enemy is hatred of the Jews."

Young says his historical enthusiasms and dark sense of humor have been distorted to wrongly portray him as man with long-standing terroristic proclivities. His only crime, he contends, was trying to help a friend who turned out to be an FBI informant. His defense team argues he was entrapped.

"They're really grasping at straws here, trying to take everything I said out of context and take it in the most sinister light," Young said. During an hours-long interview from the Northern Neck Regional Jail in Warsaw, Va., this summer, he discussed his interest in military history, his relationship with the FBI and his two trips to join rebel groups battling Moammar Gaddafi in Libya.

The alleged crime for which he was arrested in the summer of 2016 was nonviolent; he is accused of lying to the FBI about someone he thought had joined the Islamic State and sending that person \$245 in mobile messaging cards. There was no threat to the Metro transit system, officials emphasized at the time.

But Young's words and interests, some of which a judge has ruled could be used against him at trial, were incendiary. He honored a pre-Nazi far-right German group on his license plate, tattooed the logo of an SS unit on his arm and used Hitler's birthday as an online password. Authorities say he joked with informants about wanting a female slave, smuggling weapons into federal court, and torturing and killing FBI agents.

Young was first contacted by the FBI in 2010 as authorities were investigating an acquaintance he knew through college and a local mosque. Court papers say Young told agents he was shocked by the allegations against Zachary Chesser, who was ultimately convicted of trying to join an al-Qaeda-linked terrorist group and threatening the creators of "South Park." (Chesser, the defense says, later indicated he remembered Young as a conservative police officer "not interested in jihad.")

In the years that followed, Young never left the FBI's radar. He said alarming things to an undercover officer, according to court papers, including vowing that anyone who betrayed him would end up at the bottom of a lake and bragging about his stockpile of weapons. The officer introduced him to Amine Mohammed El Khalifi, who would later be convicted of plotting to bomb the Capitol.

While Young's violent comments kept him under scrutiny, for years his behavior never crossed a criminal line. Friends and family say he is no extremist or racist, just unusual. They point out that he had friends and girlfriends of various races and religions.

As a transit officer, Young said he never used his gun, baton or pepper spray. In 2006, he earned a commendation from the D.C. U.S. Attorney's Office for apprehending a robber armed with a large knife without using a weapon.

But Facebook rants about the government and his known history as a Nazi reenactor also made many fellow Metro police officers wary, as did the long beard Young began to grow. Around 2008, officials there took their concerns to the FBI, although the agency did not begin investigating Young for another two years.

If Young was concerned about his co-workers' opinions, he didn't show it. In 2011, he openly used his paid leave to help topple the Libyan government. By his telling, his first trip to the war-torn country was a decision born of impulse and a canceled vacation.

Young said he had made plans to go to a death metal concert in Japan, but the Fukushima nuclear disaster scared him off. With vacation time saved up, he needed something else to do.

Young had been following news of the unfolding civil war in Libya. Moved by the struggle of people there and excited by the idea of a revolution, he decided to join rebel groups. Later that year, he went a second time.

"During my entire time there, I never shot at anyone because I didn't need to; everyone shooting at me was too far away," he said.

He disputes that the men he fought with were extremists, though court papers say that in a text message later on he asked about members of an Islamist militia.

A co-worker warned Young that the FBI was looking into his travel, and he quickly returned home.

A 'sympathetic figure'

When Young arrived back in the United States, he was met at the airport by two FBI agents.

Authorities debated whether they could arrest him then, court documents show, but the Justice Department ultimately declined. Instead, the agents suggested he become an undercover informant.

"They were very fake-friendly," Young said, offering financial and professional help.

He turned them down.

"I would have just been going after people, looking for their weaknesses, so they could tailor something to infiltrate their life," Young recalled.

Now he says the same thing happened to him, with informants repeatedly coming his way. In 2014, a shy 20-something named Mohammad stuck.

"They very cleverly created this character of a sympathetic figure," Young said. "When he was talking about going overseas, the reason was to fight [Syrian President Bashar al-] Assad. . . . It was totally humanitarian. . . . 'He's killing women and children, he's killing civilians, people are being buried alive.' And at no time did he show himself to be particularly religious."

A friend who asked not to be named to keep his family out of the public eye said he also met the informant. "You couldn't read the kid; he was very awkward, very weird — a putz," the friend said. "He pulled at Nick's heartstrings. . . . I told Nick, 'I think this guy is an informant.' And Nick laughed."

The friend said he believes that to get Young to send the gift cards, Mohammad told "him some sob story about needing to reach his family."

Young would not comment on the details of the gift-card allegation.

Authorities in court papers say Mohammad exposed Young's radical inclinations, not his tenderheartedness. In recorded conversations, Young expressed disdain for mosques that preach "jihad of the pen" and argued terrorist attacks were understandable reactions to Western aggression.

"At no time did I ever praise the attacks," Young maintained, "nor ever encourage any attacks against civilians." He once called the Islamic State a "gang of criminals," according to defense filings, and

repeatedly told informants he would not break the law.

To make a case that he was entrapped by the FBI, Young will have to show he was not predisposed to support terrorism before he was first contacted by agents in 2010. That's why the Nazi evidence, which predates his known interest in radical Islam, is important to the government's case.

Young said much of the offensive material found in his home and on his computer was from a college class on European racism. And that, along with Nazi knives and pins, his collection included a Vietnam-era British flak vest, a Scottish breaksword, a Japanese Samurai sword, Russian navy medals and a medieval coat of arms.

The World War II reenactments in which he dressed up as an SS officer were "just good fun," he said. "It's dead politics — it was a political movement that took place 60, 70 years ago."

But Young is unabashedly anti-Israel, agreeing with Ron Paul that American support for the country has only caused more problems in the Middle East. Evidence shows he used an Israeli flag as a doormat and drove with a bumper sticker reading "Boycott the terrorist state of Israel."

Nicholas Smith, a defense attorney for Young, said in court last month that the government was smearing his client in a way that defied "common sense." Smith added, "White supremacy and militant Islam are mutually inconsistent."

Kromberg disagreed, pointing to Young's own apparent interest in the historical connections between Hitler and Muslim leaders. One witness, Kromberg said in court, will testify that after going to a fascist rally in 2000, Young opined, "Don't discount the idea of an alliance with the Muslims to combat the Jews."

Young went to that rally, held by the far-right British National Party, as part of his George Mason class, he says. He earned an A- in "History 387 — Myth of a Master Race."

Young, whose trial is set to begin Dec. 5 on charges of attempted material support for terrorism and obstruction of justice, is confident that such explanations will show he is neither a neo-Nazi nor a Islamist militant.

"I've been rotting away here in jail," he said. "I'm ready to restart my life."

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HEADLINE	11/30 Index: terror deaths down; more affected
SOURCE	http://www.defenceweb.co.za/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=50050:index-shows-terror-deaths-are-down-but-more-countries-affected&catid=49:National%20Security&Itemid=115
GIST	<p>The total number of global deaths from terrorism has declined for the second year in a row, according to a new report, with 22% fewer deaths since 2014, but more countries around the world experienced terror attacks in 2016.</p> <p>The report, entitled Global Terrorism Index (GTI) 2017, published by the Institute for Economics and Peace, notes that there were significant declines in terrorism in four of the five countries most impacted by terrorism in 2016 - Syria, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Nigeria. "Collectively these four countries recorded 33 per cent fewer deaths. The intensity of global terrorism has decreased.</p> <p>"However, it continues to spread to an increasing number of countries. There were 77 countries that experienced at least one death from terrorism in 2016. This is more than at any time in the past 17 years with two out of every three countries experiencing at least one attack," the report stated.</p>

The total number of deaths in 2016 was down 13% compared to 2015 but Islamic State and low-tech attacks remain a concern, the report said. In spite of the drop, deaths from terror attacks were high – 25 673 recorded in 2016. Islamic State was responsible for 9 132 deaths in 2016 – it killed 50% more people in 2016, making it their deadliest year, primarily in Iraq.

Islamic State

ISIL undertook directed attacks in 15 countries in 2016, which is four more than the previous year. ISIL-affiliated groups killed a further 2 417 people and undertook attacks in 11 other countries, although this is fewer than in 2015, the report notes.

The report stated that with the major battlefield defeats of Islamic State in Iraq and Syria, the group has lost territory and revenue. “Many foreign and domestic fighters have deserted and sought to return to their countries of origin... Troubling is the potential for many hardened fighters and leaders to leave Iraq and Syria to join new radical permutations of ISIL or existing ISIL affiliates in other countries. This has contributed to a continuation of last year’s trend of an expansion of ISIL expanded activities into other countries.”

Boko Haram

Boko Haram in Nigeria remained the deadliest terror group in Africa, but the decline of Boko Haram following interventions from the Multinational Joint Task Force has contributed to an 80 per cent fall in the number of deaths caused by the group in 2016 (4 940 in 2015 to 1 832 in 2016).

“Consequently there were substantial improvements in the GTI ranking of Nigeria, Cameroon, Niger and Chad. This coincided with the splintering of the group into three separate groups although Nigeria will likely continue to face challenges as 13 separate groups undertook attacks in 2016. This includes attacks in the Niger Delta, as well as by Fulani extremists in the Middle Belt,” the report said.

In spite of successes, Nigeria is in the top five most impacted countries regarding terrorism, with 1 832 deaths and 466 incidents, compared to 2 102 deaths in Syria, 956 in Pakistan, 4 574 in Afghanistan and 9 765 in Iraq.

Al Shabaab

Terrorism in Somalia continues to be synonymous with al-Shabaab and in 2016, al-Shabaab claimed responsibility for over 92 per cent of deaths from terrorism. However it is likely that they were involved in the remaining 61 deaths where no group claimed responsibility, the Global Terrorism Index reports.

“Al-Shabaab has been responsible for at least 100 deaths from terrorism every year in Somalia since 2008. It has also conducted at least 70 per cent of all terrorist attacks in Somalia since 2000. The persistence of the group contributed to 2016 being the second deadliest year in Somalia since 2000. The number of terrorism deaths increased by 12 per cent despite some success with Operation Indian Ocean. The military operation, which commenced in August 2014, includes forces from the Somali military, African Union, and U.S. military. It has successfully killed many al-Shabaab’s operatives, including the group’s leader, Moktar Ali Zubeyr, who was killed by a US drone strike in September 2014. His replacement Ahmad Umar has reinforced al-Shabaab’s allegiance to al-Qa’ida.”

Libya

Terrorism in Libya is linked to a crisis that began in 2011 following the overthrow of then Prime Minister Muammar Gaddafi. Levels of terrorism in the country have increased steadily since and the fractured country is now ruled by various militia groups, the Global Terrorism Index reports. There were no deaths from terrorism in Libya until 2012 when there were 51 attacks that killed 28 people. Since then the number of deaths annually has exponentially increased and peaked in 2015 with 434 attacks that killed 454 people. By comparison, in 2016 there were 78 fewer deaths than in 2015, which was a reduction of 17 per cent. The number of attacks had an even steeper decline dropping by 30 per cent to 100. Notwithstanding this, the year 2016 was the third deadliest year for terrorism in Libya.

Other key findings

The 2017 report highlights how terrorism remains unevenly spread throughout the world. Central America and the Caribbean continue to be the least affected region. Meanwhile, 94 per cent of all terrorist deaths are located in the Middle-East and North Africa, sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia.

When examining the drivers of terrorism the presence of armed conflict, political violence by governments, political exclusion and group grievances remain critical factors. The analysis finds that 99 per cent of all deaths over the last 17 years have been in countries that are either in conflict or have high levels of political terror. Political terror involves extrajudicial killings, torture and imprisonment without trial.

This shows that the great majority of terrorism is used as a tactic within an armed conflict or against repressive political regimes. It also demonstrates the risks of political crackdowns and counterterrorism actions that can exacerbate existing grievances and the drivers of extremism and terrorism. Both Egypt and Turkey recorded substantially higher levels of terrorism following government crackdowns.

The global economic impact of terrorism in 2016 was slightly lower than 2015 although it still cost the global economy US\$84 billion. While this is a significant number in its own right, it is important to note that the economic impact of terrorism is small compared to other major forms of violence. This amount is only one per cent of the total global economic impact of violence, which reached \$14.3 trillion in 2016.

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HEADLINE	11/29 Suicidal man ensnared in FBI terror sting
SOURCE	http://www.cnn.com/2017/11/29/politics/aby-rayyan-fbi-terror-sting-pizza-man/index.html
GIST	<p>(CNN)Every day was the same for Khalil Abu Rayyan, 21, a depressed pizza delivery man from Dearborn Heights, Michigan. Working for a pizzeria in Detroit, he'd drive late nights on desolate inner city streets, smoking pot hoping to keep boredom at bay. He carried a pistol to protect himself from robbers.</p> <p>Rayyan wished he could meet a girl but his strict Muslim parents didn't allow him to date. He'd been troubled since the age of 12, when he was sent into counseling after telling his teacher he had a nightmare about bringing a gun to school and killing everyone in class. Tormented by bullies, he later got into fights that led to at least three suspensions. When he was 17, he started using marijuana.</p> <p>Now, high school was over and Rayyan had a stable job at his dad's pizza shop but he still felt lonely, bitter and powerless, consumed with revenge fantasies. When he got home from work and logged onto his computer, he sought out shocking content in the darkest reaches of the Internet. He began watching ISIS videos in 2014.</p> <p>He posted images of the terror group's atrocities on social media, a gruesome montage that included the beheadings of Coptic Christians, the burning death of a Jordanian pilot and men being thrown from high-rise rooftops for suspected homosexuality.</p> <p>Rayyan felt insecure around the weightlifters at the gym, but online he portrayed himself as a menacing Islamist warrior. In one picture, he's cloaked in camouflage, holding a pistol and pointing his index finger skyward. It's a gesture that signals support for ISIS. It's a gesture that put the pizza man on the FBI's radar, according to a CNN review of ISIS prosecutions in the US.</p> <p>Late one autumn day in 2015, Rayyan was at his lowest. He'd been pulled over by Detroit police for speeding and was arrested after the officer found a concealed revolver, four plastic bags of marijuana and sleeping pills in his 2001 Buick Century. Rayyan was released on bond but things looked bleak, with a seemingly endless series of court appearances on the horizon. Chronic gloom gave way to suicidal thoughts.</p> <p>He tried to purchase a new pistol and was turned away because of his arrest. That same day, he went to a firing range and rented an AK-47-style rifle as well as an AR-15-style rifle. Background checks are not</p>

required for individuals renting firearms to use exclusively at gun ranges, according to the National Shooting Sports Foundation. Retailers may, however, use their discretion and decline to rent guns to individuals they suspect may be prohibited from owning firearms by law.

Two weeks later, Rayyan tweeted a picture of himself holding a rifle with a caption: "Sahwat hunting." In ISIS vernacular, a sahwat is a person who opposes the terror group. Sahwat refers to the Sunni tribesmen who fought alongside US-led coalition troops during the surge in Iraq.

About a week after Rayyan posted the picture of the rifle, a woman named Ghaada contacted him on Twitter. She described herself as a Pakistani girl in Cleveland whose parents were pressuring her into an arranged marriage. Within days, Rayyan and Ghaada were making wedding plans, even though they had yet to meet in person. She was Rayyan's first girlfriend.

"While i was driving i started to cry because how happy i am to have you," Rayyan wrote.

"Don't cry my love. Please," Ghaada replied.

"Its tears of joy wallahi...I never felt this way before"

"I wish I could give you a great big hug!! You have no idea. I just I could jump through this phone right now"

"I need you"

"You have me from our first tweet"

Rayyan told Ghaada that he and his father planned to visit her in Cleveland so they could plan the wedding. And suddenly, Ghaada was gone. She stopped replying to his messages. She disappeared completely, and Rayyan didn't know why.

Two days after Ghaada vanished, Rayyan got a message from a young woman named Jannah. She said she was a 19-year-old Sunni Muslim.

Unlike Ghaada, Jannah expressed no interest in a conventional romantic relationship. She said she wanted to martyr herself for ISIS, an act of vengeance against the coalition troops and Shia militants in Syria and Iraq who had killed her husband and two of her cousins.

"Its like i knew you all my life," wrote Rayyan. "I will ask you (to marry me) but not now."

"Please don't rush me," wrote Jannah. "I'm depressed and very scared."

Jannah said she dreamed of committing a suicide attack with Rayyan as an expression of undying love.

"I'm not crazy Khalil," Jannah wrote. "It's my iman (faith). It's what I believe in. Jihad is my dream."

"Honestly you need to think about what you want," Rayyan replied. "I cant be in this game."

Rayyan wasn't that into the idea of violent jihad as an expression of spiritual love. He repeatedly told Jannah that she should rethink her plans and marry him instead. They could be happy. They could start a family.

"Dont do anything that will hurt u yourself or other people," Rayyan wrote. He later added, "Depression is real but don't let it run your life."

As Rayyan tried to convince Jannah that martyrdom was a foolish choice, he confessed to her that he had struggled with violent thoughts himself. He said he wanted to kill the cop who had pulled him over for speeding. He claimed, falsely, that there was a sword in his car. He blustered that he once had contemplated shooting up a church near his pizza shop and he didn't intend to spare the women and children.

"Its one of the biggest [churches] in Detroit," Rayyan wrote. "i had it planned out ... i bought a bunch of bullets. I practiced a lot with [the gun]. I practiced reloading and unloading. But my dad searched my car one day and he found everything. He found the gun ... and bulletes (sic) and a mask i was going to wear. ... It wouldve been [a] blood bath but everything happens for a reason ... I dont no (sic) what the future leads. Maybe down the line i can try again."

Weeks of desperate messages to Jannah culminated with a foreboding phone conversation. Rayyan told

her he had purchased a rope to hang himself.

"Only in like a minute or two, it'll be over," said Rayyan. "(My family) is going to be sad for a little while but they'll get over it."

Jannah responded that the only proper way for Muslims to kill themselves is in an act of violent jihad.

"Like I told you before ... when it's for the sake of Allah, when it's jihad, or when it's based on our [creed] or for a cause, that's the only time Allah allows it," said Jannah. "But not to put your life to waste, and just hang yourself like you say you want to do. That's not the right thing to do."

Later in the conversation, Rayyan said he did not want to hurt anybody else. He was interested in taking only his own life.

"If I did it to myself, it would be easier," said Rayyan. "I wouldn't get in trouble. I'm not trying to get arrested again."

Two days after the call, Rayyan got an unexpected visit. Federal agents arrested him for possession of a firearm by an unlawful user of a controlled substance. Rayyan didn't have a new pistol. He didn't have any guns. The firearm in question was the revolver that Detroit police had confiscated months earlier during the traffic stop.

Jannah, the woman who encouraged Rayyan to kill innocent people for Allah, was an undercover FBI employee. Rayyan's first love, Ghaada, was also a fictitious persona. In a court filing, prosecutors declined to reveal what agency or department may or may not have employed the individual who pretended to be Ghaada.

The government had engineered the romantic intrigue to bust Rayyan for ISIS support. The FBI spent nearly a year investigating him. Despite the investment of time and resources, the sting failed to yield any terrorism charges.

Rayyan could have been prosecuted for making a true threat, based on his comments to Jannah about shooting up the church and killing the traffic cop, but ultimately he was indicted solely for two gun offenses: firearm possession by a drug user and lying about his drug use to buy a pistol.

He pleaded guilty and was sentenced last April to five years in prison, a sentence almost three times longer than the advisory range for his offenses. The 33-page memorandum opinion centered on Rayyan's messages to Jannah, with the judge stating that concerns about public safety warranted a longer sentence.

"While it is true that [Rayyan] begged the UCE (undercover employee) not to hurt herself, he also discussed with her his plan to shoot up a church and assassinate a police officer," the judge wrote. "As the government aptly points out, [Rayyan] may claim he made the disturbing statements merely to 'impress' the UCE, but anyone who has been victimized by a terrorist attack would find his ideas far from impressive."

Rayyan's public defenders are fighting the sentence in the 6th US Circuit Court of Appeals. Their most recent filing was a reply brief on November 8. The government has yet to respond.

"Beyond vague representations of a desire to commit a terrorist act, made almost exclusively to an undercover agent posing as a love interest, Rayyan never took any action that could remotely be considered an 'initial step' toward the planning of an attack," his attorneys wrote in their appellant brief.

Over the last four years, ISIS has eclipsed al Qaeda in the top tier of domestic threats. Even as its self-declared caliphate crumbles, ISIS remains a dangerous group that uses social media to radicalize Americans and inspire attacks, according to the 2017 Worldwide Threat Assessment of the US Intelligence Community.

The FBI often identifies American terror suspects by reviewing their activity online, according to a CNN review of ISIS arrests in the United States since 2014. Undercover operations follow to determine whether the target of the probe is seriously planning a domestic attack or to join ISIS overseas.

About two-thirds of 114 ISIS arrests between 2014 and 2017 were the result of FBI stings, with paid informants and/or undercover agents posing as terrorist sympathizers and contacting suspects, according to CNN's review.

Informants and agents don't always play the role of passive listener. They may offer the suspect the opportunity to participate in a fictitious terror plot, replete with fake bombs and real guns, court records show. Fears of radicalized Americans have only intensified efforts at the FBI to identify radicals before they act.

"This approach of proactively identifying criminal activity in its infancy raises unique concerns," Gottfried wrote in the FBI's legal digest. "Can law enforcement officials exploit an individual's mere desire to kill tens of thousands of innocent people and even facilitate the commission of the crime right up until the last second, controlling the unfolding events to ensure that the perpetrators remain unaware they are dealing with undercover agents? Where is the line between an individual's thoughts and desires and criminal activity? The answer to these questions requires an understanding of an important legal principle -- entrapment."

Entrapment is the act of persuading an innocent person to commit a crime. If defense attorneys prove their client was entrapped, the court may dismiss the case. The entrapment defense is the main guardrail to protect the due-process rights of individuals targeted by undercover law enforcement.

There are two elements of the entrapment defense: inducement and a lack of predisposition, according to the Department of Justice. First, the defendant must convince the court that investigators induced him or her to break the law. Inducement can involve making emotional pleas or extraordinary promises "that would blind the ordinary person to his legal duties." Secondly, and more importantly, the defendant must demonstrate a lack of criminal predisposition. Prosecutors fight entrapment claims by probing the defendant's past and reflecting on his or her character, presenting evidence of earlier crimes that might not otherwise be admissible.

No one has successfully challenged a federal terror charge by proving entrapment, according to CNN's review of ISIS cases and a 2014 Human Rights Watch study of post-9/11 terror prosecutions.

The outrageous government conduct defense is another constitutional guardrail. A court can overturn a conviction if the conduct of the undercover officers or informants is so outrageous it is "shocking to the universal sense of justice."

Defense attorneys rarely prevail when they file motions to dismiss cases on the grounds of outrageous misconduct, according to a 2015 study by the Center on Media and Justice at John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York. Examining cases in an 18-month time window, researchers found 126 motions to dismiss cases on the basis of government misconduct. Just three of the 126 motions led to dismissals. Two cases were dismissed because undercover police officers had had sexual contact with women they were investigating for prostitution at massage parlors. The third case was tossed because a prosecutor had added a false confession to the transcript of a police interrogation.

Rayyan's attorneys raised the issue of entrapment in a brief to support a motion for bond. After reviewing a sampling of the messages between Rayyan and the two fictitious women, his lawyers concluded that the government had engaged in a "disturbingly crafted seduction and manipulation of Rayyan through the inducement of love. Most investigative agencies avoid proffering romantic inducement in a sting operation for fear of creating a substantial entrapment claim, after all, 'love' is universally desired."

Prosecutors argued that Rayyan wasn't entrapped because he had bought a gun and lied about his drug use

to obtain the weapon long before the undercover agents entered the picture. The government followed up by asking the court to preclude the entrapment defense. The point was moot, however, as Rayyan pleaded guilty rather than go to trial.

Guilty pleas are good for the government because they conserve court resources. In exchange, judges can make sentencing concessions based on the individual's acceptance of responsibility, according to the American Bar Association.

Even though Rayyan pleaded guilty, however, his sentence was not reduced. Though the maximum sentencing for each count was 10 years, the agreed guidelines for his gun violations called for a total of 15 to 21 months in prison. He got 60 months. It was the middle ground between prosecutors' suggested sentence of 96 months and the defense's 15-month proposal.

The defense cautioned that a lengthy prison sentence could cause Rayyan's mental health to deteriorate, leading him right back into the ISIS vortex.

The judge acknowledged that prison is not an ideal therapeutic environment for individuals struggling with addiction, suicidal thoughts and violent revenge fantasies. He wrote, however, that prison would provide Rayyan with "needed educational or vocational training, medical care, or other correctional treatment in the most effective manner."

Rayyan's attorneys filed an appeal, objecting to the district court's reliance on uncharged conduct to justify a longer prison term. If the government lacked evidence to indict him for ISIS support, his statements to Jannah and online activity shouldn't have factored into his sentencing, his lawyers argued.

Prosecutors responded with a reference to Al Capone, arguing that one of the 20th century's most famous criminal trials hinged on uncharged conduct. They said Rayyan's messages about wanting to shoot up the church must be addressed.

"Sentencing Rayyan based solely on his gun possession -- without considering his terrorism plans -- would have left 'the same feeling of true-but-inadequate as the conclusion that Al Capone did not accurately report his income,'" the prosecutors wrote, referring to the fact that the murderous mobster was ultimately convicted of tax evasion.

Rayyan's attorneys countered that the government didn't have evidence that Rayyan was planning anything.

"To allow the government to effectively back-door a terrorism case where it did not even have sufficient evidence to indict on such charges is an affront to our very notion of justice and due process," Rayyan's attorneys concluded.

While the prosecution and defense have traded motions and briefs about the complexities of the case, Rayyan's been penning apologies to his family. In a letter to his mother, he wrote, "This whole situation was because I wanted to get married."

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HEADLINE	11/29 Gangster jihadists: crime-terror nexus
SOURCE	https://www.fairobserver.com/region/europe/europe-jihad-crime-terrorism-security-world-news-today-00198/
GIST	It seems that studying terrorism and terrorists through the prism of past criminal activities has become particularly fashionable. Western media outlets have been awash with articles that effortlessly make this connection. For instance, in the aftermath of the recent terrorist attack in Manhattan, CNN reported on how the suspected perpetrator had multiple interactions with law enforcement agencies in several states.

Drug smuggling also appears to offer a route into the world of Islamist terrorism. Abdelbaki Es Satty, the alleged ringleader of the Barcelona terror cell, was sentenced to two years imprisonment in 2012 for smuggling hashish between Morocco and Spain. Brahim and Salah Abdeslam, the brothers behind the infamous Brussels-Paris terrorist cell responsible for the deadly November 2015 Paris attacks, were also known to police for drug smuggling. Salah was later arrested and is currently awaiting trial in Belgium, which is scheduled for December.

Making these connections, in turn, reflects the emergence of fresh thinking concerning the crime-terror nexus. Traditionally, analysts have focused on criminal gangs and terrorists groups as distinct organizations, and asked how they coexist and learn from each other. However, a more novel and innovative approach considers how individuals with contrasting criminal records become radicalized thugs and, in the process, a perfect example of gangster jihadists. Given their past, they are certainly less shy about using violence and can use existing criminal networks to finance and coordinate their activities, not to mention getting their hands on weapons with relative ease.

Adding substance to this debate are additional reports warning that a new breed of terrorist is emerging throughout Europe. Petty criminals are increasingly bypassing more classic forms of Islam (and indeed fundamentalism) and moving toward more nihilistic forms of religion and protest. As a result, the so-called Islamic State's European legions have turned classic definitions of terrorism on their heads simply by recruiting and radicalizing young thugs.

The idea that petty criminals are "evolving" into a new breed of gangster jihadists and mass murderers seems compelling. But haven't we seen this before? Take the case of Mokhtar Belmokhtar, the infamous al-Qaeda terrorist who was once known as Mr. Marlboro, a reference to his previous career as a tobacco smuggler. And let's not forget that the plotters behind the 2004 Madrid attacks also had criminal pasts and connections to organized crime.

Such apparent contradictions underpin the fact that nobody really knows for sure whether today's terrorists are really yesterday's criminals, thugs and gangsters. That's what makes our research into this conundrum so vital. There are certainly indications that this is a growing phenomenon in francophone countries. Among the hundreds of French and Belgian foreign fighters and jihadists, an estimated 50% have criminal records varying from petty crime to more serious offenses. The same might also be said of Germany, which has also experienced a recent upsurge in terrorist activity.

However, the scope and scale of the phenomenon inevitably varies from country to country. Italy is a case in point, where there is growing evidence of organizational cooperation between Islamist terrorists and the mafia. It was recently reported, for example, that oil from territories still under Islamic State control had, with mafia assistance, made its way through Italian refineries and into European energy markets. And then there's Northern Ireland, where "old school terrorists" with a long track record of terror activities on both sides of the Loyalist-Republican divide have turned to crime for funding purposes.

There are, as always, exceptions: The now defunct Basque separatist group ETA had a strict policy of not recruiting criminals into its ranks; the Irish Republican Army (IRA), albeit funded through criminal enterprises like fuel or even pig smuggling, would periodically target "criminals" as exercises in public relations. Undoubtedly, however, terrorist organizations seek recruits with criminal skills that allow them forge documents, "improve" fundraising and more.

While fresh thinking on connections between criminal activities and terrorism is welcome, it is clearly still at a nascent stage. By focusing on over a thousand individuals arrested for terrorism offenses in 11 European countries, we seek to determine once and for all if we are really experiencing a new and dangerous phenomenon.

In this respect, the fact that we will only focus on those individuals who have been arrested for terrorist offenses and convicted (rather than people who have faced legal action as a result of traveling to Syria, for example), will give our research a more representative sample. Our two-year search for bona fide gangster jihadists is still in its inception phase, and we are hundreds of profiles away from drawing a cast-iron

	conclusion. For now, we might as well surmise that there is no gangster jihad, but there are some very successful gangster jihadists.
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HEADLINE	11/29 UK police disrupt 'significant terror plot'
SOURCE	http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/11/29/counter-terrorism-arrests-disrupt-significant-islamist-plot/
GIST	<p>Counter terrorism police are believed have disrupted a well advanced Islamist terror plot to attack UK targets after arresting two young men.</p> <p>The plotters thought to have been inspired by Islamic State group propaganda had been planning to carry out attacks in London and Birmingham.</p> <p>The arrested pair, aged 20 and 21, were on Wednesday night being held "on suspicion of being involved in the commission, preparation and instigation of terrorism", a Scotland Yard statement said.</p> <p>Counter terrorism sources said the arrests were linked to "UK-based activity", but the police investigation is thought to be in its early stages and detectives are expected to question the men for some time yet.</p> <p>One of the unnamed suspects was seized in North London on Tuesday afternoon and the other in south-east Birmingham. Police are searching addresses in both cities.</p> <p>The arrests come as MI5 and counter terrorism police have said the country is now facing an intense threat from violent Islamist extremists who are sometimes devising plots in a matter of days.</p> <p>The collapse of the Islamic State group's so-called caliphate has seen would-be jihadists advised to stay at home and carry out attacks rather than journey to the Middle East.</p> <p>Andrew Parker, the director general of the Security Service, last month said the "dramatic upshift" in Islamist threats in 2017 meant there "is more terrorist activity coming at us more quickly and it can be harder to detect".</p> <p>He said MI5 and the police had stopped 20 plots in the past four years, including seven since March, and would "continue to find and stop most attacks". The Telegraph understands at least one other plot has been disrupted since his comments.</p> <p>The latest alleged plot is believed to be another example of would be jihadists being inspired by Islamic State online propaganda.</p>
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HEADLINE	11/30 EU official: ISIS still remains a threat
SOURCE	http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/eu-official-remains-threat-loss-caliphate-51478875
GIST	<p>The recent loss of its so-called "caliphate" will cripple the Islamic State group but the terror threat posed by the extremists is not over yet, the European Union's counter-terrorism coordinator said.</p> <p>Gilles de Kerchove told The Associated Press in an interview that there hasn't been a massive flow of IS fighters returning to Europe as many had feared following the group's loss of territory in Syria and Iraq, adding that the intelligence services describe the fighters' return as "more a trickle than a flow."</p> <p>However, people inspired by the ideology remain a threat and the group is likely to entrench in other parts of world with "weak governance" such as Libya or Afghanistan, the EU official said.</p>

	<p>De Kerchove was in Turkey for talks on enhancing cooperation against terrorism. He spoke with the AP on Tuesday but his comments were under an embargo set by the EU's office in Ankara until Thursday.</p> <p>IS has been driven from more than 96 percent of the large parts of Iraq and Syria it once held, crushing its goal of establishing a "caliphate" in the region.</p> <p>Raqqa, the group's de-facto capital in Syria, fell to Kurdish-led forces on Oct. 17, four months after operations to reclaim it began. The city was the group's hub of operations, and its capture was a major symbolic blow.</p> <p>"With no physical 'caliphate' anymore, it will be much more difficult for the organization to repeat what they have done and attract so many people," de Kerchove said. "That does not mean that the game is over. We still have to address the ideology. More and more, we see in Europe (people) inspired by terrorism, home-grown terrorism."</p> <p>He said Islamic State "will probably develop in one way or the other in some parts where you have weak governance. Either more weak governance like in Libya or Afghanistan or where it's more difficult to police, like in the Sinai."</p>
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HEADLINE	11/30 Pakistan: US strike kills 3 militants
SOURCE	http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/pakistan-us-missiles-kill-militants-afghan-border-51478957?
GIST	<p>Pakistani intelligence officials say a suspected U.S. drone strike has hit a militant compound near the Afghan border, killing three militants.</p> <p>Two officials say the unmanned drone fired two missiles at the Ghazni compound of the militant Haqqani network's commander Abdur Rasheed early in the morning on Thursday. The network is affiliated with the Taliban.</p> <p>They said it's unclear if Rasheed was at the compound located on the Pesho Ghar mountain in the Kurram tribal region's Ghuzgari area. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they are not authorized to speak to the media.</p> <p>Pakistan opposes drone strikes, saying they violate its sovereignty and claims it has eradicated militant sanctuaries there. The drone strikes, however, effectively target hideouts of militants who operate on both sides of the porous border.</p>
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HEADLINE	11/30 Afghan official: Taliban kill 4 police
SOURCE	http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/afghan-official-taliban-kill-policemen-countrys-west-51479605?
GIST	<p>An Afghan official says a Taliban attack has killed four policemen in western Farah province.</p> <p>Mohammad Naser Mehri, spokesman for the provincial governor, said the Taliban attack early in the morning on Thursday targeted a police vehicle in the district of Pushti Road. There was no immediate comment or claim of responsibility from the insurgent group.</p> <p>Mehri says the police were patrolling the district when Taliban fighters ambushed and opened fire on the police vehicle.</p> <p>The Taliban have stepped up attacks on Afghan soldiers and security forces but scores of civilians also die</p>

	in the assaults by the insurgents.
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HEADLINE	11/29 US: no civilians killed in August raid
SOURCE	http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/us-military-civilians-killed-august-raid-somalia-51464842?
GIST	<p>A U.S. military investigation of a deadly August raid in Somalia is contradicting Somali officials' statements that several civilians, including children, were killed.</p> <p>The U.S.-supported raid by Somali forces on Aug. 25 in Bariire village caused an uproar, with bloodied bodies laid out in the capital, Mogadishu, for display. Somalia's army chief said civilians were killed, and the deputy governor of Lower Shabelle said three children were among the 10 dead.</p> <p>The U.S. Africa Command statement released Wednesday evening said a "thorough assessment" of the raid by U.S. Special Operations Command Africa showed that "the only casualties were those of armed enemy combatants."</p> <p>There was no immediate response from Somali officials, who had said they would investigate the raid themselves, noting that it appeared more than one security operation had taken place.</p> <p>The August raid targeted a local farm, and the deputy governor, Ali Nur Mohamed, told reporters that the dead, including the children aged 8 to 10 and a woman, were killed "one by one mercilessly." Bodies of civilians, especially those killed in misdirected attacks, often are taken from remote areas to Mogadishu to draw media attention.</p>
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Suspicious, Unusual

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HEADLINE	11/29 Hanford workers report strange 'odors'
SOURCE	http://mynorthwest.com/831118/workers-report-smelling-odors-at-nuclear-reservation/
GIST	<p>HANFORD, Wash. (AP) — Employees at a Washington nuclear reservation reported smelling strange odors.</p> <p>The Tri-City Herald reports eight workers reported the odors Tuesday at AW Tank Farms in Hanford, with three of the workers receiving medical evaluations before being cleared to return to work. The other five reported smelling odors but declined medical evaluations.</p> <p>The workers were preparing an empty storage box to receive containerized tank waste samples when they reported smelling a glue-like odor.</p> <p>Washington River Protection Solutions says the workers were told to leave the building. Access to the area was then restricted.</p> <p>Technicians used instruments to examine the area, but did not detect anything above background levels.</p> <p>The contractor says other air samples tested in a lab came back as "below action levels." Access to the building was then restored.</p>
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HEADLINE	11/29 Metal hip replacement 'ticking time bomb'
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SOURCE	http://www.kiro7.com/news/local/hip-replacement-ticking-time-bomb-for-thousands-of-washington-patients/65592741
GIST	<p>If the Biomet Magnum Metal-on-Metal Hip Replacement System was good enough for Olympic champion gymnast Mary Lou Retton, it should have been good enough for 62-year-old Ellen Pardee, whose life was very active until she started having hip pain in 2010.</p> <p>“Rowing, boating, hiking, going out and taking photos, none of which I could do,” Pardee said, because of the pain she started feeling in her left hip.</p> <p>However, six months after surgery – during which the Biomet Magnum was implanted to replace her left hip joint --- Pardee’s pain was even worse, she told KIRO 7 on Wednesday.</p> <p>According to the Bothell woman, it took more than seven years for her doctors to pinpoint that it was most likely the metal on metal Magnum replacement causing the problems, including excruciating pain and heavy metal poisoning.</p> <p>“The loss of balance was terrible. I felt nauseous all the time,” Pardee said.</p> <p>Pardee's doctor opened her up again two weeks later, to examine the hip replacement site and “discovered that I had a huge cyst and a bunch of soft tissue damage caused by the metal on metal hip my doctor had raved about back in 2010,” she said.</p> <p>According to Danielle Strait of Maglio, Christopher & Toale P.A., metal on metal hip replacements have not been implanted in patients since 2014 because of issues similar to those experienced by Pardee, whom she now represents legally. “There are metal on metal hips that are implanted in people, and we believe it could be thousands in the state of Washington, that we consider to be ticking time-bombs.”</p> <p>Strait said, patients who may have had a hip replaced by a Biomet Magnum might not even know it, because there has been no recall issued.</p> <p>“I think there’s still the idea that these implants can work for people,” Strait told KIRO 7, “and some of it is, people just don’t know if the problems that they’re having with their hips are related to these or not.”</p> <p>Earlier this week, Strait filed a complaint for personal injury against Indiana-based Zimmer Biomet on behalf of Pardee and two other Washington State patients --- and possibly anyone else who may have been impacted.</p> <p>“We’re hoping those people come forward,” Strait said.</p> <p>Meanwhile, in August, Pardee's metal on metal Magnum hip was replaced by one lined with plastic. She's still recovering but is hopeful she'll be back to normal in a few months.</p>
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HEADLINE	11/30 AG: Ohio Cops for Kids bilked donors
SOURCE	http://www.foxnews.com/us/2017/11/30/ohios-cops-for-kids-charity-bilked-donors-out-4-2m-state-ag-says.html
GIST	<p>Cops for Kids, a charity that purports to help families or children who are victims of crimes, allegedly defrauded millions of dollars in donations, according to a lawsuit filed Wednesday by the Ohio state Attorney General.</p> <p>The lawsuit claims that between 2005 and 2015 the charity spent less than 2 percent of the \$4.2 million it raised on actual charitable giving, the Cleveland Plain Dealer reported.</p> <p>Meanwhile, the organization allegedly paid founders Thomas Duffy and Charles Hitzel a combined</p>

	<p>\$614,000, and Telcom Enterprises of Ohio – the firm used for soliciting the donations -- \$3.3 million, the paper reported.</p> <p>Only \$73,840 went toward the actual purpose of the charity, which solicited thousands of Ohio residents and misled donors.</p> <p>And despite the name Cops for Kids, the group has no formal ties to any police organization, the paper reported.</p> <p>The lawsuit aims at preventing the two organizers from starting or working at another nonprofit charity and disbanding Cops for Kids, as well as restitution and fines, the paper reported.</p>
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HEADLINE	11/29 US, China hold low-key military talks
SOURCE	http://www.foxnews.com/us/2017/11/30/us-china-hold-low-key-military-talks-amid-nkorea-tensions.html
GIST	<p>WASHINGTON – U.S. and Chinese generals engaged in an unusual set of security talks on Wednesday, just hours after North Korea's most powerful missile test yet, focused on how the mighty American and Chinese militaries might communicate in a crisis.</p> <p>As President Donald Trump greeted the North's launching of another intercontinental ballistic missile with familiar demands for China to get tougher with its ally, the low-profile and unpublicized meeting at the National Defense University in Washington was taking place amid signs China is more willing at this time to discuss how the two world powers would manage an even worse emergency on the divided Korean Peninsula.</p> <p>The Pentagon stressed the talks were scheduled long before North Korea's surprise missile launch in the early hours Wednesday in Asia. Officials insisted the dialogue wasn't centered on North Korea or anything else in particular.</p> <p>Objectives for Wednesday's military consultations appeared modest.</p> <p>"The engagement will serve as an opportunity to discuss how to manage crises, prevent miscalculations, and reduce the risk of misunderstanding," the office of Gen. Joseph Dunford, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told The Associated Press in a statement.</p> <p>The U.S. and China agreed on the talks when Dunford met with his Chinese counterpart in Beijing in August. While in China, Dunford observed a Chinese military drill at Shenyang, about 120 miles from the North Korean border — an unusual stop for an official visit.</p> <p>Wednesday's talks were being led by Lt. Gen. Richard Clarke, the Joint Chiefs' planning director, and Maj. Gen. Shao Yuanming, a senior Chinese military official. They're especially noteworthy given the deep strategic mistrust between the U.S. and China, and Beijing's increasing challenge to America's post-World War II dominance in the Asia-Pacific.</p> <p>China has been more explicit in saying what the talks are about.</p> <p>Yao Yunzhu, a retired general who specializes in U.S.-Chinese defense relations at China's Academy of Military Science, said this summer they should include Northeast Asia, where North Korea is located. She also mentioned the Taiwan Strait and the South China Sea.</p> <p>Yun Sun, an expert on Chinese foreign policy at the Stimson Center think tank, said Dunford raised North Korean contingencies at the August meeting and the two sides discussed the potential danger of a conflict or a nuclear disaster. U.S. officials wouldn't confirm that account. Sun said she anticipated those talks</p>

	would continue Wednesday.
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HEADLINE	11/29 Privacy experts warn on DNA home tests
SOURCE	https://www.nbcnews.com/health/health-news/what-you-re-giving-away-those-home-dna-tests-n824776
GIST	<p>It sounds like such a fun holiday gift idea: a DNA test that can tell your sister-in-law whether she really has Native American ancestors, or one that promises to craft your friend a perfect diet based on his genes.</p> <p>Home DNA tests are likely a big seller for the next few weeks, but privacy experts say consumers should be cautious, and New York Sen. Chuck Schumer said this past weekend that he was asking the Federal Trade Commission to "take a serious look at this relatively new kind of service and ensure that these companies can have clear, fair privacy policies."</p> <p>The problem is that when you send away a tube of your spit or a cheek swab, you are giving away your full genetic code. Every cell on that cheek swab carries the full sequence of your DNA, including the mutation pattern that makes it uniquely yours.</p> <p>"It's the most valuable thing you own," says Peter Pitts of the Center for Medicine in the Public Interest, a nonprofit advocacy group.</p> <p>Legitimate genetic testing companies promise not to sell or give this data away without consent.</p> <p>"We respect and agree with Sen. Schumer's concern for customer privacy and believe any regulation should match the commitments we make to our customers," Ancestry.com said in a statement.</p> <p>"We do not sell your data to third parties or share it with researchers without your consent."</p> <p>But usually, a broad consent is part of the initial contract a consumer makes with a company when he or she submits the test for analysis.</p> <p>"Obviously, there is a lot of fine print," said Mary Freivogel, president of the National Society of Genetic Counselors. "Any time you do anything and you have a big, long agreement in front of you, I think so many of us are accustomed to just clicking 'agree'."</p> <p>Even if you do read the whole agreement, which can go on for pages, you may not understand what you're giving the company permission to do, said Hank Greely, director of the Center for Law and the Biosciences at Stanford School of Medicine.</p> <p>"There is no legal limit on what they could do other than the agreement that you enter into with them which they may or may not choose to follow," Greely added. "If they don't follow it, the chance you would ever find out is very, very low."</p> <p>And it really doesn't matter if your sample is earmarked for use in tracing Neanderthal ancestors or just looking for rare disease genes. It doesn't matter if the sample is destroyed. The code itself is digitized and can be shared countless times and in countless ways.</p> <p>"Even if you just send your DNA in for genealogical work, what those companies typically run is a SNP test for a couple of hundred markers," Greely said. A SNP (pronounced "snip") is a single nucleotide polymorphism, a single-letter difference in the genetic code that may cause disease or that may lead back to your great-great grandfather.</p> <p>It may mean nothing, but it may contain valuable information, Greely said.</p>

“That analysis shows things about your health that the company never told you because that is not the business they are in,” he said. “They are in the genealogy business.”

So here’s some potentially devastating information about your health and it’s in someone else’s hands, Greely said.

“For a non-trivial percentage of us, there really are scary things in our genomes,” he said.

That information may or may not be useful to someone else.

A 2008 law called the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act forbids discrimination based on genetic information and that would include firing someone because they have a gene that predisposes to an expensive disease. But it would also be hard to prove an employer did that, said Pitts.

Right now, it’s hard to identify anyone based strictly on their DNA sequence. But as people enter more and more information into databases, it could become easier. 23andme has an extensive questionnaire about health, lifestyle habits and preferences and while it allows customers to skip any questions they choose to, they can be contributing a lot of personal detail with their DNA sample.

In 2013, a team at the Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research said they figured out the identities of 50 people from DNA donated anonymously for scientific study using easily available internet databases.

That’s why companies do their best to strip away personal information from the genetic codes, but anyone who has been the victim of credit card fraud or identity theft know that anonymizing data is far from foolproof.

“You cannot promise people absolute confidentiality,” Greely said. “The other side of it is that it’s possible that somebody will hack into a company database that does contain your information. My financial information has been hacked three times in two years. All that stuff is out there.”

Most of the sharing is for legitimate, scientific research and many people may want to help in that endeavor.

People may not want to help out a company trying to make a profit off their DNA, and may not associate “scientific research” with enriching a corporate bottom line.

And people may think they are ready to get some interesting news about their disease risks, until they actually get it.

“It has emotional consequences that go along with it, and family dynamic consequences,” said Freivogel.

“If you have a positive result, you may need to share that with your five sisters. And are you prepared to do that?”

People getting genetic testing at a clinic will almost certainly be offered counseling, but not so for home tests.

“Ideally we need to talk to people before they make the decision about genetic testing,” Freivogel said.

“You need experts to help people understand how much stock to put in that DNA result.”

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HEADLINE 11/29 Rising seas threaten historical sites

SOURCE <https://www.usatoday.com/story/tech/science/environment/2017/11/29/swamped-rising-seas-leave->

[thousands-historical-sites-southeast-underwater/907205001/](https://www.thousands-historical-sites-southeast-underwater/907205001/)

GIST

Jamestown? Swamped. Cape Canaveral? Underwater. Charleston, S.C.? Gone.

Iconic locations from American history — from Jamestown to Cape Canaveral and Charleston to Cape Hatteras — could be underwater by the end of the century due to sea-level rise from global warming, according to a study published Wednesday.

Overall, the study predicts that vast numbers of archaeological and historic sites, cemeteries and landscapes on the Atlantic and Gulf coasts of the southeastern USA will be lost to the sea by 2100, if projected sea-level rise trends continue.

"It is clear that small increases in sea level will have great consequences on the coastal archaeological record," said study lead author David Anderson of the University of Tennessee. "Sea-level rise will result in the loss of much of the record of human habitation of the coastal margin in the Southeast within the next one to two centuries."

Researchers predict over 13,000 archaeological sites in the Southeast alone may be submerged with a 3-foot rise in sea level, including over 1,000 listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Some 4,000 would be lost in Florida alone.

In addition to the loss of large numbers of archaeological sites where indigenous inhabitants, early settlers, and enslaved and later freed peoples once lived, many iconic places in American history such as Charleston, Jamestown, the Kennedy Space Center, St. Augustine, and even the recently relocated Cape Hatteras Lighthouse are all threatened by comparatively minor increases in sea level, the study said.

Eventually, the iconic memorials of Washington, D.C. could be at risk.

"The loss of archaeological sites will equate to a drowning of libraries full of information about over 15,000 years of human lives, including patterns of social and cultural change, artwork, demography, health, religion, and (a bitter irony) lessons about past human experiences with climate change," said study co-author Joshua J. Wells of Indiana University at South Bend.

Sea-level rise, one of the most clear-cut signals of global warming, has risen nearly 8 inches worldwide since 1880 but, unlike water in a bathtub, it doesn't rise evenly.

In the past 100 years, it has climbed about a foot or more in some U.S. cities because of ocean currents and land subsidence — 11 inches in New York and Boston, 12 in Charleston, 16 in Atlantic City, 18 in Norfolk and 25 in Galveston, Texas, according to a USA TODAY analysis of tide gauge data collected by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

Here's why: As the Earth's temperature warms, so do the seas. Heat-trapping greenhouse gases cause more land ice — glaciers and ice sheets — to melt and water to expand. Warmer water simply takes up more room than cooler water.

Scientists say global warming will be the primary cause of future sea-level rise. Their greatest uncertainty is how quickly the massive West Antarctic ice sheet will melt.

Scientists don't know exactly how high the waters will climb. Depending on fossil fuel emissions, they project global sea level will rise about 1 foot to slightly more than 3 feet by 2100, according to the Fifth Assessment Report by the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

NOAA has projected sea level could rise higher, as much as 6½ feet, by century's end.

To estimate the impact of sea-level rise on archaeological sites, the authors of the study looked at data from the Digital Index of North American Archaeology, a collection of archaeological and historical data sets. The area studied spanned from Maryland to the Texas-Louisiana border.

	<p>In addition to the archaeological sites, "the displacement of millions of people due to rising seas will cause additional impacts where these populations resettle," the study said. With a 3-foot sea-level rise, some 3 million people will be displaced across the Southeast.</p> <p>"The tragic cost of sea level rise will be felt most in the displacement and suffering of millions of people rather than the loss of any one place," said Wells.</p> <p>It's not just an issue in the U.S.: The worldwide historic preservation community has begun to express serious concerns over the threat of global climate change to the archaeological and historic record around the globe, according to the study.</p>
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HEADLINE	11/29 Experts: flu season may be bad this year
SOURCE	http://abcnews.go.com/Health/years-flu-season-bad-medical-experts-warn/story?id=51473025&cid=clicksource_26_2_hero_headlines_headlines_hed
GIST	<p>The upcoming flu season may be a particularly severe one in the U.S., some medical experts warned today, citing preliminary data from the Southern Hemisphere's waning flu season.</p> <p>The flu vaccine used this year in Australia -- which has the same composition as the vaccine used in the U.S. -- was only 10 percent effective, according to a preliminary estimate, at preventing the strain of the virus that predominately circulated during the country's flu season, experts wrote in a perspective published today in the New England Journal of Medicine.</p> <p>"However imperfect, though, current influenza vaccines remain a valuable public health tool, and it is always better to get vaccinated than not to get vaccinated," the same international team of medical experts emphasized, however, in the perspective.</p> <p>The researchers suggested that the especially harsh flu season that the Southern Hemisphere sustained during its winter months this year may be an indication of what's to come as flu season gets underway in the Northern Hemisphere.</p> <p>"Reports from Australia have caused mounting concern, with record-high numbers of laboratory-confirmed influenza notifications and outbreaks and higher-than-average numbers of hospitalizations and deaths," the medical professionals wrote.</p> <p>One reason for the severe flu season may be that this year's currently made vaccine may have mismatched to the flu strains that ended up circulating, making the vaccinations ineffective at preventing the outbreak. Researchers said this points to a potential inherent flaw in the way flu vaccines are made.</p> <p>Dr. Anthony Fauci, the director of the National Institutes of Health's National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, co-authored the perspective, along with other researchers from the NIAID and experts at the World Health Organization Collaborating Centre for Reference and Research on Influenza in Melbourne, Australia.</p>
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HEADLINE	11/30 Tibetan monk sets self on fire in protest
SOURCE	http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/report-tibetan-monks-sets-fire-western-china-51477876?
GIST	A monitoring group says a Tibetan monk has set himself on fire in western China in an apparent protest against Chinese rule in the traditionally Tibetan region.

	<p>Citing an unidentified friend, London-based Free Tibet said 63-year-old Tenga set himself alight on Sunday in Sichuan province's Kardze county while shouting "We want freedom in Tibet."</p> <p>It says security forces put out the flames and carried Tenga away. It wasn't clear whether he survived. Nearly 150 Tibetans have immolated themselves since 2009, including monks and laypeople, in protest against Chinese policies.</p> <p>The self-immolation was the first among the Tibetan Buddhist community in the region since April.</p> <p>Police, government and religious affairs bureau officials in the region either said they were unaware of the situation or did not answer their phones.</p>
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HEADLINE	11/29 Online gamers heard gunshots in killing
SOURCE	http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/online-video-gamers-heard-gunshots-kansas-killings-51463197?
GIST	<p>A Houston man playing video games in an online group said he and others heard the gunshots that hundreds of miles away killed a Kansas man and his mother this past weekend.</p> <p>Three to four players, including one from Canada, were playing online Saturday night when one of them and his mother were shot, The Wichita Eagle reported. The players could hear, but not see, each other.</p> <p>Among the players that evening was 23-year-old Cody Ha, who lived with his 62-year-old mother, Huong Pham, in Wichita. Also online that night from Houston was Ha's friend Ashley Martinez. Around 10 p.m., Martinez said he and the other players heard popping noises so loud it hurt his ears under the headphones — at least two shots from what sounded like a handgun.</p> <p>Martinez said the players thought they might be overreacting, "because you don't expect to hear that." When they called Ha's number, they could hear it ringing.</p> <p>They also listened as Ha's sister she found the bodies: "She was panicking ... she was on the phone. She said she didn't want to touch them. She said she didn't feel safe."</p> <p>Police have said that Ha's sister returned home that evening and found her brother and mother covered in blood and unconscious.</p> <p>The next morning Martinez and a friend had an online chat with a Wichita police detective: "We told him exactly what we heard on our end," Martinez said.</p> <p>Authorities have not disclosed a motive and are seeking tips to help solve the case.</p>
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HEADLINE	11/29 'Super eruption' closer than thought?
SOURCE	http://www.mirror.co.uk/science/cataclysmic-super-eruption-much-closer-11606538
GIST	<p>We may be much nearer to a cataclysmic volcanic 'super-eruption' than previously thought, warns new research.</p> <p>That is the conclusion of Bristol University scientists after analysing a database of geological records dated within the last 100,000 years.</p> <p>They discovered the average time between so-called volcanic super-eruptions is actually much less than previously understood.</p>

Volcanoes and 'bolides' - such as asteroids - are geohazards powerful enough to be destructive on a global scale.

One recent assessment described them as capable of returning humanity to a 'pre-civilisation' state.

The largest explosive eruptions are termed 'super-eruptions', and produce in excess of 1,000 gigatons of erupted mass - enough to blanket an entire continent with volcanic ash, and change global weather patterns for decades.

Researchers at Bristol's Schools of Earth Sciences and Mathematics estimated how often the largest explosive eruptions happen.

Their analysis indicates that the average time between super-eruptions is only slightly longer than the age of our civilisation - dating from the Agricultural Revolution 12,000 years ago.

Professor Jonathan Rougier said: "The previous estimate, made in 2004, was that super-eruptions occurred on average every 45 to 714 thousand years, comfortably longer than our civilisation.

"But in our paper just published, we re-estimate this range as 5.2 to 48 thousand years, with a best guess value of 17 thousand years."

According to geological records, the two most recent super-eruptions were between 20 and 30 thousand years ago.

Prof Rougier added: "On balance, we have been slightly lucky not to experience any super-eruptions since then.

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Crime, Criminals

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HEADLINE	11/29 Victim: Seattle property crime 'shocking'
SOURCE	http://q13fox.com/2017/11/29/west-seattle-man-city-is-not-giving-property-crime-the-attention-it-deserves/
GIST	<p>SEATTLE – Property crime is something many of us have dealt with across Western Washington. So far this year, there have been 31,588 reports of property crime in Seattle.</p> <p>In 2016, Seattle was ranked 6th highest for property crime among 50 of the largest U.S. cities.</p> <p>Jeffrey Paul is new to Seattle and he says he's been victimized nine times in a five-month period.</p> <p>"You hear all these things about what a great place to live," Paul said. But his experience dealing with property crime at his West Seattle townhouse he calls "shocking."</p> <p>"I haven't experienced anything like this and I've lived in LA, Long Beach, Nashville, Waco, TX all these cities never have I ever had these daily property thefts," Paul said.</p> <p>He says he feels unsafe and is concerned for his wife's safety.</p> <p>So far he's obtained quite a collection of surveillance videos of thieves breaking into his car and stealing multiple packages from his front porch.</p> <p>"Four times my car has been broken into in the last 5 months my neighbor's cars been broken into," Paul said.</p>

He says he never leaves anything inside his car, but in one case back in October his fiancé at the time left a priceless pair of shoes in the trunk.

“The shoes she was going to wear in her wedding is the shoe her mother wore in her wedding,” Paul said.

Their belongings were gone along with Paul’s patience with the city and Seattle Police.

“The first time, I was on hold for over an hour. The next two times I was told an officer would come they never came,” Paul said.

An officer did show up after the 4th car break-in. Paul says that officer was caring and helpful.

The captain of the Southwest precinct also reached out to him saying extra patrols are happening in the area. SPD told Q13 News on Wednesday that additional officers will be working overtime to address the concerns brought up. SPD also offered Paul a safety assessment of his townhome.

“I think we can do better with our existing resources,” Paul said.

He wants a citywide emphasis on property crime and not just on issues like homelessness and affordability.

“My patience ended 3 car break-ins ago I am looking for help not just for me as a current resident but for future residents,” Paul said.

Q13 News reached out to the mayor’s office and city council on their thoughts on property crime. They did not provide a response as of Wednesday night.

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HEADLINE	11/29 Germany frees far-right ‘refugee’ soldier
SOURCE	http://www.dw.com/en/germanys-top-court-frees-far-right-refugee-soldier-accused-of-planning-terrorist-attack/a-41587390
GIST	<p>Germany's highest criminal court on Wednesday released Franco A., a lieutenant in the armed forces suspected of planning a terrorist attack, citing insufficient evidence to charge the military officer.</p> <p>"The results so far of the investigation do not substantiate the strong suspicion that a serious act threatening the state was in preparation," argued the Karlsruhe-based Federal Court of Justice (Germany's highest criminal court in most instances) in its decision.</p> <p>Federal prosecutors accused Franco A. of living a double life as an army officer with far-right extremist sentiments and a refugee receiving government benefits.</p> <p>The 28-year-old allegedly took on the identity of a Syrian refugee, planning to commit terrorist attacks targeting public figures and blame the incidents on asylum seekers. He is suspected of stealing assault rifles from the German military and stashing weapons at an airport in Vienna, Austria.</p> <p>The case of Franco A. drew widespread attention across Germany after information surfaced that he stored Nazi paraphernalia in his barracks, including an assault rifle case with a swastika carved into it.</p> <p>Leaders of the German armed forces have come under increased pressure from the government to deal with members of far-right movements among its ranks.</p> <p>Authorities have launched investigations into right-wing sentiment among soldiers, with prosecutors in the German city of Tübingen investigating allegations of right-wing extremist behavior among Germany's</p>

	<p>Special Force Commando, the nation's elite military troops.</p> <p>According to Germany's military Counterintelligence Service, about 200 Bundeswehr soldiers have been classified as right-wing extremists since 2008.</p> <p>German lawmakers have called for stringent measures to combat case of extremism in the Bundeswehr, with Left Party domestic policy spokeswoman Ulla Jelpke saying "there can be no pardon for neo-Nazis."</p> <p>"Armed right-wing extremists are ticking time-bombs," said Jelpke in September. "Even on reasonable suspicion, the persons concerned should no longer have access to weapons until the allegations have been clarified."</p>
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HEADLINE	11/29 Grays Harbor: \$80M illegal pot seized
SOURCE	http://komonews.com/news/local/80000000-worth-of-pot-seized-chinese-nationals-suspected-in-illegal-grow-operations
GIST	<p>GRAYS HARBOR COUNTY, Wash. - Detectives said 32,449 marijuana plants with an estimated value of \$80,000,000 were seized during a multi-county raid in Washington State on Tuesday that uncovered a huge illegal pot-growing operation involving Chinese Nationals.</p> <p>According to the Grays Harbor County Drug Task Force, a total of 50 search warrants were carried out including 38 in Grays Harbor County, eight in King County and four in Thurston County.</p> <p>Detectives said 44 people were arrested during the operation. They also seized \$400,000 worth of cash and gold along with more than two dozen vehicles, multiple guns and other items of value.</p>
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HEADLINE	11/29 Yakima: officer hits suspect w/car
SOURCE	http://mynorthwest.com/831772/yakima-police-investigate-officer-hitting-suspect-with-car/
GIST	<p>YAKIMA, Wash. (AP) — Yakima police are investigating whether an officer was justified in hitting a fleeing suspect with their police car.</p> <p>The Herald reports that the incident is the second time in less than two months that authorities have had to investigate a suspect being hit by a police vehicle.</p> <p>Yakima police spokesman Mike Bastinelli says officers responded on Wednesday to reports of a man weaving in and out of traffic with a knife to his own throat. Bastinelli says the suspect was known to officers.</p> <p>Police shut down surrounding intersections while trying to get him to surrender. Police say the incident ended when an officer hit him with their police car.</p> <p>The man was taken to a hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.</p>
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HEADLINE	11/29 Auburn officer shoots man after chase
SOURCE	http://mynorthwest.com/831194/no-officers-injured-in-officer-involved-shooting-in-auburn/
GIST	<p>An Auburn officer shot a man near Auburn Way North following a police chase on Wednesday.</p> <p>The man crashed the car, which was reportedly stolen, into another vehicle. He got out of the car and</p>

	<p>confronted an employee at a business.</p> <p>According to police, the man had a gun when officers arrived. One officer opened fire.</p> <p>The man is at Harborview Medical Center.</p> <p>No officers were injured. No suspects are outstanding.</p> <p>Police shut down all lanes of Auburn Way North between 8th Street and 10th Avenue to investigate.</p>
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HEADLINE	11/29 Police: 2 'smash-grab' heists connected
SOURCE	http://komonews.com/news/local/police-see-link-between-smash-and-grabs-at-ben-bridge
GIST	<p>BELLEVUE, Wash. -- Bellevue police believe a smash and grab robbery at Ben Bridge jewelry store in Lynnwood's Alderwood Mall on Tuesday is connected to a similar incident Saturday at Bellevue Square.</p> <p>Surveillance cameras inside that Lynnwood location captured two men with their faces covered walk into the Ben Bridge on Tuesday and past a security guard. They quickly smashed their way into a display case. One appears to grab an armful of watches, and then the two flee past the same guard and out the door.</p> <p>Lynnwood police have not identified a suspect in Tuesday's smash and grab.</p> <p>Bellevue Square went into a brief lockdown Saturday after a similar incident, when two men smashed their way into a display case and stole some jewelry and watches.</p> <p>A spokesperson for Ben Bridge says the company is planning to upgrade contracted security and add armed guards where it is necessary.</p> <p>In August, four people tried to pull off a similar crime at the Ben Bridge in Southcenter Mall in Tukwila, but were unable to break into a display case before they fled. No arrests have been made in that case.</p> <p>In late August, several thieves stole thousands of dollars in jewelry from another Ben Bridge in Tigard, Ore. Three people were arrested for that crime.</p> <p>Lynnwood police say they are looking into possible connections to incidents with similar MOs, but have not drawn any conclusions.</p> <p>Witnesses in Lynnwood said two men dressed in all black entered the Alderwood Mall store Tuesday evening and used sledgehammers to smash a display case. Police said the suspects stole several watches, then ran out of the mall.</p> <p>Police searched the area but did not find the suspects. Detectives are now reviewing surveillance video.</p>
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HEADLINE	11/29 Seattle: men, money and prostitutes
SOURCE	http://q13fox.com/2017/11/29/as-men-and-money-flow-into-seattle-so-do-prostitutes/
GIST	<p>SEATTLE – Times of economic boom have been part of Seattle's history since its beginning. From Henry Yesler's Paper Mill in the 1850s to the tech industry of Microsoft, Amazon, and Facebook of now. However, along with the boom comes pitfalls including a rise in prostitution.</p>

According to the Seattle City Attorney's Office, sexual exploitation and patronizing prostitute cases have gone up over the past four years.

Notably, 82 cases were filed in 2015. Last year, a big spike to 147 cases. That's about an 80% increase.

"Pretty woman had really glamorized prostitution. It really looked like a glamorous thing and it's the ultimate Cinderella story," said former sex worker Kyra Doubek.

For a young Kyra Doubek, seeing Julia Roberts get swept off her feet from prostitute to princess seemed magical for a Washington girl experiencing physical, sexual, and drug abuse before she left elementary school.

"I thought of that as one of my tickets to possibly get out of home," said Doubek.

So as a teenager, she started trading sex acts with men for things of value. When she got older, she fully entered the "life" as women in the sex industry call it. She became a prostitute. But Kyra didn't hit the track on Aurora Avenue like so many others in her situation, but instead, high-class hotels in Bellevue servicing men in the tech industry.

"Either they worked in the tech industry or they had similar affiliated jobs. Most of them were middle-aged white men with a wedding ring on their finger," said Doubek.

She met them on Backpage-like internet sites. Kyra became a member of a shunned sorority of Seattle area prostitutes. The first members came to this area in the 1850s.

"There's no doubt that prostitution was a huge business in Seattle," said Historian Feliks Banel.

"The people who were coming here were single men and the ratio was something like 100 to two of single men to single women," said Banel.

The growing population fueled by Henry Yesler's mill. The Seattle of old had a different waterfront, different demographics, different feel but the same old problems we see today.

"Some people saw it as a necessary evil. Some people didn't see it as evil at all. Some people just saw it as a business opportunity," said Banel.

The business of sex made a mark during the Indian Wars in the Puget Sound in 1855-56.

"A navy lieutenant sitting out there in Elliott bay he draws a sketch of the city he draws the church he draws Yesler's mill and then he draws a brothel and names it Madame Damnables on a government document," said Banel.

But there were more seedy, high volume, back-alley places in town where human trafficking fueled the supply. Working men would travel to Seattle because it was well-known in the west for its brothels. That still happens today. With high-paying tech industry jobs comes more money to the area and more men looking to buy sex.

"I personally have been meeting with some of the HR officers at some of our larger tech companies presenting them with really disturbing evidence that their employees are buying sex using company facilities on company time sometimes using company IDs," said Seattle City Attorney Pete Holmes.

A surprising conversation between those tech HR directors and Seattle City Attorney Pete Holmes.

"Those companies have been uniformly quite shocked and willing to engage with us," said Pete.

Over the past six years, the city has now set its sights on the demand. Patronizing or sexual exploitation is

a misdemeanor. To avoid trial, the buyers can plea out and go to a men’s accountability program run by the non-profit Organization for Prostitution Survivors.

“We’re going to use this opportunity to show you your single decision what the collective impact has been,” said Holmes.

Women caught in the life can go to OPS as well.

“We will help with housing, and employment and basic needs. They are experiencing complex trauma and PTSD,” said Organization for Prostitution Survivors Executive Director Debra Boyer.

It’s not just the buying of women, but children, too. Experts say in the Puget Sound, we’re still seeing young Asian women flown to the area who have been trafficked through the port of Seattle.

City Attorney Pete Holmes says teen runaways are approached about entering prostitution within hours of hitting the streets. While buying sex from adults is a misdemeanor, the crime involving a child is a felony.

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HEADLINE	11/30 Cliven Bundy refuses to leave jail
SOURCE	https://apnews.com/a4a8352ce37d4c9e809ad0ee4562162b/Nevada-rancher-refuses-judge's-offer-of-release-during-trial
GIST	<p>LAS VEGAS (AP) — A federal judge offered to release a rancher and states’ rights figure from custody during his trial on charges involving an armed standoff that stopped a government cattle roundup three years ago in Nevada.</p> <p>But Cliven Bundy refused to leave jail while others are still behind bars awaiting trial in the case.</p> <p>Bundy, 71, didn’t state his reason in court Wednesday. But his wife, Carol Bundy, noted in a courthouse hallway that two other sons, Mel and David Bundy, are approaching two years in federal detention.</p> <p>“It’s not over. It’s not done,” she said.</p> <p>Defense attorney Brett Whipple told reporters Cliven Bundy is a “very principled man.”</p> <p>The family patriarch could have joined son Ammon Bundy and co-defendant Ryan Payne in being freed during the trial. U.S. District Judge Gloria Navarro said they can be released Thursday to house arrest with GPS monitoring at homes of Bundy family friends.</p> <p>The judge also relaxed release restrictions for the eldest Bundy son, Ryan Bundy, who has been living for two weeks at a halfway house while serving as his own attorney. He will still have a GPS monitor but can split time between a friends’ home in North Las Vegas and his own home in Mesquite.</p> <p>The hearing came amid questions from defense teams about whether federal prosecutors have turned over complete evidence records about the conduct of FBI and other government agents during the standoff.</p> <p>Navarro did not say why she reversed her previous detention ruling.</p>
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HEADLINE	11/29 Report: decades sex abuse arctic Norway
SOURCE	https://www.cbsnews.com/news/norway-rape-child-sex-abuse-police-report/
GIST	COPENHAGEN, Denmark -- Generations of native Sami people living in remote northern Norway have been victims of rape and child sex abuse that has gone largely unreported and uninvestigated, police have

acknowledged in a report citing deep failings in the way authorities operated there.

A police report covering the period from 1953 to August 2017 documented at least 151 sexual assaults, including 43 rapes, in the Arctic municipality of Tysfjord, which has a population of less than 2,000. Most of the cases were not reported at the time.

The youngest of the 82 victims identified by the police was 4, while the 92 suspected offenders were aged between 10 and 80. Some people appeared on both lists. As well as the rapes, 40 cases dealt with sexual intercourse with underage children.

So far two people have been charged in 10 cases, but many cases have been dropped because the statute of limitations has expired.

The report by the Nordland police, where Tysfjord sits, was commissioned after Norwegian newspaper Verdens Gang last year published accounts of 11 men and women who claimed to have been assaulted.

Tone Vangen, head of the Nordland county, apologized after the publication of this week's report, acknowledging that police "didn't do a good job."

Vangen told Norway's NTB news agency that police had heard "tales from victims that offenders had gotten forgiveness from religious circles and the cases have in a way been settled." She added that they saw that many had links to a conservative Lutheran revival movement started in Lapland in the middle of the 19th century.

"There is no reason to claim that ethnicity or belief is an explanation for the abuses," she said. "At the same time there are mechanisms related to the (Sami) environment, which makes it difficult to get to investigate."

Lars Magne Andreassen, a spokesman for the local Sami community, cited "loyalty, lack of confidence in authorities and the fact that police and health and social services have not had competence to see what has happened" as responsible for the perpetuation of the situation.

"There has been a huge failure in the whole safety net that should have been around the children who have been subjected to abuse in Tysfjord," added Anne Lindboe, the children's ombudsman — an advocate for children and young people in Norway.

An estimated 40,000-60,000 Sami live in northern Norway, Sweden, Finland and Russia and have their own language. Their situation has been compared to that of American Indians, but rather than establishing reservations for Sami, the region's governments have sought to absorb them. In 1997, Norway's King Harald V publicly apologized on behalf of the nation for its treatment of the Sami.

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HEADLINE	11/29 Federal trial strains US-Turkey relations
SOURCE	https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/reza-zarrab-taking-stand-trial-straining-u-s-turkish-ties-n824751
GIST	<p>A gold trader with ties to Turkey's president took the stand in a Manhattan courtroom on Wednesday and testified that he paid jaw-dropping bribes to a government minister to grease the wheels of a scheme to evade U.S. sanctions against Iran.</p> <p>Reza Zarrab, whose name has come up in special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation, was the lead defendant in the case until he began cooperating with U.S. authorities and transformed into the star witness against a Turkish banking executive, Mehmet Hakan Atilla.</p> <p>In his first hours under oath, Zarrab detailed the origins of a complex sanctions-busting operation to move</p>

Iranian funds through front companies, forged documents and bribes. He got help, he said, from the man who was then Turkey's economic minister, Mehmet Zafer Caglayan.

"He said, 'I can broker this providing there is a profit share — 50-50,'" Zarrab told the jury.

Prosecutors showed jurors a tidy spreadsheet that Zarrab said was a partial list of bribes he paid to Caglayan, who is under indictment but not on trial because he is still in Turkey. The numbers were massive: 31 million Euros, \$4 million in U.S. dollars and 2.4 million Turkish lira.

But not all payments were listed, Zarrab said, who estimated that the total he gave Caglayan was more than \$60 million.

Zarrab, 34, who appeared in jailhouse clothing, also made a fortune. Government documents have detailed his car and art collections, his yachts and his marriage to a Turkish pop star that made him a celebrity in his adopted homeland.

He is expected to be on the stand for the rest of the week. While the testimony he gives has the potential to make waves from Washington to Ankara, the initial round held no blockbuster revelations. For a chunk of the day, Zarrab used markers and poster-board to draw diagrams of how the money-laundering scheme worked.

He did say that after his arrest in March 2016 he hired attorneys to look into what prosecutors called a "prisoner exchange." Zarrab did not name the attorneys or the other prisoner. But two members of his legal team, former New York Mayor Rudolph Giuliani and former U.S. Attorney General Michael Mukasey, did visit Turkey on his behalf.

Zarrab also admitted he had bribed a federal prison guard in Manhattan for access to liquor and a cellphone. The defense is sure to hammer on that during cross-examination as they try to paint Zarrab as a liar who is using their client, Atilla, a former Halkbank deputy general manager, as "a get out of jail free card."

The full scope of Zarrab's testimony is still unknown, but there's no question that officials on two continents are keenly interested in what he has to say.

Turkish President Recep Erdogan pushed both the Obama and Trump administrations to drop the case, and sources have told NBC News that Mueller's team is investigating whether Turkish officials offered a bribe to Mike Flynn, then on the cusp of becoming national security adviser, to make it go away. Flynn's lawyers have denied it.

Zarrab was arrested in March 2016 after he landed in the United States on a private jet with \$100,000 in spending money for a family trip to Disney World. Although there are nine defendants in the case, most of them are in Turkey, leaving Atilla to stand trial alone.

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HEADLINE	11/29 Suspected Tampa serial killer
SOURCE	http://abcnews.go.com/US/suspected-tampa-serial-killer-purchased-gun-days-1st/story?id=51457134
GIST	<p>The 24-year-old man charged in the serial killings of four people in the same Tampa neighborhood allegedly bought the firearm used in the shootings just six days before the first murder occurred, police said.</p> <p>Tampa police arrested Howell Donaldson III, a former college basketball player native to the area, late Tuesday night in connection with the murders, which occurred between Oct. 9 and Nov. 14 in the Seminole Heights neighborhood. When Donaldson went to pick up the gun on Oct. 7, two days before 22-year-old Benjamin Mitchell was shot and killed, he also took home a 20-round box of SIG brand Smith</p>

and Wesson ammunition Oct. 7, police said.

The Florida Department of Law Enforcement and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives discovered cartridge casings at all four crime scenes that matched the .40-caliber Glock firearm possessed by the suspect, according to police.

Police also said that call detail records for Donaldson's cellphone were geographically associated with a cell tower near the locations of the first three slayings, which occurred between Oct. 9 and Oct. 19.

Donaldson was brought in to police headquarters Tuesday afternoon for questioning after police received a tip that led them to a McDonald's in Ybor City, about a 10-minute drive southeast from Seminole Heights, where Donaldson works, Tampa Police Chief Brian Dugan said in a press conference Tuesday night.

Donaldson, did not admit to the killings but told police he is the owner of the .40-caliber Glock, Dugan said on "Good Morning America" Wednesday morning.

A female manager at the McDonald's turned the weapon into police after Donaldson handed her a McDonald's food bag before stating that he planned on leaving the state, a criminal report affidavit filed Wednesday in Hillsborough County states. Authorities used the gun to identify Donaldson as the alleged killer, Dugan said.

Donaldson, who goes by the nickname Trai, was on the roster for the men's basketball team at St. John's University in New York City as a walk-on for the 2011 to 2012 season. Donaldson began attending the university in the fall of 2011 and graduated in January of this year, the university confirmed to ABC News.

He was arrested in Manhattan in 2014, but the case is sealed, according to the NYPD.

Donaldson is currently being held at the Hillsborough County Jail on four counts of first-degree murder. He has not yet been assigned an attorney or entered a plea.

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HEADLINE	11/29 Reno gunman suffered mental issues?
SOURCE	http://www.foxnews.com/us/2017/11/29/gunman-killed-in-reno-high-rise-may-have-had-mental-issues.html
GIST	<p>RENO, Nevada – A gunman who was killed by a SWAT team after he took a woman hostage and opened fire on a downtown Reno street from the eighth-floor of a condominium may have been suffering from mental issues, police said.</p> <p>Ken Gallop, a police officer in neighboring Sparks, said Wednesday his department is leading the investigation into Tuesday night's officer-involved shooting.</p> <p>A preliminary investigation indicates the shooter was acting alone, he said in a statement. He said the female hostage escaped injury and no one else was seriously hurt.</p> <p>"This case is actively being investigated, and no additional information will be released at this time," Gallop said. The name of the gunman has not been released.</p> <p>Reno Deputy Police Chief Tom Robinson told reporters that officers on the scene indicated the suspect who appeared to be in his mid- to late-20s may have been seeing things.</p> <p>It's not clear if he or the hostage lived in the Montage apartment building a block off the main casino drag.</p> <p>Stephen Paddock, who killed 58 people from the 32nd floor of a Las Vegas hotel-casino, had owned a unit</p>

at the Montage. Records show he sold the property in December 2016.

Robinson said police don't know if the shooting may have been a copycat.

The building was once a casino itself before it was converted into luxury condos.

Trooper Chris Kelley of the Nevada Highway Patrol told the Reno Gazette-Journal that shots were heard from the building for at least 20 minutes, and TV news reporters said they heard several shots after arriving, though the shots were sporadic, not constant.

Police said one of the phone calls they received about the shooting was from the woman inside the room with the suspect. Police negotiators eventually were able to make contact with him while he continued to fire shots out the window.

"He was holding her against her will and wouldn't let her leave, so we were able to get in there and get her to safety," Robinson said.

The suspect was alive when he was taken into custody but later died at a Reno hospital.

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HEADLINE	11/29 Tampa: fast food bag key evidence
SOURCE	http://abcnews.go.com/US/cell-phone-tracking-shell-casings-place-alleged-tampa/story?id=51454854
GIST	<p>A McDonald's bag that Howell Donaldson III handed to his colleague at the fast-food restaurant where he worked in Tampa was the key piece of evidence that led police to the alleged serial killer, authorities said today.</p> <p>A person identified as "Witness 3" approached a police officer at the McDonald's restaurant in Tampa's Ybor City neighborhood Tuesday afternoon to tell them that an employee, Donaldson, gave them a "McDonald's food bag" and said he planned to leave the state, according to a criminal report affidavit filed early today in Florida's Hillsborough County.</p> <p>Inside the bag was a .40-caliber Glock firearm loaded with SIG brand Smith and Wesson ammunition -- the same weapon used in a string of mysterious slayings over the past six weeks in Tampa's Seminole Heights neighborhood, officials said.</p> <p>That gun was what investigators needed to identify the alleged killer, Tampa Police Chief Brian Dugan told reporters at a news conference this afternoon.</p> <p>Donaldson, 24, allegedly purchased the legal firearm six days before the first killing on Oct. 9, authorities said. He picked up the handgun and bought a 20-round box of SIG brand Smith and Wesson ammunition on Oct. 7, according to the affidavit.</p> <p>The Florida Department of Law Enforcement and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives later discovered cartridge casings at all four crime scenes that matched the .40-caliber Glock possessed by the suspect, the affidavit states.</p> <p>Moreover, call detail records showed that Donaldson's cellphone was geographically associated with a cell tower near the locations of the first three slayings in the Seminole Heights neighborhood within minutes of their taking place, according to the affidavit.</p> <p>Donaldson, also known as Trai, was arrested at the McDonald's in Ybor City on Tuesday afternoon. He will be charged with four counts of first-degree murder in connection to the killings. He is being held in Hillsborough County Jail in the meantime and has not yet been assigned an attorney, according to Dugan.</p>

	The Tampa police chief said the individual who turned in the weapon to authorities is a female manager at the McDonald's in Ybor City, where Donaldson is a former employee, and police will eventually release her identify. Dugan said he doesn't believe Donaldson gave his coworker the bag so that he would get caught, but rather thought she would hold onto it for safekeeping without looking inside.
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HEADLINE	11/29 War criminal dies after drinking poison
SOURCE	http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-5128353/UN-war-crimes-convict-claims-taken-poison-court.html
GIST	<p>The Bosnian-Croat war chief who killed himself with poison during his war crimes trial at The Hague was 'easily' able to smuggle the deadly liquid into the building, a prominent lawyer says.</p> <p>It's still not clear, however, how Slobodan Praljak, 72, obtained the poison while in custody, as he was serving his 20-year sentence in an undisclosed UN prison cell and was driven each day to the court in a secure van for his appeal hearing.</p> <p>Praljak yelled, 'I am not a war criminal!' and drank a dark liquid from a small bottle seconds after losing his appeal against a 20-year prison sentence at the International Criminal Tribunal in the Netherlands on Wednesday.</p> <p>'I just drank poison,' he added. 'I am not a war criminal. I oppose this conviction.'</p> <p>A lawyer who has frequently defended suspects at the war crimes court told The Associated Press it would be easy to bring poison into the court.</p> <p>Prominent Serbian lawyer Toma Fila said security for lawyers and other court staff 'is just like at an airport'. Security officers inspect metal objects and confiscate cellphones, but 'pills and small quantities of liquids' would not be registered, Fila said.</p> <p>Praljak was one of six Croatian politicians sentenced to jail for their involvement in a campaign to drive Muslims out of a would-be Bosnian Croat mini-state in Bosnia in the early 1990s.</p> <p>His lawyer shouted out 'my client has taken poison' before judge Carmel Agius suspended the hearing and the courtroom was closed.</p>
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