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**Event Calendar**

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Date	Event	Location/Time	Other Information
9-13 Apr 2018	LEIU/ALEIA Training Event	Marriott Hotel, 700 West Convention Way Anaheim, CA 92801 (714) 750-8000	<a href="http://www.ialeia.org/2018_conference.php">http://www.ialeia.org/2018_conference.php</a>

## Events, Opportunities

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HEADLINE	<b>11/30 Russia warplanes to use Egypt bases</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.stripes.com/news/europe/russia-negotiates-deal-for-its-warplanes-to-use-egypt-bases-1.500129">https://www.stripes.com/news/europe/russia-negotiates-deal-for-its-warplanes-to-use-egypt-bases-1.500129</a>
GIST	<p>MOSCOW — Russia has approved a draft agreement with Egypt for Russian warplanes to use Egyptian military bases, according to a document released Thursday, a deal that would allow Moscow to further increase its military footprint in the Mideast.</p> <p>The directive, signed by Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev and published on the official portal of legal information, endorses the draft prepared by the Russian Defense Ministry and instructs it to sign the deal with Egypt when it's ready.</p> <p>The Russia-Egypt deal, which would allow each country's warplanes to use air bases of the other, is to last five years and could be extended further if agreed.</p> <p>For Egypt, the deal is significant as President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi's government has expanded military ties with Russia and signed deals to buy Russian fighter jets, helicopters and other weapons.</p> <p>Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu visited Cairo on Wednesday, noting that military cooperation between the two countries has increased recently as Egypt placed new orders for Russian weapons.</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>11/30 Israel strikes militant targets in Gaza</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.reuters.com/article/us-israel-palestinians-gaza/israel-strikes-militant-targets-in-gaza-after-mortar-barrage-idUSKBN1DU2BB?il=0">https://www.reuters.com/article/us-israel-palestinians-gaza/israel-strikes-militant-targets-in-gaza-after-mortar-barrage-idUSKBN1DU2BB?il=0</a>
GIST	<p>JERUSALEM/GAZA (Reuters) - Israeli tanks and aircraft struck militant positions in the Gaza Strip on Thursday soon after Palestinian militants fired mortar shells at an Israeli military post close to the territory, the Israeli army said.</p> <p>A Reuters witness in Gaza said he saw smoke rising from at least two targets struck by Israel, one belonging to Hamas and another to Islamic Jihad militants. Witnesses in the southern Gaza Strip said two Islamic Jihad posts was hit there.</p> <p>No casualties were reported initially on either side.</p> <p>Israeli military spokesman Lieutenant-Colonel Jonathan Conricus said the militants' mortar barrage was aimed the Israeli army post and at construction crews working close by on the Israeli side of the Gaza border.</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>11/30 Lawsuit: tattoo recognition technology</b>
SOURCE	<a href="http://thehill.com/policy/technology/362636-group-sues-agencies-for-info-on-tattoo-recognition-technology">http://thehill.com/policy/technology/362636-group-sues-agencies-for-info-on-tattoo-recognition-technology</a>
GIST	<p>The Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF), a digital rights advocacy group, is suing government agencies for information on tattoo recognition technology being developed to assist law enforcement.</p>

The EFF filed a lawsuit under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) on Thursday against the Department of Commerce, the Department of Justice and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), which are collaborating on the new technology.

The group is concerned that tattoo recognition programs raise concerns about privacy violations and could infringe on First Amendment rights to free expression.

“Tattoos have served as an expression of the self for thousands of years, and can represent our innermost thoughts, closely held beliefs, and significant moments,” EFF fellow Camille Fischer said in a statement. “If law enforcement is creating a detailed database of tattoos, we have to make sure that everyone’s rights to freedom of expression are protected.”

According to the lawsuit, the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), an office within the Department of Commerce, began studying how to improve tattoo recognition programs in 2014 to use for the identification and linking individuals to others with similar tattoos. With the help of the FBI, it created a database of 15,000 images and allowed access to researchers from public and private institutions.

DHS also participated in the program to research and map gang markings in tattoos and graffiti.

A DHS spokesman said it does not comment on pending litigation. The Justice Department, which oversees the FBI, did not respond when asked for comment.

"The NIST Tattoo Recognition Technology program seeks to measure the effectiveness of algorithms for accurately matching digital images," said Jennifer Huergo, a NIST spokeswoman. "Its goal is to help ensure tattoo matching technologies are evaluated using sound science to improve accuracy and minimize mismatches."

The lawsuit alleges that the database used images of tattoos from prisoners without their consent and that “officials handed over these images to third-parties with little restriction on how they could be used or shared.”

EFF filed a series of FOIA requests in 2016 and 2017 for information on the program, its ethical oversight and those who had access to its dataset. In its lawsuit, the group alleges that the three agencies are improperly withholding information that falls within the scope of its requests.

“Federal researchers say they want to ‘crack the code’ of tattoos and speech, creating a powerful program that will encourage police to make assumptions about tattoo-wearers,” said Aaron Mackey, an EFF attorney. “But the reality is that body art is much more complex than that. The government must disclose more about this program so we can ensure that it doesn’t violate our rights.”

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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>11/30 Experts: NKorea missile ‘significant leap’</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/worldviews/wp/2017/11/30/north-korea-has-shown-us-its-new-missile-and-its-scarier-than-we-thought/?hpid=hp_hp-more-top-stories_nkorea-412am%3Ahomepage%2Fstory&amp;utm_term=.ede1963400b6">https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/worldviews/wp/2017/11/30/north-korea-has-shown-us-its-new-missile-and-its-scarier-than-we-thought/?hpid=hp_hp-more-top-stories_nkorea-412am%3Ahomepage%2Fstory&amp;utm_term=.ede1963400b6</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>TOKYO — A day after its latest intercontinental ballistic missile launch, North Korea released photos of what it’s calling the “Hwasong-15.” And the collective response from missile experts was — not to get too technical — whoa.</p> <p>The missile and its launcher truck do, at first blush, appear to support North Korea’s claim that this missile is much more technologically advanced than previous iterations.</p> <p>Although there is still much that can’t be gleaned from the photos, and North Korea does have an inglorious record of exaggeration, analysts generally agree that the Hwasong-15 marks a significant leap</p>

forward in North Korea's missile development.

"This is a really big missile, much larger than I expected," said Scott LaFoy, an imagery analyst for the specialist website NK News. "I believe one of my professors would have referred to it as a big honking missile."

Several analysts noted that the missile looked like the American Titan II, which was initially an ICBM but was then later used by the U.S. Air Force and NASA as a space launch vehicle.

The transporter erector launcher, or TEL, has nine axles, making it one axle longer than the TEL used to launch the previous iteration of the intercontinental ballistic missile. North Korea claims to have made these trucks itself, but analysts believe they are modified versions or based on the Chinese lumber truck, the WS51200.

"We've seen heavy vehicle extensions before, but this would be a very large step forward for their heavy vehicles industry," said LaFoy, estimating that the truck was about twice as long as an American school bus. "We know that this is pretty difficult. It took China a while to figure this out."

The nose cone of the Hwasong-15 is much blunter than that of the previous iteration, the Hwasong-14. This is likely an effort to slow down the missile slightly as it screams through the atmosphere, which lowers the heat inside the missile and means that the warhead doesn't have to withstand quite as much variation in temperature during flight.

This might be an effort to overcome issues with the reentry vehicle — the part of the missile that protects the warhead during launch and brings it back into the Earth's atmosphere. This is one of the parts of the missile that North Korea has not yet proven it has mastered.

The size of the nose cone and reentry vehicle on the Hwasong-15 supports North Korea's claim that the missile can carry a "super large heavy warhead." But experts think the missile tested this week was carrying a light, mock warhead.

The Hwasong-14 and 15 missiles are likely to have carried only very small payloads, which exaggerate the range that a North Korean missile can fly, said Michael Elleman, senior fellow for missile defense at the International Institute for Strategic Studies. Basically, the heavier the warhead, the shorter the distance it can travel.

If the Hwasong-15 was fitted with a half-ton payload and flown on a standard trajectory, it could probably fly about 5,300 miles, Elleman wrote for 38 North, a website devoted to North Korea, meaning that a 600 kilogram (1,320 pound) payload "barely reaches Seattle."

Still, with its publication of photos of this huge reentry vehicle, Kim's regime is clearly signaling that this is its ultimate goal.

The first stage of the Hwasong-15 — the bottom part that propels it off the launcher, sometimes called the "booster" — has two engines. "We're trying to figure out what those may be and how powerful they are," said David Wright of the Union of Concerned Scientists.

But the second stage looks like it can carry more than twice as much propellant as the Hwasong-14, since it is longer and has a larger diameter, Wright said. "The combination of those two things means it really is a new, more capable missile."

The addition of two engines doubled the second stage thrust and allows the missile to reach a higher peak altitude, Elleman said. This missile reached a height of about 2,800 miles — or 10 times as high as the International Space Station.

The Hwasong-14 had only one nozzle, and it used four vernier engines to steer the missile. But the newly

unveiled Hwasong-15 has two nozzles and no verniers. That suggests that the missile is steered by gimbaling, a more advanced way to control the missile.

“This is a sort of maneuvering which is pretty fancy. You lose the least thrust that way,” LaFoy said. “We knew they’d get there eventually, but we didn’t think the North Koreans were there yet.”

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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>11/30 Behind NKorea Kim’s ‘madness’</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.reuters.com/investigates/special-report/northkorea-kimjongun/">https://www.reuters.com/investigates/special-report/northkorea-kimjongun/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>On an icy December day in 2011, North Korea’s new leader Kim Jong Un was accompanied by seven advisers as they escorted the hearse that carried his father, Kim Jong Il, through the streets of Pyongyang.</p> <p>None of the men remain with the young Kim. This October, he demoted the last of his father’s aides, both men in their nineties. They were among around 340 people he has purged or executed, according to the Institute for National Security Strategy, a think tank of South Korea’s National Intelligence Service (NIS).</p> <p>Kim, “obviously a madman” in the eyes of U.S. President Donald Trump, has completed a six-year transition to what the South calls a reign of terror. His unpredictability and belligerence have instilled fear worldwide: After he tested a “breakthrough” missile earlier this week, he pronounced North Korea a nuclear power capable of striking the United States. But a closer look at his leadership reveals a method behind the “madness.”</p> <p>At 33, Kim Jong Un is one of the world’s youngest heads of state. He inherited a nation with a proud history, onto which a socialist state had essentially been grafted by Cold War superpowers to create a buffer between Communist China and the capitalist South. Under Kim’s father, the economy was mismanaged, and the collapse of Communism in the Soviet Union eliminated an important source of support. Up to three million people starved.</p> <p>To consolidate a weak position, the young leader has been cultivating three main forces: military and nuclear power, a tacit private sector market economy, and the fear and adoration of a god. To this end, he has executed two powerful men and promoted one young woman – Kim Yo Jong, his younger sister, who Korea-watchers say is also Kim’s chief propagandist. She is Kim’s only other blood relative to be involved in politics: His elder brother, Kim Jong Chol, was rejected by their father as heir.</p> <p>Over the five years to December 2016, Kim spent \$300 million on 29 nuclear and missile tests, \$180 million on building some 460 family statues, and as much as \$1 billion on a party congress in 2016 – including \$26.8 million on fireworks alone, according to the Institute, which employs high-level defectors.</p> <p>“Yes, he has replaced many top commanders and officials so easily and ruthlessly killed some of them, which could make you wonder if he’s sane,” said Lee Sang-keun, a North Korean leadership expert at the Institute of Unification Studies at Ewha Womans University in Seoul.</p> <p>“But this is a historical way of governing that can put you in power for a long time.”</p> <p><b>GREAT LEADER</b></p> <p>In ancient days, Pyongyang was the capital of a mighty empire, Koguryo, the root of the modern word “Korea.” Going back through history, the Great Leader concept is a blend of several ideas handed down through time: an almighty god, the Confucian worship of a parent, and a king with the Mandate of Heaven, according to Lee Seung-yeol, a senior researcher at the National Assembly Research Service in Seoul.</p> <p>Lee, a leading North Korea leadership researcher, said the state’s theory of succession means Kim the younger’s rise should have been completed while his father was alive: Kim’s father was anointed 20 years before he took over, giving him time to build allies and a leadership system.</p>

Kim Jong Un had just three years as leader-in-waiting.

Born in 1984, he was third in line for power and a fractious, competitive child, according to Kenji Fujimoto, a Japanese chef who worked for the family and one of the few people to recount meetings with the young Kim. In his memoirs published in 2010, Fujimoto, who now runs a sushi restaurant in Pyongyang, said Kim once snapped at his aunt Ko Yong Suk for calling him “Little General.” Kim wanted to be called “Comrade General.”

When Kim Jong Il knew his young son would soon succeed him, researchers have said, the father took several measures to protect the boy. Lee said these included shifting the country’s power base to create rivalry between the elites so Kim the younger could play one group off against another.

Kim Jong Il had declared the military the country’s supreme power – a policy known as songun, which means “military first.” At a party conference in 2010, he changed the setup so the military had to compete with the party administration for the leader’s favour.

“POOR MAN’S WEAPON”

Military strategy was the first thing Kim changed. His father had used the promise of nuclear disarmament as a bargaining chip for aid, and in February 2012, young Kim started in his father’s footsteps, promising to freeze North Korea’s nuclear programme in return for food aid from the United States.

But weeks later he changed tack, saying North Korea would fire a long-range rocket. “The negotiations were carried on as the legacy of Kim Jong Il,” said Wi Sung-lac, a former South Korean envoy to talks in 2011 that contributed to the February deal. “Since then his strategic thinking has shaped up.”

In Kim’s view, Saddam Hussein of Iraq and Muammar Gaddafi of Libya were fatally weakened by not having nuclear weapons, North Korean media say. “History proves that powerful nuclear deterrence serves as the strongest treasured sword for frustrating outsiders’ aggression,” the official KCNA news agency said in an editorial in January 2016.

North Korea is racing to achieve a nuclear deterrent because the state feels threatened, worrying particularly that Kim may face a fate like Gaddafi. The Libyan leader agreed in 2003 to eliminate his weapons of mass destruction; in 2011, he was killed by rebels that the United States and its allies had supported.

Months after Kim’s accession, North Korea updated its constitution to declare itself a nuclear weapons state.

One leading pallbearer at Kim Jong Il’s funeral was Ri Yong Ho, Chief of the General Staff of the Korean People’s Army. Kim sacked him in July 2012. South Korean intelligence later confirmed that Ri had been executed.

By December 2012, North Korea had carried out another, successful, rocket test.

In 2013, Kim outlined a new policy: The “byungjin line,” or parallel development, to combine the nuclear buildup and economic growth.

A nuclear deterrent is essential to that, says Thae Yong-ho, North Korea’s former deputy ambassador to London, who staged a high-profile defection to South Korea in 2016. The threat of absolute destruction makes a nuclear bomb a “poor man’s weapon” with which to tighten control of the country and ensure long-term rule, Thae said.

“Once he has assumed control of usable nuclear weapons, he has more room to allocate resources more flexibly, and allocate the military forces for civilian construction,” said Thae.

## “FOOLISH DREAM”

North Korea spends about a quarter of its GDP on defence: Russia’s President Vladimir Putin has said Kim Jong Un would have his people “eat grass” rather than give up its nuclear programme.

But with a legacy of famine, Kim also says he wants to boost people’s prosperity.

The former chef, Fujimoto, said that on one summer break from school in Switzerland in 2000, the young Kim was preoccupied with a visit to Beijing his father had made.

“Let’s talk,” Fujimoto recalled the future leader saying over drinks on his father’s private train. “I hear from higher up that China seems to be succeeding on many fronts – engineering, commerce, hotels, agriculture - everything,” Kim said. “In many ways, don’t we need to take them as a model example for us?”

In 2012, shortly after taking power, Kim went a small way to mimic reforms China made in the 1980s. Farmers were allowed to keep most of the harvest. State enterprises were given the right to buy and sell at market prices and to hire and fire workers. Private entrepreneurs and traders were encouraged to invest in state projects or with party and military entities. Kim also began to turn a blind eye to informal markets – a force his father tried in vain to contain.

That April, Kim addressed the nation - the first time in 17 years North Koreans had heard the voice of their leader. “It is the party’s steadfast determination to ensure that the people will never have to tighten their belt again,” he said.

Outsiders hoped the reform signaled a new political openness as Kim drove to promote the North in the world: In 2012 Antonio Razzi, an Italian senator for Forza Italia who calls himself the only Italian to have met the leader, said Kim had asked him to find training facilities for soccer players in Italy.

“I have talked with many (North Korean) local leaders,” Razzi said. “They have no plan to attack anybody. North Korea is interested in nuclear only as a form of defence.”

Kim worked to ensure the economic freedom would not unseat him.

Also escorting his father’s funeral car in 2011 was Jang Song Thaek, an administrator at the vanguard of the reforms. He was married to Kim Jong Il’s sister, was a special envoy to China and had overseen a host of new Special Economic Zones all over the country.

In December 2013, Jang was hauled out of the Politburo in front of the cameras and accused of plotting a coup. “Jang dreamed such a foolish dream,” state media said, adding Jang hoped his reformist plans would help him “get ‘recognised’ by foreign countries.”

Jang was shot “dozens of times” by an anti-aircraft gun and his remains removed with a flamethrower, according to South Korea’s National Intelligence Service (NIS) – an account no one has confirmed.

## “DEVELOPMENT DICTATOR”

From that point on, Kim honed his personality cult. On the day Jang’s purge was announced, North Korea’s official daily the Rodong Sinmun unveiled a song dedicated to Kim Jong Un, titled “We Know Nothing But You.” More were to follow.

The next year, Kim also ordered school textbooks be revised to focus on idolisation of himself and include images of nuclear weapons and missiles, according to the NIS-affiliated Institute for National Security Strategy.

	<p>The idolisation campaign kicked into high gear in 2016, focused on pop culture and youth: Kim's chosen female singers, the Moranbong Band, staged a series of musical performances and plays calling for loyalty to the leader, while the Shock Brigade, a crew of young North Koreans in charge of major economic construction, produced about 1,200 poems and other literary works, the Institute said.</p> <p>"He has linked his own legitimacy to improving the economic situation in the country," said John Delury of Seoul's Yonsei University. "Kim Jong Un wants to become a development dictator."</p> <p>At home, he casts himself as a bringer of plenty. In 2015, almost half the times he was photographed were at economic events, data from Seoul's Unification Ministry shows. Only this year, as his weapons tests multiplied and met an angry response in the United States, have military appearances come back into prominence.</p> <p>Standing tearfully behind Kim Jong Un at their father's funeral was his younger sister, 28-year-old Kim Yo Jong. On the same October day that Kim dropped the last two of his father's aides, he included her in his Politburo. Kim Jong Chol, their elder brother, leads a quiet life in Pyongyang where he plays guitar in a band, according to former ambassador Thae.</p> <p>"I think Kim Jong Un has been making good use of the existing system, while strengthening his power base and dictator regime in a very shrewd manner," said Lee Su-seok, a research fellow at the Institute for National Security Strategy.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>11/30 ICC won't open Gaza flotilla probe</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/icc-prosecutor-reaffirms-open-gaza-flotilla-probe-51487099?">http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/icc-prosecutor-reaffirms-open-gaza-flotilla-probe-51487099?</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>The International Criminal Court prosecutor said Thursday she is standing by her previous decision not to open a full-scale investigation into the storming by Israeli forces of an aid flotilla heading to Gaza in 2010.</p> <p>Fatou Bensouda in November 2014 declined a request by the Indian Ocean island nation of Comoros to investigate the May 31, 2010, storming of a vessel in the flotilla, which was sailing under a Comoros flag.</p> <p>She said war crimes may have been committed on the Mavi Marmara ship, where eight Turks and one Turkish-American were killed and several other pro-Palestinian activists were wounded by Israeli commandos, but the case wasn't serious enough to merit an ICC probe.</p> <p>The ICC was set up as a court of last resort intended to prosecute senior leaders allegedly responsible for grave crimes including genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity when national courts prove unable or unwilling to take on such cases.</p> <p>ICC judges told her to reconsider, but Bensouda said Thursday that after carefully reviewing more than 5,000 pages of documents and statements from more than 300 passengers on the Mavi Marmara she has reaffirmed her decision to close her preliminary investigation.</p> <p>Bensouda said in a statement that her decision was a purely legal one, applying standards laid down in the court's founding treaty, the Rome Statute.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>11/30 Seattle Navigation Team for homeless</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/homeless/before-the-tent-camps-are-cleared-this-seattle-team-coaxes-the-homeless-toward-shelter/">https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/homeless/before-the-tent-camps-are-cleared-this-seattle-team-coaxes-the-homeless-toward-shelter/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	August Drake-Ericson stood in the middle of Seattle's largest known unauthorized homeless encampment,



making an enthusiastic case for shelter to a man who'd spent the last 27 years living on the streets.

She knew him from previous visits to this camp at Jose Rizal Park, in the shadow of Interstates 5 and 90. A gaunt man with hair dyed light orange, Trung Ngu — who goes by the name “Psycho” on the streets — has moved from camp to camp as the city has cleared them out.

Drake-Ericson's chance for success seemed slim, but she was persistent: Did he have a case manager? Did he want one? Wouldn't he like to live somewhere other than a camp?

As cars and trucks rumbled nearby on I-5, Ngu responded with a series of “yeahs,” as if he knew the routine. Maybe, this time, he was ready.

Drake-Erickson is part of the city's Navigation Team, a collection of police officers and outreach workers who are at the fulcrum of the debate over Seattle's growing number of tent communities.

Formed in February after a series of haphazard camp removals last year drew sharp criticism from advocates for the homeless, the 22-member team is tasked with both trying to coax homeless campers into shelters and removing encampments the city has deemed unsafe.

That dual role leaves the team caught between residents and business owners who want the city to shut down the camps, and impassioned activists — including some Seattle City Council members — who demand an end to camp removals they've derisively branded “sweeps.”

In five visits in recent weeks, the team exhibited a nuanced approach to working with camp residents. But it is hard to assess the Navigation Team's chances for long-term success because it has no consistent way of knowing if campers referred to shelter actually make it there or merely go back to a new camp.

And even some supporters question whether the city has provided the team with enough resources and people to tackle the enormity of the problem.

The camps, estimated at about 400 citywide, are Seattle's most visible evidence of poverty and of the city's inability to address the homelessness crisis declared by then-Mayor Ed Murray more than two years ago. They range from a few tents on a street corner to sprawling camps like the one in Jose Rizal, with at least 54 people as of late October.

Removals of homeless encampments intensified last year after violence in some sites, including a January 2016 shooting that killed two and injured three in the massive camp known as the Jungle.

The way those removals were handled, with little notice or sensitivity offered to camp inhabitants, prompted the new approach, with police and city employees joining with workers from REACH, a nonprofit that has long worked with the homeless on the streets.

So far this year, the city has removed 165 camps, including 48 sites that were cleared without notice, such as those that popped up on a street, because they presented an immediate danger.

The city cleared several encampments at least twice this year, including at the Ballard Locks, on the Fourth Avenue South corridor near Safeco Field, and around the Mercer Street onramp to I-5. Many times, a new camp appears within a block of a cleared one.

Contrary to what many citizens hope happens with their complaints, the Navigation Team often tries to keep the camps open, advising residents how to keep the area clean and safe and how they can get other services, said Drake-Ericson. That aspect of the team's work contradicts the narrative, often cited by council members like Kshama Sawant and “Stop The Sweeps” activists, that the team is aggressively sweeping the city.

That was how Drake-Ericson found herself in Jose Rizal, negotiating with Ngu.

“So this time when I ask those case managers if you’re going to housing, I want to hear ‘yes,’ right?” Drake-Ericson asked, hopefully. He insisted on going to find the caseworker himself.

A few minutes later, Drake-Ericson got the word: Ngu had changed his mind back to no.

“We’ll have no-no-no-no, yes-yes-yes-yes, 20 times,” said Drake-Ericson, “and then you get that one day that it just all clicks and they’ll go, ‘I’ve had enough. We’re going.’”

A year ago, the approach to Jose Rizal would have looked very different: An August 2016 Seattle Times investigation found cleanups of unauthorized encampments were disorganized and chaotic, with inconsistent closure notice given to campers. Outreach workers were sometimes sent to the wrong site or arrived long after campers had abandoned it, and backhoes were munching up whatever they left behind.

The outreach that was happening at the camps was “almost completely ineffective,” with acceptance rates for shelter in the single digits, said Scott Lindsay, public-safety adviser in the Murray administration.

The need for a different approach was also underscored by public-safety concerns, including the Jungle shooting, incidents of sex trafficking of minors and the 2015 slaying of a homeless woman named Margaret Pitka. She was killed while napping in her tent at Yesler Way and Eighth Avenue.

The Navigation Team is based on police officers and human-services staff working together in what Lindsay, who created the team, believes is a necessary carrot-and-stick approach. The team orchestrates site cleanups, but only if there’s shelter available for everyone in the camps.

Public-health or safety problems can get a camp closed more quickly. Drake-Ericson is always on the lookout for signs: burrows that indicate a rat infestation, a fire set too close to trees. She spotted both at Jose Rizal.

Team members are told to wear boots or protective shoe inserts in case they step on a hypodermic needle, an object regularly found strewn in the camps. Some camp residents take care to use buckets to dispose of their waste, but not everyone does, so stomping through human feces is commonplace; in some corners of a camp, the smell permeates the air.

In confronting these hazards, team members see up-close the difficult conditions people experience in the camps.

At Jose Rizal, Navigation Team leader Jackie St. Louis talked with a man who was living in the dirt and surrounded by garbage bags, his body covered in lesions that he scraped with a plastic coat hanger because, Drake-Ericson explained later, he believed animals were living in each one. The man lives completely unsheltered a few feet from the onramp to I-90, in clear view of the downtown skyline.

“It saddens me that folks (in camps) live like this, so for me there’s this sense of needing to do the best that I can in every interaction to communicate to this individual that there is another way of life,” St. Louis said.

Drake-Ericson can recall encountering three small children at another camp, including one wearing a soiled diaper, who ran into her arms. She broke down in tears.

Despite the emotional aspect of their work, Lindsay stands firm that the ability to close a camp is an important component of getting people off the streets, as he saw with the closure of the Jungle.

Since the start of the year, the city has received more than a dozen complaints about homeless camps around this area. Citywide, almost 5,200 complaints about potential homeless encampments have been filed, alerting the Navigation Team to sites that may need to be shut down.

Critics of the city’s encampment-removal policy, like Sara Rankin, of the Homeless Rights Advocacy Project at Seattle University School of Law, aren’t opposed to the Navigation Team. In fact, she believes it could have a positive impact.

But that doesn’t mitigate the effects of the city’s camp removals, she said, which only further scatter both people and potential public-health problems across the city.

“People are not in that circumstance by choice — it’s because they have no other reasonable available alternative,” said Rankin. Closing the camps will literally leave them with nowhere else to go, she said, although Navigation Team data suggests people in the camps often don’t accept shelter offers.

That rate of rejection goes back to Rankin’s other criticism: The city doesn’t have enough so-called low-barrier enhanced shelters, which operate 24/7, do not prohibit substance use and tend to appeal more to people in tent camps. Seattle plans to aggressively add more of these shelters, but most of King County’s 2,866 shelter beds for single adults are still in traditional mats-on-the-floor facilities, requiring people to be sober upon entry, to leave during the day and to separate from partners and pets.

Mark Putnam, director of All Home, which coordinates the region’s efforts to reduce homelessness, remains concerned about the focus on the camps and the cleanups. Instead, he said the discussion should be on adding housing “because ultimately that’s the solution to the encampment issue.”

All Home’s point-in-time homeless count in January found more than 90 percent of those surveyed in King County would take housing if it were offered to them.

Putnam, Rankin and Lindsay all agree the Navigation Team is too small given the scope of the region’s homelessness problem. Lindsay said the intention has always been to double its size, but Seattle’s 2018 budget did not add a second team, as former Mayor Tim Burgess’ budget had proposed. It is budgeted at \$5.1 million, including storage of belongings and camp cleanup costs.

San Francisco, which has a tent-camp problem comparable to Seattle’s, has three such teams: one for outreach, one to close large encampments and one to prevent closed camps from re-emerging. San Francisco’s outreach team alone has about 70 people, triple the size of Seattle’s entire Navigation Team.

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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>11/30 AU: 700,000 migrants in Libya camps</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://www.foxnews.com/world/2017/11/30/between-400000-and-700000-african-migrants-in-libya-au.html">http://www.foxnews.com/world/2017/11/30/between-400000-and-700000-african-migrants-in-libya-au.html</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast – The chairman of the African Union Commission says between 400,000 and 700,000 African migrants are living in camps in Libya, often under "inhuman" conditions.</p> <p>Moussa Faki Mahamat spoke Thursday at the end of a summit of European and African leaders where migration was a top issue after recent footage of a migrant slave auction in Libya drew global horror and condemnation.</p> <p>Mahamat said 3,800 migrants in one camp in Tripoli need to be removed as soon as possible.</p> <p>"That's just one camp," he said. "The Libyan government has told us there are 42," and some contain an even larger number of migrants.</p> <p>The International Organization for Migration says more than 423,000 migrants had been identified in the chaotic North African country as of last month. Most are African.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>11/30 WWU students help hunt campus predator</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://www.king5.com/news/local/wwu-students-help-hunt-campus-predator/495602079">http://www.king5.com/news/local/wwu-students-help-hunt-campus-predator/495602079</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>Instead of toting his usual backpack full of books across campus on Wednesday, Alec Regimbal carried a Ziplock stuffed with whistles.</p> <p>Alec is what's called a "Green Coat" -- a group of 18 or so unarmed students who patrol Western Washington University and provide escorts when people don't feel safe.</p> <p>"We are an extra set of eyes," said Alec. "We are in the places the police can't be all the time."</p> <p>The whistles are a response to at least two dozen incidents on and off campus this year involving what appears to be the same man victimizing random women.</p> <p>Among other incidents, he exposed himself to two students at the Ridgeway Gamma dorm. The most serious incident occurred when a young woman was groped as she walked home from the library. The only description is very vague: a young white man in a dark hoodie.</p> <p>Alec handed out the whistles, advising students to blow them if they see anything suspicious.</p> <p>Last year he might have provided one escort per week.</p> <p>Now, it's three per day.</p> <p>"It upsets me because people I know here have felt unsafe at times walking through campus at night," he said. "When I hear that I can empathize with those people and it adds credence to why I like doing this."</p> <p>Police have increased visibility and added foot patrols on campus.</p> <p>Chief Darin Rasmussen, however, admitted it will be difficult to make an arrest unless the suspect is caught in the act.</p> <p>"Catching someone like this isn't easy," he said. "You hope that somebody is able to get ahold of him for you or maintain some sort of visual on him until you're able to get an officer there."</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>11/30 Columbia Gorge fire 100% contained</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.seattletimes.com/nation-world/columbia-gorge-fire-declared-100-percent-contained/">https://www.seattletimes.com/nation-world/columbia-gorge-fire-declared-100-percent-contained/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — A wildfire that ignited in Oregon's scenic Columbia River Gorge this summer has been declared 100 percent contained.</p> <p>Rachel Pawlitz, spokeswoman for the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, told The Oregonian/OregonLive on Thursday that some hot spots might be smoldering, but the blaze isn't going to grow beyond its perimeter.</p> <p>The blaze which started Sept. 2 forced evacuations, closed an interstate highway, and scorched more than 75 square miles (194 square kilometers). Many trails remain closed, but the Multnomah Falls Lodge reopened Wednesday.</p> <p>Authorities say the fire was started by a 15-year-old boy playing with fireworks. He's been charged with reckless burning.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>12/01 'Coup' leaders to Zimbabwe Cabinet</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://www.cnn.com/2017/12/01/africa/zimbabwe-mnangagwa-cabinet-intl/index.html">http://www.cnn.com/2017/12/01/africa/zimbabwe-mnangagwa-cabinet-intl/index.html</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>Harare, Zimbabwe (CNN)Zimbabwe's President Emmerson Mnangagwa unveiled a new Cabinet on Friday in which two senior military officials who played a central role in bringing him to power were given key jobs.</p> <p>Sibusiso Moyo, the army officer who went on state TV on November 15 to announce the military's takeover of power, has been appointed Foreign Minister, while air force commander Perrance Shiri is the new Minister of Lands, Agriculture and Rural Resettlement.</p> <p>Zimbabwe's longtime ruler Robert Mugabe stepped down a week after the military's move, allowing his erstwhile Vice President Mnangagwa to return from hiding out in South Africa to pick up the reins as interim President a week ago.</p> <p>The 22 members of the Cabinet are all members of the ruling Zanu PF party, dashing Zimbabweans' hopes that Mnangagwa might include opposition representatives in his government.</p> <p>The 75-year-old had promised in his inauguration speech last Friday to reach out to the opposition, as well as pledging sweeping reforms and a crackdown on rampant corruption.</p> <p>The main opposition MDC-T party has previously raised concerns over what role the military might play ahead of next year's election, with Mnangagwa at the helm of the security forces.</p> <p>The Cabinet appointments take immediate effect, Regis Chikowore of Zimbabwe's Information Ministry said Friday. The date for the ministers' swearing in has yet to be announced.</p> <p>Following the announcement, some Zimbabweans took to social media to vent their anger and disappointment.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>12/01 Libyan slave trade shocks the world</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://time.com/5042560/libya-slave-trade/?xid=homepage">http://time.com/5042560/libya-slave-trade/?xid=homepage</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>A video of men appearing to be sold at auction in Libya for \$400 has shocked the world and focused international attention on the exploitation of migrants and refugees the north African country.</p> <p>The footage and subsequent investigation conducted by CNN last month has rallied European and African leaders to take action to stop the abuses. On Wednesday, the leaders of Libya, France, Germany, Chad and Niger and four other countries agreed on a plan to evacuate thousands of migrants stuck in Libyan detention camps.</p> <p>The grainy undercover video appears to show smugglers selling off a dozen men outside of the capital city Tripoli.</p> <p>“Does anybody need a digger? This is a digger, a big strong man, he’ll dig,” said an auctioneer, according to CNN. “What am I bid, what am I bid?”</p> <p>The report has drawn attention to an issue that aid and migrant groups say has gone on for years.</p> <p>Why is there a slave trade in Libya?</p> <p>Libya is the main transit point for refugees and migrants trying to reach Europe by sea. In each of the last three years, 150,000 people have made the dangerous crossing across the Mediterranean Sea from Libya. For four years in a row, 3,000 refugees have died while attempting the journey, according to figures from the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the U.N.’s migration agency.</p>

The Libyan Coast Guard — supported with funds and resources from the E.U. and more specifically, Italy — has cracked down on boats smuggling refugees and migrants to Europe. With estimates of 400,000 to almost one million people now bottled up in Libya, detention centers are overrun and there are mounting reports of robbery, rape, and murder among migrants, according to a September report by the U.N. human rights agency. Conditions in the centers have been described as “horrific,” and among other abuses, migrants are vulnerable to being sold off as laborers in slave auctions.

“It’s a total extortion machine,” Lenard Doyle, Director of Media and Communications for the IOM in Geneva tells TIME. “Fueled by the absolute rush of migrants through Libya thinking they can get out of poverty, following a dream that doesn’t exist.”

The IOM said in April that it had documented reports of “slave markets” along the migrant routes in North Africa “tormenting hundreds of young African men bound for Libya.”

“There they become commodities to be bought, sold and discarded when they have no more value,” Doyle said in the April statement.

According to CNN, the U.N.-backed Libyan government has launched a formal investigation into the allegations. But Libya is largely considered a failed state. Since Muammar Gaddafi, who ran the country for four decades, was ousted in 2011, the country has descended into civil war. A transitional government failed to implement rule of law in the country, which has splintered into several factions of militias, tribes, and gangs. In lawless Libya, many see the slave trade and smuggling as a lucrative industry. Tackling the country’s humanitarian crisis will require international assistance.

On Wednesday, Libya reached a deal with E.U. and African leaders to allow the emergency repatriation of refugees and migrants facing abuse in its detention centers. The government also agreed to open a transit center for vulnerable refugees after months of negotiations, according to Reuters. The center is intended to safely house people before they are resettled or sent to a third country.

How is the international community responding?

Following the publication of the video, there was outcry from all corners of the globe, with some nations recalling their ambassadors from Libya. Protesters rallied outside Libyan embassies across Africa and in Europe.

On Wednesday, African and European leaders met at a summit in the Ivory Coast and agreed on an urgent evacuation plan that would see about 15,000 people flown out of Libya. Most of the migrants will be sent back to their home countries. Speaking at the summit, French President Emmanuel Macron, called the abuse “a crime against humanity” and vowed the summit members would “launch concrete military and policing action on the ground to dismantle those networks,” according to the Guardian. The deal also included initiatives to target traffickers, including setting up a task force to dismantle trafficking networks, the BBC reports.

Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari expressed shock at how his compatriots were being treated “like goats.” On Wednesday, 242 Nigerian migrants were flown out of Libya back to Nigeria.

The day before, the U.N. Security Council held an emergency meeting and said it would be “stepping up its work” to stop the abuses. However, the U.N. refugee agency said it faces “dramatic” funding gaps, especially for its operations in sub-Saharan Africa. “Slavery and other such egregious abuses of human rights have no place in the 21st century,” U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres said.

Since 2015, the IOM has repatriated 13,000 people from Libya under a voluntary program. But Doyle, the IOM spokesperson, says more needs to be done to stop migration at its core, particularly from tech companies who own online platforms where traffickers can falsely lure people into paying smugglers.

“They’re being completely misled into thinking that’s a happy future for them and being misled through social media,” he tells TIME.

Earlier this week, the foreign ministry of Rwanda said it would extend asylum to 30,000 mainly sub-Saharan Africans stuck in Libya. “Given our own history ... we cannot remain silent when human beings are being mistreated and auctioned off like cattle,” the foreign ministry said.

U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Nikki Haley condemned the abuses, saying: “To see the pictures of these men being treated like cattle, and to hear the auctioneer describe them as, quote, ‘big strong boys for farm work,’ should shock the conscience of us all.”

“There are few greater violations of human rights and human dignity than this.”

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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>12/01 Climate change melting the Alps</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://time.com/italy-alps-climate-change/?xid=homepage">http://time.com/italy-alps-climate-change/?xid=homepage</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>It took a long time for the Earth to create the Alps—a lot longer than it’s taking humans to wreck them. The Alpine mountain range first rose an estimated 44 million years ago, when the great African plate began creeping northward, breaking and upthrusting the European plate. The newborn peaks did not stop growing until 9 million years ago, and it would be millions more years before the glaciers and snow that are their signature feature would be in place.</p> <p>Humans have needed barely a century to make a mess of it all. Green and brown, it appears, are the new white across the southern European peaks as climate change, which historically has done its most noticeable damage closer to sea level, now reaches higher.</p> <p>From 1960 to 2017, the Alpine snow season shortened by 38 days—starting an average of 12 days later and ending 26 days earlier than normal. Europe experienced its warmest-ever winter in the 2015–16 season, with snow cover in the southern French Alps just 20% of its typical depth.</p> <p>Last December was the driest in 150 years of record keeping, and the flakes that did manage to fall didn’t stay around long. The snow line—the point on a slope at which it’s high enough and thus cold enough for snow to stick—is about 3,900 ft., which is a historic high in some areas. But worse lies ahead as scientists predict melt even at nearly 10,000 ft. by the end of the century.</p> <p>All this is doing terrible things not just to Alpine beauty but to Alpine businesses—especially ski resorts. Globally, the ski industry generates up to \$70 billion per year, and 44% of all skiers—and their dollars—flock to the Alps.</p> <p>Imagine the Caribbean culture and economy without beaches and water; that’s the Alpine culture and economy without snow.</p> <p>The difference is that you can’t make an artificial ocean, but you can make artificial snow, and ski resorts all over the world rely on it. Nowhere is that reliance more urgent than in the Alps, and nowhere in the Alps is it more poignant than on the slopes of the Dolomites, an Alpine range of 18 peaks in northern Italy.</p> <p>In 2009, the Dolomites were named a World Heritage Site by the U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) for their beauty, their complex geomorphology and their scientific significance. But the Dolomites have changed—their snow quickly vanishing—and that transformation is what caught the eye of Italian photographer Marco Zorzanello. A onetime student of literature, he found himself growing less interested in the lit part of his education and more interested in the human part—particularly the damage humans as a whole are doing to ourselves and to our world through climate change.</p> <p>“I was interested in the ways the changing environment is changing the appearance of the planet,”</p>

Zorzanello says. “We see all of these images, and we just get used to them. It’s like the pictures become an anesthetic.”

Pictures of the Dolomites, he hoped, could once again cause us to feel the pain, and the portfolio he brought back from two winters of shooting on the range’s peaks do just that. The ski seasons go on as they always have, but the trails look unhappily out of place—wide white avenues of snow cut across a landscape of dead grass, dead scrub and pebbled paths.

The skiers themselves seem out of place too, relaxing in chaise longues on the dry ground beside the trails, or arriving at the slopes in ski pants and T-shirts, because why bundle up when the temperature is a balmy 50°F? “It was incredibly hot for that time of year,” says Zorzanello. “And this was 2,100 m [6,900 ft.] up the mountain.”

Just as jarring are the images of trucks dumping fresh snow on the trails and of useless snowmobiles that would normally be busy set aside and covered by tarps. And everywhere, up and down the trails, are the snowmaking machines—a technology that’s gotten more refined as the need has gotten greater.

A reasonable approximation, of course, will never replace authentic snow—not the feel of it, the look of it or the behavior of it. And it surely won’t replace the enchantment of it, falling in proper flakes from proper clouds, covering the ground in an unbroken blanket, rather than in engineered trails crisscrossing a bleak brown landscape.

“The dream of skiing on Alpine snow is going to go away,” says Zorzanello. The loss of the beauty that once was the Alps is a just price for the damage wrought by humans—and might serve as a sufficient spur for us to begin to avoid doing more.

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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>11/30 Claim: 200,000 Puerto Ricans fled to Fla.</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.nbcnews.com/news/latino/over-200-000-puerto-ricans-have-arrived-florida-hurricane-maria-n825111">https://www.nbcnews.com/news/latino/over-200-000-puerto-ricans-have-arrived-florida-hurricane-maria-n825111</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>MIAMI – The exodus of Puerto Ricans to Florida following Hurricane Maria has reached a whopping 200,000 in just over two months, obliterating initial conservative estimates that had put the number at 100,000.</p> <p>Hurricane Maria trounced Puerto Rico on September 20, and since then, families have been boarding planes to the mainland with no end in sight. Flights from the island are booked solid through the end of the year.</p> <p>According to the Florida Division of Emergency Management, over 208,000 people from Puerto Rico have landed at airports in Miami, Orlando, and Tampa since October 3rd.</p> <p>A total of 7,756 Puerto Rican students have enrolled in Florida public schools during the same period. The largest enrollments are in Orange and Osceola Counties in Central Florida, which has the heaviest concentration of Puerto Ricans. Many universities in the state have also waived out-of-state tuition fees for Puerto Rican students.</p> <p>The scale of migration is larger than any other in Puerto Ricans history. “Puerto Rico will be seen by historians as before and after Maria,” said Luis Martinez Fernandez, a History professor at the University of Central Florida, calling it “a watershed moment.”</p> <p>Since the initial aftermath of the hurricane, Fernandez has predicted a total of 500,000 to 750,000 Puerto Ricans would leave the island in a four-year period.</p> <p>“As it turns out, 500,000 is now the low-end estimate for a five year period. It appears that it will be closer</p>



	<p>to 750,000,” according to Fernandez.</p> <p>He said the exodus is unfolding along several interconnected waves. First, the wave that was underway prior to the storm, which had reached a level of around 80,000 per year. Since the hurricane, a second wave has added to what was already a spike.</p> <p>A larger and longer-term wave will continue over the next few years, he said. Consequently, an already deeply indebted government will continue to see a sharp drop in the tax base, which reduces its ability to provide services and pay its debt. “In that sense, Maria was a perfect storm of destruction and economic ruin,” Fernandez said.</p> <p>The population of Puerto Ricans in Florida has swelled from 479,000 in 2000 to over one million now. Many of those were originally fleeing the island’s economic recession.</p> <p>But not all the Puerto Ricans arriving will stay for good. Some, particularly the older generations, will return.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>11/30 Congress scrambles to avoid shutdown</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2017/11/30/time-running-out-congress-scrambles-avoid-government-shutdown/910321001/">https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2017/11/30/time-running-out-congress-scrambles-avoid-government-shutdown/910321001/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>WASHINGTON — With funding set to expire in one week, Congress is scrambling once again to avoid a government shutdown.</p> <p>House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., insisted Thursday that lawmakers would pass a short-term resolution to keep the government running at current spending levels past Dec. 8, when the existing funding measure is set to expire.</p> <p>But how long that temporary fix would last remains in doubt.</p> <p>Some Republicans want the next "continuing resolution" that would keep the government operating through mid-December, hoping that would give lawmakers enough time to work out an agreement on spending and other thorny issues for the fiscal year that ends next Sept. 30.</p> <p>Some members of the conservative House Freedom Caucus want to put off those decisions until January, arguing that conservatives often lose in year-end negotiations because lawmakers want to get home for the holidays. As a result, they say, lawmakers are more willing to make concessions during last-minute talks and legislation tends to be less conservative.</p> <p>In the Senate, meanwhile, any deal to keep the government open could be scuttled over immigration.</p> <p>The Senate’s second-ranking Democrat, Dick Durbin of Illinois, is threatening to vote against any short-term funding bill that doesn’t provide relief for young immigrants who were brought to the United States illegally by their parents. Durbin is rallying other Democrats to help him block any spending bill that doesn’t deal with the legal status of so-called Dreamers.</p> <p>If that happens, “then they will have chosen to shut the government, something that we do not want to see happen,” Ryan said.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>12/01 Texas sheriff: BP agents not attacked</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://apnews.com/c78c7167a4ab4052881ee10a07d4185e/Texas-sheriff-says-it's-unlikely-border-">https://apnews.com/c78c7167a4ab4052881ee10a07d4185e/Texas-sheriff-says-it's-unlikely-border-</a>

	<a href="#"><u>agents-were-attacked</u></a>
GIST	<p>VAN HORN, Texas (AP) — A Texas sheriff who was among the first people to reach two badly injured U.S. Border Patrol agents said he thinks they may have been sideswiped accidentally by a tractor-trailer, not attacked, as President Donald Trump and some others have suggested.</p> <p>The injured agents were found the night of Nov. 18 along a culvert next to Interstate 10 near Van Horn, which is about 110 miles (175 kilometers) southeast of El Paso and about 30 miles (50 kilometers) from the border with Mexico.</p> <p>Agent Rogelio Martinez succumbed to traumatic head injuries and broken bones. His partner, who has not been identified, was seriously injured and hospitalized for several days. The agent has no memory of what happened that night.</p> <p>Culberson County Sheriff Oscar Carrillo said he thinks a tractor-trailer may have accidentally sideswiped the pair, The Dallas Morning News reported.</p> <p>I-10 is a heavily traveled route for truck drivers and accidents regularly occur, some due to wind drafts and others from drivers overcorrecting after drifting across lanes, Carrillo said.</p> <p>“From the beginning we were radioed to assist in the incident as an injury, not an assault,” Carrillo told the newspaper. “That’s the way it was communicated to us.</p> <p>“If this was an assault, believe me, as sheriff, I’d be the first one out there emphasizing safety in our community and with our deputies, pairing them up,” he added.</p> <p>It’s not clear why Martinez and his partner were along the highway and U.S. Customs and Border Protection only said in a statement that they “were responding to activity.”</p> <p>A Border Patrol union, the National Border Patrol Council, has said the pair was attacked and struck with a rock or rocks.</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>11/30 BP agent kills illegal in assault</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2017/nov/30/border-patrol-agent-kills-migrant-who-tried-steal-/">https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2017/nov/30/border-patrol-agent-kills-migrant-who-tried-steal-/</a>
GIST	<p>An illegal immigrant tried to wrestle a Border Patrol agent’s gun away then was shot and killed by the agent’s partner, officials said Thursday, in the latest of a growing series of assaults on agents.</p> <p>Two agents were tracking a group of illegal immigrants in southern Arizona and when they moved in to make the arrest, one of the illegals attacked and grabbed an agent’s gun. The other agent shot the immigrant, who later died of the wound, said Tucson Sector Chief Patrol Agent Rodolfo Karisch.</p> <p>Three other men, all Guatemalans, were arrested for immigration violations, Agent Karisch said.</p> <p>“The incident highlights the threat and dangers our agents face daily in protecting our borders and communities,” he said.</p> <p>Brandon Judd, president of the National Border Patrol Council, the union for line agents, said the number of assaults is up dramatically compared to a year ago, and he said it’s a signal that the agents are succeeding in putting pressure on the smugglers.</p> <p>But Mr. Judd said the Justice Department isn’t doing enough to prosecute those who assault Border Patrol agents, saying illegal immigration has become so politically charged that U.S. attorneys are “scared to touch it.”</p>

	<p>“Here’s the simple fact — until appropriate changes are made within agencies, they continue not to prosecute assaults on Border Patrol agents. And that’s because we have the same U.S. attorneys in place that we had under the Obama administration,” he said.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>12/01 Strong quake jolts southeast Iran</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://abcnews.go.com/Technology/wireStory/strong-quake-jolts-sparsely-populated-iran-damage-51501972?">http://abcnews.go.com/Technology/wireStory/strong-quake-jolts-sparsely-populated-iran-damage-51501972?</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>A magnitude 6.1 earthquake injured dozens of people after it jolted a sparsely populated area in Iran's southeast, media reported Friday.</p> <p>The U.S. Geological Survey put the magnitude at 6.</p> <p>Iranian media said most of the 42 injuries were minor and happened when people rushed to seek shelter.</p> <p>The quake also damaged scores of buildings in remote mountainous villages near the epicenter, the town of Hojedk, about 1,100 kilometers (683 miles) southeast of the capital Tehran, the reports said.</p> <p>The town has a population of 3,000 and is frequently hit by quakes. It is home to farms and coal mines.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>11/30 More US kids in foster care</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://abcnews.go.com/Health/wireStory/us-kids-foster-care-parental-drug-abuse-factor-51491707?">http://abcnews.go.com/Health/wireStory/us-kids-foster-care-parental-drug-abuse-factor-51491707?</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>The number of children in the U.S. foster care system has increased for the fourth year in a row, with substance abuse by parents a major factor, according to new federal data released on Thursday.</p> <p>The annual report from the Department of Health and Human Services counted 437,500 children in foster care as of Sept. 30, 2016, up from about 427,400 a year earlier.</p> <p>The peak was 524,000 children in foster care in 2002. The number dropped steadily to about 397,000 in 2012 before rising again as the opioid epidemic and other forms of drug abuse began to worsen across the U.S.</p> <p>Health and Human Services said substance abuse was a factor in 34 percent of the 2016 cases in which a child was removed from home, up from 32 percent a year earlier. About 92,000 children were removed from home because at least one parent had a drug abuse issue.</p> <p>Among the states with the biggest one-year increases in their foster care population were Indiana, Georgia and West Virginia, each grappling with extensive substance abuse problems. Indiana reported serving 29,315 children in its foster care system in fiscal 2016, up from 24,935 in 2015.</p> <p>"The continued trend of parental substance abuse is very concerning, especially when it means children must enter foster care as a result," said Steven Wagner, Health and Human Services' acting assistant secretary for children and families.</p> <p>Wagner oversees the Administration for Children and Families, which recently awarded 18 grants totaling more than \$12.5 million to help support children and families affected by a parent's or a caregiver's substance abuse.</p> <p>Richard Wexler, executive director of the National Coalition for Child Protection Reform, which seeks to reduce the number of children unnecessarily placed in foster care, contends that some states are</p>

	<p>highlighting the drug abuse epidemic as a way of deflecting attention from shortcomings in their child welfare systems.</p> <p>"Where opioid abuse really is a problem, make high-quality drug treatment, not foster care, the first-choice response," Wexler wrote in a recent blog post. "Take another look at all those other cases that don't involve drug addiction — such as the ones in which poverty is confused with 'neglect' and stop taking away children in those cases."</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>11/30 Argentina: not searching for sub survivors</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/argentina-longer-survivors-missing-51496309">http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/argentina-longer-survivors-missing-51496309</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>Argentina's navy said Thursday that it is no longer looking for survivors among the 44 sailors aboard a submarine missing for 15 days, though a multinational operation will continue searching for the vessel.</p> <p>Hopes of finding survivors had already dimmed because experts said the crew had only enough oxygen to last 7 to 10 days if the sub remained intact under the sea. The navy also had said an explosion was detected near the time and place where the ARA San Juan made its last contact with shore Nov. 15.</p> <p>Navy spokesman Enrique Balbi said the rescue mission had "extended for more than twice what is estimated for a rescue."</p> <p>"We've had 28 ships, nine aircraft, 4,000 people involved, 18 countries supporting," he told reporters. "Despite the magnitude of these efforts, we've been unable to find the submarine."</p> <p>Balbi said the search was no longer considered a rescue mission, but the hunt would go on for the missing sub.</p> <p>Some relatives of the crew broke into tears after they received the news.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>11/30 Japan emperor to abdicate 30 Apr 2019</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/japans-emperor-kihito-abdicate-april-30-2019-51501236?">http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/japans-emperor-kihito-abdicate-april-30-2019-51501236?</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>Japan's much admired Emperor Akihito plans to abdicate on April 30, 2019, at age 85 in the first such abdication from the Chrysanthemum Throne in about 200 years, the government said Friday.</p> <p>Akihito's elder son Crown Prince Naruhito will ascend the throne a day later, on May 1, 2019, beginning a new as yet unnamed era.</p> <p>The decision was made Friday at a meeting of the Imperial House Council, which included politicians, judicial officials and imperial family members.</p> <p>Akihito expressed his apparent wish to abdicate in 2016, citing his age and health.</p> <p>Formal Cabinet approval of the decision is due on Dec. 8, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe told reporters.</p> <p>Legislation allowing Akihito to abdicate within three years was enacted earlier this year.</p> <p>His desire to leave the throne revived a debate about the country's 2,000-year-old monarchy, one of the world's oldest, as well as discussion about improving the status of female members of the shrinking royal population. The current male-only succession rules prohibit women from succeeding to the Chrysanthemum Throne and female members lose their royal status when they marry a commoner.</p>

	Akihito was 56 years old when he ascended the throne in January 1989 after the death of his father, Emperor Hirohito, beginning the Heisei Era. Naruhito will be 59 when he becomes emperor.
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>12/01 Election protests grow in Honduras</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/tensions-rise-vote-count-honduras-drags-51483988?">http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/tensions-rise-vote-count-honduras-drags-51483988?</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>Protesters and police clashed violently Thursday as incumbent President Juan Orlando Hernandez emerged with a growing lead for re-election following a reported computer glitch that shut down vote counting for several hours.</p> <p>Challenger Salvador Nasralla has alleged fraud and said he won't respect the official results. He's watched an initial five-point lead diminish in recent days as official results have trickled out.</p> <p>Thursday night, Hernandez was ahead by more than 45,000 votes with nearly 93 percent of Sunday's votes processed. He had 42.9 percent of the vote to Nasralla's 41.4 percent.</p> <p>Opposition supporters protested throughout the day and into the night outside the electoral court's facilities and on major boulevards, setting up roadblocks and lighting bonfires in the streets. Hooded demonstrators threw rocks and pieces of wood at riot police carrying batons and shields, who responded forcefully with tear gas and water cannons as calls to maintain calm were increasingly unheeded.</p> <p>David Matamoros, president of the electoral court, said Thursday that officials had not finished counting in part because overnight they had to evacuate after tear gas drifted into the building.</p> <p>He said that about 2,000 electoral reports from polling sites contained "inconsistencies," including lacking signatures from members of the polling sites or not having seals. Those will most likely require a special count and it was unclear how many votes were at play in those cases, he said.</p> <p>Representatives of the Organization of American States called for transparency in the count.</p> <p>Honduras' influential Private Business Council urged the electoral court to wait until all the votes are counted before announcing the result.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>12/01 US ships dirty oil byproduct worldwide</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/us-exporting-dirty-fuel-pollution-choked-india-51504786?">http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/us-exporting-dirty-fuel-pollution-choked-india-51504786?</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>U.S. oil refineries that are unable to sell a dirty fuel waste product at home are exporting vast quantities of it to India instead.</p> <p>Petroleum coke, the bottom-of-the-barrel leftover from refining Canadian tar sands crude and other heavy oils, is cheaper and burns hotter than coal. But it also contains more planet-warming carbon and far more heart- and lung-damaging sulfur — a key reason few American companies use it.</p> <p>Refineries instead are sending it around the world, especially to energy-hungry India, which last year got almost a fourth of all the fuel-grade "petcoke" the U.S. shipped out, an Associated Press investigation found. In 2016, the U.S. sent more than 8 million metric tons of petcoke to India. That's about 20 times more than in 2010, and enough to fill the Empire State Building eight times.</p> <p>The petcoke being burned in countless factories and plants is contributing to dangerously filthy air in India, which already has many of the world's most polluted cities.</p>

	<p>Laboratory tests on imported petcoke used near New Delhi found it contained 17 times more sulfur than the limit set for coal, and a staggering 1,380 times more than for diesel, according to India's court-appointed Environmental Pollution Control Authority. India's own petcoke, produced domestically, adds to the pollution.</p> <p>Industry officials say petcoke has been an important and valuable fuel for decades, and its use recycles a waste product. Health and environmental advocates, though, say the U.S. is simply exporting an environmental problem. The U.S. is the world's largest producer and exporter of petcoke, federal and international data show.</p> <p>"We should not become the dust bin of the rest of the world," said Sunita Narain, a member of the pollution authority who also heads the Delhi-based Center for Science and the Environment. "We certainly can't afford it; we're choking to death already."</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>11/30 Russia: won't break ties w/NKorea</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://abcnews.go.com/International/russia-heed-us-request-break-ties-north-korea/story?id=51484248&amp;cid=clicksource_76_2_hero_headlines_bsq_hed">http://abcnews.go.com/International/russia-heed-us-request-break-ties-north-korea/story?id=51484248&amp;cid=clicksource_76_2_hero_headlines_bsq_hed</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>Russia's foreign minister Sergey Lavrov has rejected a U.S. call to cut ties with North Korea. He said the U.S. appears to be provoking Pyongyang, one day after President Donald Trump promised to impose fresh sanctions on the country in the wake of its newest missile launch.</p> <p>Russia looked negatively on U.S. ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley's call for countries to end relations with North Korea and believes that sanctions pressure is "exhausted," according to a read-out of Lavrov's address to reporters at a security summit in Belarus, published by Russia's foreign ministry.</p> <p>Lavrov suggested recent U.S. behavior indicated it wanted to push North Korea into a war.</p> <p>He accused the U.S. of misleading Russia over plans for joint-military exercises with South Korea intended to deter the North. He said that U.S. officials had privately said no exercises would be held before the spring, which Moscow hoped might bring a pause in the crisis. But the U.S has since conducted unscheduled drills twice this autumn and plans another in December.</p> <p>"We have the impression that all of this is done specially so that Kim Jong Un will go off the rails and take yet another reckless step," Lavrov said, referring to North Korea's leader. "It's sad. If they want to find a pretext for the destruction of North Korea, as the U.S. representative stated in the U.N., let them say that straight. Then we will take a decision on how to react to that."</p> <p>On Wednesday, the Kremlin condemned the launch as a "provocative step" which "moves us away from beginning to settle the crisis." Its spokesman, Dmitry Peskov, called on all sides to "keep calm".</p> <p>Russia has several times proposed a joint plan with China that would see the U.S. and South Korea freeze military exercises in return for a halt in the missile launches.</p> <p>However, Moscow has also been accused of providing life-lines to Pyongyang. In October, it was revealed that a firm affiliated with Russia's state railways company had installed a new internet connection to North Korea, offering it greater resilience against potential U.S. cyber attacks that have been used to hamper its missile program.</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>12/01 Cyber thieves eye bitcoin boom</b>
SOURCE	<a href="http://www.bbc.com/news/technology-41469232">http://www.bbc.com/news/technology-41469232</a>
GIST	<p>Bitcoin's booming value has driven a huge rise in crypto-currency themed malware, say security firms.</p> <p>In one month, anti-malware software company Malwarebytes said it stopped almost 250 million attempts to place coin-mining malware on to PCs.</p> <p>Symantec said it had seen a "tenfold" increase in the amount of malicious code connected with crypto-cash.</p> <p>Cyber-thieves are using both dedicated software, hacked websites and emails to snare victims.</p> <p>"There's been a huge spike," said Candid Wuest, a threat researcher at online security firm Symantec, adding that it had been caused by the rapid increase in Bitcoin's value.</p> <p>On 29 November, the value of one Bitcoin surpassed \$10,000 (£7,943) - a massive increase on the \$1,000 each one was worth at the start of 2017, although that figure has now fallen back sharply.</p> <p>"With \$10,000 being breached, and all the hype, a lot of people are trying to make money with crypto-coins," said Mr Wuest.</p> <p>Most of the activity seen by Symantec and other security firms involves crypto-coins other than Bitcoin. This was because it took a huge amount of computer power to produce or "mine" bitcoins.</p> <p>By contrast, he said, mining other crypto-coins such as Monero could be done on desktops, laptops and even smartphones.</p> <p>Many of these alternative coins had risen in value alongside Bitcoin, said Mr Wuest.</p> <p>Mining involves solving complicated mathematical problems and those who take part can be rewarded with coins. The more machines one person can get mining on their behalf - the more coins they are likely to amass, said Mr Wuest.</p> <p>Malwarebytes told the BBC that its security software was now, on average, stopping about eight million attempts a day by coin-mining code to compromise users' PCs.</p> <p>Much of this coin-mining software was found on websites that had been hacked, to give attackers the ability to install their own code. One researcher found almost 2,500 sites hosting mining code.</p> <p>Other cyber-thieves have hijacked extensions and add-ons for web browsing programs to insert the malicious code. Once on a computer, the malware often runs processors at close to 100% to get as much mining work done as possible. On smartphones, this can mean batteries are depleted very quickly.</p> <p>Much of the mining malware seen before now relied on using a victim's browser, said Malwarebytes' security researcher Jerome Segura. Attackers had now adapted malware to ensure it mines coins for as long as possible and did not stop when a browsing program was shut down.</p> <p>"The trick is that although the visible browser windows are closed, there is a hidden one that remains opened," wrote Mr Segura in a blog detailing how the malware works.</p> <p>The tiny window lurks beneath the taskbar on a Windows machine and would not be noticed by a victim, he said. Adverts that run on porn sites had been found harbouring this malware, he added.</p> <p>It is not only websites that are being caught up in attempts to cash in on the crypto-cash boom, said Nicole Eagan, chief executive of security firm Dark Trace.</p>

	<p>Ms Eagan said it had found coin-mining programs of one sort or another on the internal networks of 25% of its customers. Many sought to use the significant computer processing power available inside corporate networks to generate coins.</p> <p>"Sometimes it's an external intrusion into the network and sometimes its an employee that's looking to do it," she said. "It's rampant at the moment."</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>11/30 DHS, FBI alerts on NKorea cyber threats</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://americansecuritytoday.com/dhs-fbi-alerts-malicious-north-korean-cyber-activity-multi-video/">https://americansecuritytoday.com/dhs-fbi-alerts-malicious-north-korean-cyber-activity-multi-video/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) has released a pair of Joint Technical Alerts which provide details on tools and infrastructure used by North Korea to target the media, aerospace, financial, and critical infrastructure sectors in the United States and globally.</p> <p>The North Korean government malicious cyber activity noted in these alerts is part of a long-term campaign of cyber-enabled operations that impact the U.S. Government and its citizens.</p> <p>This joint Technical Alert (TA) is the result of analytic efforts between DHS and the FBI working with U.S. government partners, identified Internet Protocol (IP) addresses and other indicators of compromise (IOCs) associated with a malicious cyber activity by the North Korean government, designated by the U.S. Government as 'HIDDEN COBRA.'</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alert (<a href="#">TA17-318A</a>) <i>HIDDEN COBRA – North Korean Remote Administration Tool: FALLCHILL</i></li> <li>Alert (<a href="#">TA17-318B</a>) <i>HIDDEN COBRA – North Korean Trojan: Volgmer</i></li> </ul> <p>Working closely with interagency, industry and international partners, DHS is constantly working to arm network defenders with the tools they need to identify, detect and disrupt state and non-state actors targeting the networks and systems of our country and our allies.</p> <p>Earlier this summer, DHS and FBI released a technical alert and malware analysis report (MAR) of a malware variant, known as DeltaCharlie, used to manage North Korea's distributed denial-of-service (DDoS) botnet infrastructure.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alert (<a href="#">TA17-164A</a>) <i>HIDDEN COBRA – North Korea's DDoS Botnet Infrastructure</i></li> </ul> <p>The U.S. Government refers to all of this North Korean malicious cyber activity as 'HIDDEN COBRA' and it is published on the National Cybersecurity and Communications Integration Center's (NCCIC) <a href="#">U.S. Computer Emergency Readiness Team's (US-CERT)</a> website.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>11/30 FBI, DHS warn of hacker mercenaries</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://www.nextgov.com/cybersecurity/2017/11/fbi-dhs-warn-hacker-mercenaries-funded-nation-states/144203/">http://www.nextgov.com/cybersecurity/2017/11/fbi-dhs-warn-hacker-mercenaries-funded-nation-states/144203/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>Lines between government-backed hackers and cyber criminals are getting fuzzier, top officials told lawmakers Thursday.</p> <p>That's one message the FBI wanted to send when it indicted two Russian intelligence officers and two criminal co-defendants for a major breach of the Yahoo email service in March, Director Christopher Wray said.</p>



“We are seeing an emergence of that kind of collaboration which used to be two separate things—nation-state actors and criminal hackers,” Wray told the House Homeland Security Committee. “Now there’s this collusion, if you will.”

The Homeland Security Department is also following the trend, acting Secretary Elaine Duke told the committee.

“What we’re having to do is really understand, as the director said earlier, the difference between state actors, people [who are] maybe just looking for financial gain and those hybrid actors and that’s become more difficult,” she said.

Homeland Security leads civilian government cybersecurity and helps critical infrastructure providers, such as airports, banks and hospitals, secure their computer networks.

U.S. officials have long feared that cyber criminal networks, which operate with relative impunity in parts of Russia, could be deputized for hacking operations that serve the Kremlin’s interests.

Russian President Vladimir Putin even speculated that “patriotic hackers” in Russia might have been responsible for email breaches at Democratic political organizations that sowed chaos during the 2016 U.S. presidential election. He’s disputed, however, U.S. intelligence agencies’ conclusion that the Russian government ordered those breaches.

Increasingly, however, such hybrid government-criminal breaches are becoming a reality, Wray told lawmakers.

“You have the blend of a nation-state actor, in that case, the Russian intelligence service, using the assistance of criminal hackers, which you think of almost like mercenaries, being used to commit cyberattacks,” the FBI director said.

“Russia is attempting to assert its place in the world and relying more creatively on a form of asymmetric warfare to damage and weaken this country economically and otherwise,” he said.

It’s highly unlikely the Russian Yahoo hackers will see a U.S. courtroom because the U.S. does not have an extradition agreement with Russia, Wray acknowledged.

“On the other hand, if they travel, that’s going to be a challenge for them because they are now, at that point, fugitives wanted by the FBI,” he said.

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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>12/01 Chinese hackers eye Australia law firms</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-12-01/chinese-hackers-targeting-australian-law-firms/9213520">http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-12-01/chinese-hackers-targeting-australian-law-firms/9213520</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>Chinese hackers are attacking Australian law firms that hold sensitive commercial information and have successfully hacked a research body, an industry specialist has warned.</p> <p>The Chinese espionage group known as the Codoso team or APT-19 has been causing havoc internationally but is turning its attention to Australia.</p> <p>The Australian Crime Commission's former cyber security manager, Tim Wellsmore, said any information obtained would likely be passed to Chinese companies.</p> <p>Law firms hold confidential information that could give the companies inside knowledge ahead of business negotiations, mergers and acquisitions.</p> <p>In some cases, these firms are seen as weak links as they have not taken cyber security as seriously as</p>

	<p>some of their clients.</p> <p>Mr Wellsmore, who is now head of threat intelligence at private security firm FireEye, said APT-19's origins remained unclear.</p> <p>"Sometimes it is tricky to understand whether they are sitting there in uniforms working directly for the Chinese Government, or if they are sponsored and given resources but operate outside the Government hierarchy," he told the ABC.</p> <p>FireEye observed at least seven phishing attacks directed at global law firms during May and June, some of which exploited vulnerabilities in Microsoft software.</p> <p>A spokesman for the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, which leads the Government's response to cybercrime, said hackers knew there was a low risk of being identified.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>12/01 NKorea inside Russia's cyber influence</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.forbes.com/sites/outofasia/2017/12/01/russia-is-now-providing-north-korea-with-internet-what-that-could-mean-for-cyber-warfare/#685c39dc386b">https://www.forbes.com/sites/outofasia/2017/12/01/russia-is-now-providing-north-korea-with-internet-what-that-could-mean-for-cyber-warfare/#685c39dc386b</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>Amid diplomatic fallout between North Korea and China, its only major trade partner, Russia is positioning itself to be a stronger North Korean ally, reaching out to provide North Korea with an internet connection. As a result, Russia may embolden North Korea to launch more destructive cyberattacks. Stronger cooperation between the two raises the possibility that they will even collaborate on cyberattacks themselves, which would be devastating for the international community.</p> <p>On October 1st, 38North and Dyn Research reported that Russia began providing an internet connection to North Korea. The Russian-provided infrastructure gives Pyongyang 60% more bandwidth and a second connection to the outside world □□ ; China's Unicom company had been North Korea's sole internet provider since 2010. The construction of the new internet connection follows a September 27th meeting between DPRK and Russian foreign ministry officials in Moscow. Russia's extension of an internet connection to North Korea, as well as its reopening of a ferry route between the two, may indicate that Russia will seek sanction loopholes to strengthen their partnership.</p> <p>North Korea's turn towards Russia follows Pyongyang's aggressive nuclear testing and vociferous behavior pushing China and its investments out of the country. After North Korea's sixth nuclear test, the UN Security Council passed the strictest sanctions yet on the isolated country. As a result of these sanctions, China is due to close North Korean businesses operating within China and end joint ventures between the two within 120 days.</p> <p>China's compliance with new sanctions is not the only sign of tension with the DPRK. This year, Pyongyang timed its missile and nuclear tests to correspond with international meetings hosted in China. North Korea's actions seemingly were meant to embarrass China, who it believes is siding with Washington. Tensions between North Korea and China have been accelerating since Kim Jong-un took power in 2011. The following year, North Korean authorities lashed out against one of Beijing's largest mining and steel-producing companies, Xiyang Group, with whom it had signed a \$40 billion deal to build an iron ore mine. North Korean officials "used violent methods" against Xiyang staff, such as depriving them of food and water, and smashing windows. North Korea eventually annulled the contract with Xiyang, after deporting employees in the dead of night.</p> <p>The warming of North Korean-Russian relations does not just coincide with the souring of North Korean relations with China. It also follows a distributed denial of service (DDoS) campaign by U.S. Cyber Command on North Korea's intelligence agency, the Reconnaissance General Bureau. A distributed denial-of-service attack is an attempt to make an online service unavailable by flooding it with traffic from multiple sources. According to a U.S. official, North Korean hackers complained that the resulting spotty</p>

internet access was interfering with their work, which as of late involves stealing hundreds of millions of dollars from international banks and companies. As increasingly strict sanctions limit legal economic opportunities for North Korea, cyber heists provide for nearly a third of the value of the isolated nation's exports.

Russia, also increasingly isolated due to sanctions and its aggressive activity, sees an opportunity in North Korea. With little investment required on its part, Russia can incorporate North Korea into its geopolitically disruptive agenda. Russia's agenda involves forcing the U.S. and its allies to exhaust more resources on cybersecurity and tend to international conflicts. Given Russia's own economic distress from sanctions, which have caused GDP to decline since 2013, there is a strong incentive for international partnership with North Korea. Supplying North Korean hackers with added bandwidth and capability to attack national banks and companies allows Russia to finance cyber-disruption. Worse, with Russian support, North Korea will feel emboldened to launch more destructive cyberattacks.

Russia and North Korea make natural allies in that they are aligned against the United States and its U.S. allies, and it is highly possible that they have collaborated in cyber-attacks in some capacity. The U.S. government and private security companies have identified the two as principal threats to national security based on their previous cyberattacks.

Russia has continuously used cyber methods to maintain its influence on the former Soviet area as part of hybrid warfare campaigns by combining conventional power with cyber capabilities. During Putin's tenure, Estonia, Georgia, and Ukraine have been victims of Russian cyberattacks. Similarly, North Korea has been accused of numerous cybersecurity incidents, such as the Sony Pictures hack in 2014, stealing \$101 million from the Bangladeshi central bank, and the worldwide WannaCry ransomware attack this year.

Thus, Russia is quietly laying the groundwork to establish itself as a stronger North Korean partner while China-North Korea relations are cooling. This development coincides with the restoration of a Russian-North Korean railroad project, connecting Khasan (near Vladivostok) with Rajin (a port in North Korea). In addition, on October 10th, Russia reopened a ferry route to North Korea, despite the sanctions' calls to curtail economic cooperation between UN Security Council member states and North Korea.

While China no longer wants to be accused by the international community of supporting a rogue state, Russia is not swayed by such accusations. Both Russia and North Korea have proved they will use any means feasible to disrupt international affairs. □□ Whether it is by sending unmarked soldiers across borders, occupying a neighboring country, hacking power grids, or launching ransomware attacks against hospital computers - a strong Russian-North Korea partnership presents a much graver cyber threat than ever before. If Russia and the North Korea collaborate to unleash more aggressive cyberattacks—and it is looking like that will be the case—the international community needs to better prepare itself.

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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>11/30 Hackers breach GitHub bitcoin repository</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.hackread.com/hackers-breach-github-repository-for-bitcoin-gold-windows-wallet/">https://www.hackread.com/hackers-breach-github-repository-for-bitcoin-gold-windows-wallet/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>The Bitcoin Gold (BTG) team have announced that a hacker breached into their Github repository and changed the two existing Windows files with malicious ones. The reason for it was to trick users and steal their funds. Currently, one Bitcoin (BTC) is almost \$10,000 that makes it an easy and lucrative target for cybercriminals.</p> <p>According to a critical warning issued by BTG team on November 26th, the hack also affected those who downloaded the official Windows wallet from BTG's website between November 21st to November 25th. BTG is urging users to take extreme caution in case they downloaded the Windows wallet client. The developers went on to suggest scanning their computer for malware or even wipe their devices and move any cryptocurrencies with wallets accessible on that machine.</p>

It's still unclear how the hacker was able to breach BTG's security and replace Windows files; developers maintain no Linux file was affected and GitHub repository has already been secured to protect users from the second attack while the malicious files have also been removed and replaced with original and secured one.

"Until we know otherwise, all users should presume this file was created with malicious intent – to steal cryptocurrencies and/or user information. The file does not trigger antivirus / anti-malware software, but do not presume the file is safe," BTG warning said.

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**HEADLINE** 11/30 Ransomware targeting businesses rise

**SOURCE** <https://www.infosecurity-magazine.com/news/over-quarter-ransomware-targets/>

**GIST**

The number of ransomware attacks targeting business users in 2017 rose to 26% as the number of new families discovered halved, according to new stats released this week by Kaspersky Lab.

The Russian AV firm claimed that 26.2% of attacks over the past year were aimed at corporates, with just over 4% targeting SMBs.

This would seem to represent just a small increase from the 22.6% of attacks aimed at business users in 2016. However, the vendor said these figures didn't include the three mega ransomware worm campaigns of WannaCry, NotPetya (ExPetr) and BadRabbit.

There are other signs of an evolution in the ransomware landscape: the number of new malware families discovered by Kaspersky Lab dropped from 62 last year to just 38 in 2017.

However, it appears as if cyber-criminals are instead looking to modify existing strains in order to bypass security filters: the number of mods grew from 54,000 last year to 96,000 this.

Ransomware remains a serious threat to organizations, with two-thirds (65%) of those hit claiming to have lost a "significant" amount or even all of their data. Even the 29% that managed to decrypt their data said they lost a "significant" number of files.

Over a third (36%) ignored the advice of police and security experts and paid the ransom, but one in six never managed to recover their data.

There are also signs that ransomware is having a longer-lasting impact on the victim organization: 34% claimed they took a week or longer to recover from such an incident, versus 29% in 2016.

"The headline attacks of 2017 are an extreme example of growing criminal interest in corporate targets. We spotted this trend in 2016, it has accelerated throughout 2017, and shows no signs of slowing down," argued senior malware analyst, Fedor Sinitsyn.

"Business victims are remarkably vulnerable, can be charged a higher ransom than individuals and are often willing to pay up in order to keep the business operational. New business-focused infection vectors, such as through remote desktop systems are not surprisingly also on the rise."

This vector became increasingly popular in 2017, used to spread Crysis, Purgen/GlobeImposter and Cryakl ransomware variants, among others.

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**HEADLINE** 11/30 Consumer ploys rise in phishing gambits

**SOURCE** <https://www.infosecurity-magazine.com/news/consumer-ploys-rise-to-the-top/>

<p><b>GIST</b></p>	<p>In previous years, PhishMe reported that fear, urgency and curiosity were the top emotional motivators behind successful phishes (i.e., Delivery Issue or Parking Ticket for fear, Urgent Order or Canceled Transaction for urgency, and Final Version of the Report or Refund for Purchase for curiosity). Now these are closer to the bottom, replaced by entertainment, social media and reward/recognition gambits.</p> <p>The shift, detailed in PhishMe’s latest report, is indicative that where work-related scams once ruled supreme when it came to the subject-line phishes that folks would fall for, consumer scams are taking their place.</p> <p>“Employees will always take a break to do personal business online, so you can expect work and home email to continue blurring,” said the firm in the report. “Personal devices in the workplace often have multiple email accounts—the source of an email may not be distinguished as it should. However, to sustain morale, communication and collaboration, among other reasons, companies are unlikely to restrict BYOD or access to social media, news and entertainment sites.”</p> <p>At a high level, the issue is how consumers/employees get their news and interact, PhishMe noted.</p> <p>“Many news and social feeds are now subscription-based; they’re common in email and mobile device alerts,” the firm said. “This explains the rise in phishing attacks via social media links and fake news sites. Because they’re accustomed to them, people think it’s safe to click.”</p> <p>In terms of the top emotional motivators, simulated e-card phishes appear across the top three: Social, entertainment and reward/recognition. They’re an old ruse but a goodie. Internal promotions (raffles, ticket giveaways, free lunches, etc.) performed strongly, too; and, several financial and compliance scenarios also had strong “take” rates.</p> <p>And, despite the rise of consumer themes, the business email compromise/CEO fraud email approach, without a link or attachment, are the most effective simulated phishes in PhishMe testing.</p>
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<p><b>HEADLINE</b></p>	<p><b>11/30 Google is sued for invading privacy in UK</b></p>
<p><b>SOURCE</b></p>	<p><a href="https://www.infosecurity-magazine.com/news/google-sued-for-invading-privacy/">https://www.infosecurity-magazine.com/news/google-sued-for-invading-privacy/</a></p>
<p><b>GIST</b></p>	<p>Google is being sued on behalf of millions in the UK over privacy violations, after it allegedly secretly accessed their browsing data on iPhones.</p> <p>The former director of consumer group Which?, Richard Lloyd, is seeking compensation for up to 5.4m Britons in the equivalent of a class-action lawsuit. He alleges that Google circumvented the default privacy settings for Safari on iPhones and iPads between the summer of 2011 and spring of 2012, in a clandestine effort to surreptitiously collect browsing histories of individuals and serve targeted advertising.</p> <p>The issue was first brought up back in 2013, but Google argued at the time that it did not have to answer to the English courts and that UK privacy laws don’t apply to it, as an American company. But in 2015, Britain’s Court of Appeal ruled that UK consumers do actually have the right to sue Google over the issue, after which the internet behemoth agreed to an undisclosed settlement in a subsequent lawsuit. Lloyd is now bringing a much larger “representative action”—which will pay out £300 to each plaintiff. People who owned an iPhone or iPad during the effective time period will be automatically included in the claim.</p> <p>The claim is that Google manipulated a feature in Apple’s Safari web browser in order to place the DoubleClick ID Cookie on Apple devices. Allegedly, Google used the ‘Form Submission Rule’ exception within Safari (which allows users to click on Like buttons and similar interactions) to then trick the browser into thinking the user had visited the first-party domain that the DoubleClick cookie is sent from—thus allowing Google to set the ID Cookie and update it as a third-party cookie via other web sites. With that, it became able to trace a user’s browsing history.</p>

	<p>“I believe that what Google did was quite simply against the law,” said Lloyd. “Their actions have affected millions, and we’ll be asking the courts to remedy this major breach of trust. Through this action, we will send a strong message to Google and other tech giants in Silicon Valley that we’re not afraid to fight back if our laws are broken.”</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>12/01 Russia cybercriminal gets more prison</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://www.securityweek.com/russian-cybercriminal-gets-another-prison-sentence">http://www.securityweek.com/russian-cybercriminal-gets-another-prison-sentence</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>Roman Valeryevich Seleznev, the son of a Russian lawmaker, has been handed another prison sentence in the United States for his role in a massive cybercrime ring.</p> <p>The 33-year-old, known online as Track2, Bulba and Ncux, was previously sentenced by a U.S. court to 27 years in prison for 38 counts of wire fraud, hacking, identity theft, and payment card fraud.</p> <p>After pleading guilty to racketeering and conspiracy to commit bank fraud charges on September 7, he received another 14-year prison sentence for the first charge in Nevada and another 14 years for the second charge in Georgia. The sentences will run concurrently to each other and to the previous 27-year sentence.</p> <p>Seleznev has also been ordered to pay nearly \$51 million in the Nevada case and over \$2.1 million in the Georgia case.</p> <p>According to authorities, Seleznev admitted being part of Carder.su, an Internet-based organization that specialized in identity theft and credit card fraud. The Russian national created a website, which he advertised on Carder.su, to allow fraudsters to easily purchase stolen payment card data for roughly \$20 per account number.</p> <p>Authorities estimate that activities conducted by members of Carder.su resulted in victims losing a total of \$50,893,166.35, the exact amount that Seleznev has been ordered to pay.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>11/30 Social media is critical infrastructure?</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://www.securityweek.com/should-social-media-be-considered-part-critical-infrastructure">http://www.securityweek.com/should-social-media-be-considered-part-critical-infrastructure</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>Russia interfered in the U.S. 2016 election, but did not materially affect it. That is the public belief of the U.S. intelligence community. It is a serious accusation and has prompted calls for additions to the official 16 critical infrastructure categories. One idea is that 'national elections' should be included. A second, less obviously, is that social media should be categorized as a critical industry.</p> <p>The reason for the latter is relatively simple: social media as a communications platform is being widely used by adversary organizations and nations to disseminate their own propaganda. This ranges from ISIS using it as a recruitment platform, to armies of Russian state-sponsored trolls manipulating public opinion via Twitter.</p> <p>Russian interference, or opinion manipulation, has not been limited to the U.S. Both France and Germany worried about it prior to their own national elections. On Nov. 3, this year, Damian Collins, Chair of the Digital Culture and Sport Select Committee in the UK wrote to Twitter's Jack Dorsey asking for information on the so-called Russian Internet Research Agency. He asked for a list of Russian accounts and posts linked to politics in the UK. Brexit is not mentioned, but interference in the UK Brexit referendum is clearly the concern.</p> <p>One week later, CNN Money reported, "A network of Twitter accounts with ties to the Russian government-linked troll army that meddled in U.S. politics posted dozens of pro-Brexit messages on the day of the referendum on the United Kingdom's membership of the European Union in June 2016."</p>

The assumed purpose of Russian interference in politics has been to promote extreme right-wing national populist movements that would weaken centrist governments. This is clearly an 'attack' against western nations, delivered primarily via social networks. It is noticeable that in both the US election and the Brexit referendum there was a late and in many ways unexpected shift to the right.

Nevertheless, the idea of social media as a critical industry is a difficult concept. Malcolm Harkins, chief security and trust officer at Cylance, doesn't think it is a great stretch. He points to the origins of the existing 16 industry sectors and notes that the primary motivation is to maintain their availability following the 9/11 attack.

The DHS introduces its definition of the critical infrastructure with, "There are 16 critical infrastructure sectors whose assets, systems, and networks, whether physical or virtual, are considered so vital to the United States that their incapacitation or destruction would have a debilitating effect on security, national economic security, national public health or safety, or any combination thereof." These include 'energy', 'finance', 'transport', 'communications' and 'IT'. Maintaining the availability and continued operation of all of these sectors is clearly critical to the well-being of the nation. Maintaining the availability of social media does not seem so critical.

Harkins' argument, however, is that the world has changed since the origins of the critical infrastructure classification.

Business and society have gone through, and are still going through, a dramatic 'digitization' of their operations. The internet and all things cyber have become fundamental to the operation of the economy and society.

"Where cyber is concerned," Harkins told SecurityWeek, "the 'A' of 'CIA' is not enough. The Availability of the critical infrastructure must now be bolstered by the Integrity of the critical infrastructure."

This should not be considered a trivial concern. The manipulation of information has always been a part of warfare, usually as a precursor to a kinetic attack.

"There has always been the notion of information manipulation in warfare -- such as deception," says Harkins. "If you can manipulate your enemy prior to a kinetic event, then you would have advantage over them."

Alexander's victory over Porus in 326 BC through the Allied landings in Normandy in 1944, to Stormin Norman's Desert Storm in 1991 have all relied heavily on feeding the enemy misinformation.

"The world today," he continued, "is based on information with headlong digitization of both business and society. With everything now based on our reaction to and use of information, the integrity of that information has never been more vital."

The availability of the Communications and IT sectors is already considered critical, and social media is the most important and widespread platform that unites the communications and IT sectors. If the concept of the critical infrastructure is widened from availability to include integrity, then social media is already, de facto, part of the critical infrastructure. "At what point," asks Harkins, "does the integrity of the information flowing through the IT sector or the communications sector hit a significant and material risk that will force us to consider it critical?"

How this could work in practice is a different matter, for it couldn't be limited to integrity in social media platforms. Facebook is not the only advertising medium that could run propagandist advertising (some 3,000 Russia-linked advertisements were placed on Facebook in 2016 apparently designed to influence the presidential election). "My guess is that even well beyond social media, mainstream physical advertising has been bought and used for the purpose of manipulating national sentiment." If social media can be considered 'critical', then the whole concept of Fake News must be treated in the same way.

That would be a major task. Social media is perhaps the most pressing aspect of this, and could even prove a testbed for wider communications controls. I think the case increasingly can, and will be made that social media is a part of critical infrastructure in that Twitter, Facebook and other media channels have become the 'go-to' resources for a large percentage of Americans," comments Dan Lohrmann, CSO at Security Mentor. "Yes - social media is slowly becoming a critical part of critical infrastructure for our nation and other developed countries."

But Nathan Wenzler, chief security strategist at AsTech, is not sure we are ready for this. He takes the 'availability' view of critical infrastructure. "Even with the potential influence of the last U.S. presidential election, I do not believe we should be looking at these social media services in the same way we view power, water, and other utility services which are required for people's daily lives," he told SecurityWeek. "If social media services were disrupted... there would be some outrage by the users, but by and large, their lives would not be dramatically impacted from a health or well-being standpoint. For this reason alone, I don't see that we're quite at the point of considering social media to be the same as these other critical services."

He believes things may change in the future, but raises two of the many practical problems that will arise: accountability for users and attribution for attackers. Chris Roberts, chief security architect at Acalvio, takes a similar view. "We have little ability or success in being able to protect that which is already classified as critical infrastructure. The red tape is worn thin with excuses: the technology is not in place to deal with both 20 year old systems and modern insecure devices interconnected through a cloud-like pea-soup fog," he said.

"If you want to consider the core systems as critical infrastructure, then you have to be able to manage, control and understand the access permissions, uniquely identify individuals and put some controls into access and other areas. That both seems like a tall challenge (getting 300M Americans to agree to security controls for their social media) and also something that might eventually break the constitutional rights of those folks to actually speak freely. If you put controls in place, where does that end?"

But if Harkins is right and the concept of integrity will need to be added to the concept of availability for the critical infrastructure, then something will have to change. There are signs that governments are beginning to feel threatened and therefore concerned. The UK government has been particularly vociferous over the last year, telling the social tech giants that if they don't get their house in order, government will do it for them.

Indeed, the current government's manifesto (a pre-election statement of intent) contains a strong purpose to control social media. "Some people say that it is not for government to regulate when it comes to technology and the internet," it says. "We disagree... it is for government, not private companies, to protect the security of people and ensure the fairness of the rules by which people and businesses abide."

The clear implication is that the tech giants' protestations of: 'don't limit freedom of speech', 'legislation will stifle innovation', and 'it's not technologically possible' will not be accepted. Even U.S. lawmakers seem to be moving in a similar direction. On Tuesday, Nov. 21, counsels for Google, Facebook and Twitter were in Washington answering questions put at the Senate hearing on social media's role in the 2016 election.

At one point, Senator John Kennedy (R-LA) said, "I don't believe you have the ability to identify all your advertisers." The tech companies effectively admitted this -- although the reality is probably they cannot control advertising without losing some of it. But if government wishes to prevent foreign entities interfering in future elections, this quality of knowledge is essential. Social media should take note that there is precedent; government has enforced advertising control on new technology in the past. In the 1930s, new radio services carried misinformation and propaganda in the form of advertisements. The government cracked down on this with the 1934 Communications Act, placing greater responsibility on the medium to choose which advertisements it accepted. It could do similar with social media.



	<p>The likelihood of some legislative control over social media is growing. In the U.S. the primary concern seems to be its potential for foreign propaganda aimed at controlling national sentiment.</p> <p>In the UK the primary concern is its use by terrorist groups and organized crime -- although there is now some concern that Russia may have attempted to influence the Brexit referendum.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>11/30 Kaspersky blames US government, media</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.scmagazine.com/kaspersky-blames-us-for-cyberespionage-accusations/article/710541/">https://www.scmagazine.com/kaspersky-blames-us-for-cyberespionage-accusations/article/710541/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>Eugene Kaspersky Tuesday claimed that the U.S. government and media have attempted to destroy Kaspersky Lab's reputation by implying that it was a tool of Russian intelligence and not to be trusted.</p> <p>“This media attack and government attack from the United States, it was designed and orchestrated,” the company co-founder and CEO said at a London press conference, noting that as the government questioned the security of Kaspersky products and then banned federal agencies from using it the FBI and media launched attacks as well, the former raiding the homes of company employees. “That is expensive ... I mean all kinds of resources: political influence, money, lobbyists, the media etc.,” he said.</p> <p>“The Department is concerned about the ties between certain Kaspersky officials and Russian intelligence and other government agencies, and requirements under Russian law that allow Russian intelligence agencies to request or compel assistance from Kaspersky and to intercept communications transiting Russian networks,” according to a September DHS statement banning the used of the company's software.</p> <p>Kaspersky has maintained that his company has never come to the aid or done the bidding of Russian intelligence, which he reiterated to reporters, according to a report in The Guardian.</p> <p>“They have never asked us to spy on people. Never,” he said, contending that if such an expectation ever arose, he would “move the business out of Russia.”</p> <p>Kaspersky said the company does “assist Russian intelligence to investigate cybercrime,” noting that it in particular it has worked with the FSB in Russia, which handles “high-profile cybercrime and for international investigation.”</p> <p>It was Israel's discovery that Russian hackers had used Kaspersky Lab's antivirus software to search computers worldwide for information on U.S. intelligence programs that prompted the U.S. government in September to ban the security company's software from all federal agencies.</p> <p>Russia's efforts were uncovered by that country's intelligence officers who hacked into Kaspersky's networks and spied on the Russian spies in real time.</p> <p>While it's not known the extent of the information the hackers gleaned, reports claimed they did successfully pilfer classified data from the home computer of a National Security Agency (NSA) worker outfitted with Kaspersky AV software.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>11/30 Breach highlights password vulnerability</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.scmagazine.com/clarksons-breach-again-shows-need-to-eliminate-passwords/article/710717/">https://www.scmagazine.com/clarksons-breach-again-shows-need-to-eliminate-passwords/article/710717/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>The global shipping firm Clarksons reported that it has suffered a cybersecurity breach which it, and outside security firms, believe was caused when a lone user account was hacked, again bringing to the forefront the need to move past the legacy username and password for logging in to a critical system.</p>

With basic login credentials again being the reason for a major breach, cybersecurity firms are reiterating the need to move beyond passwords to a more secure technology.

The UK-based company, which had \$413.7 million in revenue in 2016, said the account in question has been disabled and additional security measures have been put in place. In a public statement the company said there is a chance the person or group that perpetrated the incident will release some confidential data in the near future. This has led to the belief that the company has refused to pay a ransom in order to hush up the breach.

“The description of the means by which a hacker or group of hackers gained access to Clarksons' systems makes me think that the attack may not have exploited a software vulnerability, but rather that a legitimate account holder had their login credentials compromised,” Graham Cluley wrote for ESET.

The massive breach Uber suffered earlier this month was also traced back to a pilfered set of login credentials used by Uber software engineers that were then used to access an infrastructure account that handled computing tasks for the company.

“If I were getting a startup off the ground, I would go passwordless without a second thought. However, it is a difficult endeavor for many organizations, as many have spent decades building up enormous databases of credentials. Some of these may involve legacy systems, making them very difficult to just ‘turn off’”, said Stephen Cox, Chief Security Architect at SecureAuth.

Cox suggested that large firms, like Clarksons, start small implementing multifactor authentication or another passwordless methodology in a small sector of their business and then expanding outward.

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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>11/30 Cryptominer w/hidden browser windows</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.scmagazine.com/persistent-cryptominer-hides-to-mine-after-closing-browser/article/710738/">https://www.scmagazine.com/persistent-cryptominer-hides-to-mine-after-closing-browser/article/710738/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>A new drive-by cryptominer is using a unique technique which allows malicious site owners and threat actors to keep mining Monero even after closing their browser windows.</p> <p>The miner uses a hidden browser window that remains open due to a pop-under, a pop up designed to load behind a user's screen, which is sized to fit under a user's task bar and hide behind the clock, Malwarebytes researchers said in a Nov. 29 blog post.</p> <p>“This particular event was caught on an adult site that was already using aggressive advertising tricks,” researchers said in the post. The hidden windows coordinates vary based on each user's screen resolution but follow a formula to ensure the horizontal and vertical positions are behind the task bar.</p> <p>The cryptomining script is silently loaded onto the victim's computer when a user visits a site employing the technique. The user's CPU activity increases but isn't maxed out and when the user leaves the site and closes the window, the CPU activity remains higher than normal as their resources are leached in the background.</p> <p>User's whose Windows themes allow for taskbar transparency may catch a glimpse of the rogue window situated behind the clock. Users can also resize their taskbar and the malicious window will pop back up. The sneaky pop-under window is launched by the Ad Maven ad network and is hosted on an Amazon Web Services (AWS) server.</p> <p>The miner sets itself apart from other cryptominers hosted on Amazon servers by retrieving a payload from another domain. The pop-under is designed to bypass adblockers and is harder to identify because of how it hides itself.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>11/30 National Credit Federation data leak</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.scmagazine.com/national-credit-federation-unsecured-aws-s3-bucket-leaks-credit-personal-data/article/710743/">https://www.scmagazine.com/national-credit-federation-unsecured-aws-s3-bucket-leaks-credit-personal-data/article/710743/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>In what has become a familiar and troubling refrain, an unsecured Amazon Web Services S3 storage bucket that allows public access, reportedly has leaked sensitive information, including credit card numbers, credit reports from the three major reporting agencies, bank account numbers and Social Security numbers. This time, the organization in the crosshairs is credit repair service, National Credit Federation.</p> <p>The exposed data -- a whopping 111 GB worth -- allegedly affects tens of thousands of consumers.</p> <p>“Sadly, as organizations and lines of business migrate to public cloud services, IT has lost control to some degree,” said Varun Badhwar, CEO and co-founder of RedLock, who noted that enterprises often don't have visibility in their cloud environments and don't have the tools to monitor, detect and report on security and compliance. “Many don't have a firm grasp as to which workloads are even in the cloud. You cannot secure what you cannot see.”</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>11/30 HP computers installed w/spyware</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://thehackernews.com/2017/11/hp-computers-telemetry-data.html">https://thehackernews.com/2017/11/hp-computers-telemetry-data.html</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>Do you own a Hewlett-Packard (HP) Windows PC or laptop?</p> <p>Multiple HP customers from around the world are reporting that HP has started deploying a "spyware" onto their laptops—without informing them or asking their permission.</p> <p>The application being branded as spyware is actually a Windows Telemetry service deployed by HP, called "HP Touchpoint Analytics Client," which was first identified on November 15.</p> <p>According to reports on several online forums, the telemetry software—which the HP customers said they never opted to have installed and had no idea was continually running in the background—was pushed out in a recent update.</p> <p>However, it's not yet clear whether the software has come with the latest Microsoft's Windows updates, or via HP's support assistant processes.</p> <p>An official description of the software says that the program "harvests telemetry information that is used by HP Touchpoint's analytical services."</p> <p>HP Touchpoint Makes Your Computer Slow</p> <p>HP customers also complained that the installation slowed down their system significantly.</p> <p>On HP's customer forum, one user even reported that due to more than 95 percent CPU usage by the analytics service, his system anti-malware software started checking for suspicious activity.</p> <p>The program seems to send data to the company's server once per day. If you own an HP PC or laptop, you can find this data under ProgramData\HP\HP Touchpoint Analytics Client\Transfer Interface on the Windows drive.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>11/29 ACLU to lawmakers: review social media</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.thestranger.com/slog/2017/11/29/25594450/aclu-to-state-lawmakers-quit-blocking-your-constituents-on-social-media">https://www.thestranger.com/slog/2017/11/29/25594450/aclu-to-state-lawmakers-quit-blocking-your-constituents-on-social-media</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>The American Civil Liberties Union of Washington says some state lawmakers are "unconstitutionally censoring and/or blocking constituents" from their social media pages.</p> <p>In a letter to state legislators and the governor, ACLU of Washington Legislative Director Elisabeth Smith writes that courts have recognized social media accounts as a place where constituents can debate policy and provide feedback to lawmakers. And that means censoring speech on sites like Twitter and Facebook can violate the First Amendment, she writes. The letter does not cite any specific lawmakers.</p> <p>The ACLU of Washington has received complaints from people who say lawmakers have blocked them or deleted their posts, according to the letter. Public officials can use "some reasonable, content-based regulation of the speech," like deleting off-topic or vulgar posts, Smith writes. But the complaints have included posts were on topic but critical of the lawmaker.</p> <p>"This leads us to the conclusion that the lawmaker at hand and/or the administrators of his or her social media platform deleted particular posts and/or blocked particular individuals from participation based solely on the viewpoints expressed in those posts—a form of government censorship that violates the First Amendment," Smith writes.</p> <p>The letter urges all lawmakers to "carefully review their use of social media platforms."</p> <p>That should include both "government" and "private" accounts, Smith writes. "If a given social media account is used by a public official as a space to engage with the public and/or their constituents, and the public does, in fact, use that account for such purposes, it is immaterial whether the account is designated as 'official' or not."</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>11/30 'Bomb on board' WiFi network on plane</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.yahoo.com/news/bomb-board-wi-fi-network-causes-turkish-airlines-143457055--finance.html">https://www.yahoo.com/news/bomb-board-wi-fi-network-causes-turkish-airlines-143457055--finance.html</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>ANKARA (Reuters) - A Turkish Airlines flight from Nairobi to Istanbul was diverted after the detection of a wi-fi network called "bomb on board" that alarmed the passengers, the airline said on Thursday.</p> <p>In a statement, Turkish Airlines said the flight made an emergency landing at the Khartoum airport in Sudan, but the flight was safely resumed after security inspections on all passengers and the aircraft.</p> <p>"Experts said the wi-fi network in question was created on board. No irregularities were seen after security procedures were carried out, and passengers were brought back on the plane once boarding restarted," Turkish Airlines said.</p> <p>Individuals can create personal wi-fi networks on devices such as mobile phones and name them what they want.</p> <p>The airline said all 100 passengers were brought back on board the flight, but did not say whether authorities had identified the passenger who had created the wi-fi network.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>12/01 Some digital media face 'crap' trap risk</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.cbsnews.com/news/digital-media-ad-revenue-google-facebook/">https://www.cbsnews.com/news/digital-media-ad-revenue-google-facebook/</a>

The continued dominance of Google (GOOG) and Facebook (FB) in the digital ad market and the growth of low-cost "programmatic ads" appear to be squeezing some of the once-hottest names in the world of internet media.

Multiple reports indicate tech news site Mashable is expected to sell itself to PC magazine parent Ziff-Davis for \$50 million, a fraction of the \$250 million valuation it commanded less than two years ago. The site failed to secure additional capital. BuzzFeed's plans for a 2018 initial public offering are in jeopardy after the news site missed its 2017 revenue goal of \$350 million by as much as 20 percent, according to The Wall Street Journal, which has also reported that Vice Media is likely to fall short of its revenue goals for the year.

Daily Beast parent company IAC is reportedly "entertaining offers" initiated by outside parties, though it hasn't yet launched a sale process. In an email recently sent to staff, Daily Best President Heather Dietrick insisted that the New York-based IAC (IAC), which is controlled by billionaire Barry Diller, often receives inquiries from outside parties about sales or investments in its businesses.

"It's no surprise there's been recent interest in us given how we've been absolutely killing it with scoops and great stories," she enthused. "In fact, I wouldn't be surprised if others come by and ask to take a peek because of the way we've been driving the conversation in news lately."

BuzzFeed declined to elaborate further. Ziff-Davis and Mashable didn't respond to requests for comment.

Programmatic ads are automated auctions whose popularity has surged in recent years because of the convenience they offer marketers. The research firm eMarketer estimates that by 2019, nearly 84 percent of spending on display ads, or \$45.7 billion, will be done programmatically. Automated auctions will account for about 77 percent of spending on video ads, which tend to be more lucrative than banners, accounting for about \$13.4 billion.

Media researchers expect other ad forms, including mobile and native ads, which are designed to blend seamlessly with a site's content, to also become increasingly programmatic.

"Marketers are putting more dollars into programmatic advertising and engaging less in the kind of custom advertising programs that Vice and Buzz Feed both specialize in," said Susan Bidell, an analyst with Forrester Research. "Typically, [those types of ads] are negotiated directly and don't go through an exchange. Directly negotiated ads are almost always more expensive than programmatic, which is geared toward getting the most advertising impact for the fewest dollars."

While the ongoing shift to programmatic ads is creating many problems for the industry, it's also sparking opportunities, said Jim VandeHei, CEO and co-founder of Axios Media and a former executive editor and co-founder of Politico.

"It is indisputable Facebook and Google have and will continue to gobble up most of new ad dollars, given their reach and technology," he said in an email to CBS MoneyWatch. "But media companies with distinct, desirable audiences and clean, crisp, uncluttered ads will do very well, too. The losers will be those who simply chase or chased scale -- and ended up with insufficient scale and undefined audiences rushing in and out of crappy sites/ad units."

According to eMarketer, Google and Facebook will account for 63.1 percent of all US digital media ad spending this year, an increase from an earlier prediction of 60.4 percent. Ad revenue at Alphabet's biggest business is expected to hit \$35 billion, an increase of 18.9 percent on a year-over-year basis. Facebook's total digital revenue will jump 40.4 percent to \$17.37 billion, fueled by surging demand for Instagram, according to eMarketer.

Growth for both companies' ad revenue shows no signs of slowing given their ability to precisely target ads at consumers. That's prompting publishers to try getting advertisers to deal with them directly rather than through Facebook's "walled garden," said Sarah Warner, digital investment lead for programmatic

	<p>and video at WPP's GroupM.</p> <p>The challenges don't stop there. One-time Wall Street darling Snap (SNAP) continues to post disappointing earnings amid fierce competition from former suitor Facebook. Shares of the social media company are currently trading below their \$17 IPO level.</p> <p>Univision also is interested in finding a minority investor for its Gawker Media business, which it acquired last year along with other millennial-focused sites, including The Onion, according to Recode. A Univision representative couldn't immediately be reached.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>11/30 Bitcoin rise: from \$.01 to \$11,000</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2017-12-01/understanding-bitcoin-s-rise-0-01-to-11-000-quicktake-q-a">https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2017-12-01/understanding-bitcoin-s-rise-0-01-to-11-000-quicktake-q-a</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>The initial price of bitcoin, set in 2010, was less than one cent. On Nov. 29, it crossed \$11,000. Once seen as the province of nerds, libertarians and drug dealers, bitcoin today is drawing millions of dollars from hedge funds. The recent price surge may be a bubble. Or it could be a belated recognition by the broader financial community that so-called cryptocurrencies -- digital forms of money -- are going mainstream. It might be time to nail down what a bitcoin is, and why its price has been going through the roof.</p> <p>1. What exactly is bitcoin?</p> <p>It's a form of money that's remarkable for what it's not: It's not currency you can hold in your hand. It's not recognized by most Main Street stores. It's not issued or backed by a national government. At their core, bitcoin and its imitators are sets of software protocols for generating digital tokens and for tracking transactions in a way that makes it hard to counterfeit or re-use tokens. A bitcoin has value only to the extent that its users agree that it does.</p> <p>2. Where did the bitcoin system come from?</p> <p>The original software was laid out in a white paper in 2008 by a person or group of people using the pseudonym Satoshi Nakamoto, whose identify remains unknown, despite several efforts to assign or claim credit. Online fantasy games had long used virtual currencies. The key idea behind bitcoin was the blockchain -- a publicly visible, largely anonymous online ledger that records bitcoin transactions.</p> <p>3. How does that work?</p> <p>Think about what happens if you make an online transfer using a bank. It verifies that you have the funds, subtracts that amount from one spot in a giant database it maintains of accounts and balances, and credits it in another. You can see the result if you log on to your account but the transaction is under the bank's control. You're trusting the bank to remove the right amount of money, and the bank is also making sure you can't spend that money again. The blockchain is a database that performs those tracking functions -- but without the bank or any other central authority.</p> <p>4. Who performs the bank function for bitcoin?</p> <p>It's done by consensus on a decentralized network. Bitcoin transactions can be made through sites offering electronic "wallets" that upload the data to the network. New transactions are bundled together into a batch and broadcast to the network for verification by so-called bitcoin miners.</p> <p>5. Who gets to be a miner?</p> <p>Anybody, so long as you have really fast computers, a lot of electricity and a desire to solve puzzles. The transaction data in each batch is encrypted by a formula that can be unlocked only through trial-and-error</p>

guessing on a massive scale. The miners put large-scale computing power to work as they compete to be the first to solve it. If a miner's answer is verified by others, the data is added to a linked chain of blocks of data and the miner is rewarded with newly issued bitcoin.

6. How does the system prevent cheating?

Because every block contains data linking to earlier blocks, an attempt to spend the same bitcoin twice would mean revising many links in the chain. Plus, as miners compete, they verify each other's work each step of the way.

7. Wasn't bitcoin used by drug dealers?

Yes, back when its primary appeal was its relative anonymity. It was, and still is, used by websites peddling everything from arms to drugs to paid hits. One such \$1.2 billion marketplace, Silk Road, was shut down by federal agents in 2013. But others soon took its place. Joseph Stiglitz, a Nobel laureate in economics, said recently that bitcoin "ought to be outlawed" because it's designed to evade regulation and "doesn't serve any socially useful function."

8. What changed?

Bitcoin's reputation has improved, partly because there are fewer large-scale thefts like the one in 2014 in which bitcoins were stolen from a bitcoin exchange called Mt. Gox. (Security has improved, but it's still an issue.) And many technology and financial firms grew interested in blockchain as an idea separate from bitcoin.

9. What is blockchain's appeal?

Enthusiasts see it as a new way of doing all sorts of business. Costs could be lower without a central middleman doing the work of keeping track of transactions, and charging for it. Banks and stock exchanges have invested heavily in developing blockchain technology, while retailers like Wal-Mart Stores Inc. are experimenting with using blockchain for ensuring food safety. Central banks are even speculating about issuing blockchain-based official currencies. And other forms of blockchain emerged, often using their own cryptocurrencies to facilitate transactions. The most prominent is the ethereum blockchain, sometimes described as a platform for so-called smart contracts.

10. Why hasn't the competition hurt bitcoin?

As the number of cryptocurrencies and tokens multiply -- they now reach into the thousands -- bitcoin remains the best-known, time-tested and valuable. That's led to it being viewed by some as the most predictable venue for people wanting to bet on blockchain's exponential growth.

11. What explains the surge in bitcoin's price?

New investors, and expectations of many more to follow, has increased the price of a bitcoin about 11-fold so far this year. CME Group and other exchanges plan to offer bitcoin futures contracts, potentially expanding bitcoin's appeal. The fact that bitcoin's software guarantees that there will be a finite supply has added to the fear of missing out for some investors. Coinbase, a bitcoin exchange, was overwhelmed by two to three times its normal traffic on Nov. 29, as new users signed up, making its service temporarily unavailable to some users. New crypto-focused hedge funds are opening up weekly, and already surpass 100. Most of them invest at least part of their funds in bitcoin.

12. Is this a bubble?

Possibly. Some people, most notably JPMorgan Chase & Co. Jamie Dimon, call bitcoin a "fraud." Yet his own bank is considering offering bitcoin futures to clients. Fund manager Mike Novogratz calls cryptocurrencies "the biggest bubble of our lifetimes," and yet he is starting a \$500 million fund to invest

in them. Depending on whom you talk to, bitcoin's value could double again -- or it could go down to zero.

13. How can I buy bitcoin or invest in it?

There are a bunch of ways, all with different risks. People can buy the coins directly from exchanges like Coinbase. Accredited investors can also invest in vehicles like the Bitcoin Investment Trust, which tracks bitcoin's price. Soon investors will be able to invest through their regular brokers in bitcoin futures, and possibly in bitcoin exchange-traded funds, once regulators feel comfortable with the idea. But be warned: Even plenty of people who believe in bitcoin's future think some wild rides lie ahead. As if in proof, the Nov. 29 surge to over \$11,000 was followed by a 20 percent drop. And yes, you can bet on a crash.

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## Terror Conditions

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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>11/30 Niger approves armed US drones</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.nytimes.com/2017/11/30/us/politics/pentagon-niger-drones.html">https://www.nytimes.com/2017/11/30/us/politics/pentagon-niger-drones.html</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>The government of Niger has given the Defense Department permission to fly armed drones out of the Nigerien capital, Niamey, Pentagon officials said Thursday, in a major expansion of the American military's footprint in Africa.</p> <p>Pentagon officials want to start the flights within days.</p> <p>A memorandum of understanding between the United States and Niger, which was finalized this week, calls for the remotely piloted aircraft to be armed initially, by the military's Africa Command, at the Nigerien air base in Niamey where they are currently deployed without arms.</p> <p>The drones, the memo says, will eventually be moved to a Nigerien air base in Agadez, where American troops will also be deployed. Pentagon officials said the new mission likely would significantly increase the number of American troops in Niger, from the 800 who are there now. About 500 of those troops now deployed in Niamey would move to the base in Agadez.</p> <p>"This operation supports the long-term strategic partnership between the United States and Niger, as well as the ongoing effort to counter violent extremism throughout the region," the Defense Department said in an emailed response to a query from The New York Times.</p> <p>"The government of Niger and the U.S. stand firm in working together to prevent terrorist organizations from using the region as a safe haven," said Maj. Audricia M. Harris, a Defense Department spokeswoman. She added that for "operational security reasons," she could not comment on "specific military authorities or permissions."</p> <p>The Pentagon has been trying for two years to get permission from the Nigerien government to put precision-guided bombs and missiles on a fleet of Reapers to be flown out of Niamey. Pentagon officials say that the drones would expand the military's ability to go after extremists in West Africa, in an area that could stretch from Mali to Chad, and Nigeria to southern Libya.</p> <p>Such an area of operations for the drones would allow the military to target fighters affiliated with Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb, Boko Haram and the Islamic State, officials said.</p> <p>While the United States has been able to reach Yemeni, Somali and Libyan targets from bases in Djibouti and southern Italy, its reach in West Africa has been more limited.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>12/01 Singapore on edge as ISIS encircles</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://www.atimes.com/article/singapore-edge-islamic-state-circles/">http://www.atimes.com/article/singapore-edge-islamic-state-circles/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>While international linked terror attacks have hit various Southeast Asian nations, Singapore has so far been immune. But as Islamic State (IS) makes deeper inroads into the region, the city state is now on its highest terror threat alert level in years.</p> <p>Transnational terror groups are believed to see the island nation as a symbolic target for its status as a global financial center with close strategic ties with the United States. It participates in international coalitions against terrorism and hosts several Western targets, including embassies and military installations.</p> <p>Singapore has honed its counterterrorism strategy in recent years, setting up specialist forces and emergency response teams while doubling down on efforts to sensitize the public and foster community vigilance. Authorities also stage preparedness exercises and elaborate drills simulating attacks on high-profile targets.</p> <p>The sense of vulnerability, long part of the island state's national psyche due to various geostrategic anxieties and proximity to hotbeds of Islamic militancy, has not been lost on top officials.</p> <p>Indeed, Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong has noted on several occasions in the past year that Singapore operates on the expectation of "when" rather than "if" a terror attack will occur.</p> <p>At a town hall forum in September, Lee acknowledged the rising frequency of cases involving self-radicalized Singaporeans seeking to join militants in Syria and stage violent attacks at home.</p> <p>The toll of an attack would be great. A successful terrorist strike on the country's financial center or container port, one of the world's busiest, would be economically destabilizing to Singapore and the entire region, and likely have a deep psychological and emotional impact on Singaporean society.</p> <p>If carried out in the name of Islam, suspicion and enmity between Muslims and non-Muslims would complicate community relations in the multi-ethnic state. According to data compiled by the US Central Intelligence Agency, 14.3% of Singapore's 3.9 million resident population identify as Muslim.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>11/30 Afghan Taliban: ISIS deputy joins ranks</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.voanews.com/a/afghan-taliban-says-islamic-state-deputy-leader-has-/4144740.html">https://www.voanews.com/a/afghan-taliban-says-islamic-state-deputy-leader-has-/4144740.html</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>The Afghan Taliban on Thursday claimed that the deputy head of the Islamic State terrorist group in Afghanistan had joined Taliban ranks.</p> <p>Qari Yousef Ahmadi, a Taliban spokesperson, said in a statement sent to media that Abdulrazaq Mehdi, deputy chief of the so-called Islamic State in Khorasan province (IS-K) in Afghanistan, had parted ways with IS and joined the Taliban.</p> <p>The Taliban spokesperson also shared a recording of a taped interview with Mehdi in which he denounces IS's "cruel" acts in Afghanistan and calls the group an "anti-Islam and -Muslims" organization.</p> <p>VOA was unable to independently verify the authenticity of the Taliban claim or the recording.</p> <p>The Taliban statement said Mehdi is a resident of western Farah province, but little is known about him because IS leaders use aliases. Wahid Muzhda, a Taliban expert in Kabul, told VOA that it was unclear whether Mehdi was indeed an Afghan national.</p>

	<p>He added that the Taliban might want to "use him as propaganda to discredit IS."</p> <p>The Taliban statement came amid a growing rivalry between the Taliban and IS in Afghanistan.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>11/30 DHS: surge of terrorism threats</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2017/nov/30/dhs-says-country-facing-surge-terrorism-threat-exp/">https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2017/nov/30/dhs-says-country-facing-surge-terrorism-threat-exp/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>The U.S. is seeing a terrorist "surge" as the nature of the threat turns from large-scale operations to "do-it-yourself" attacks inspired online, acting Homeland Security Secretary Elaine Duke told Congress on Thursday.</p> <p>She said the terror threat is at least equal to, and in some ways surpasses, the level of threat before the 2001 attacks that ushered in the modern war on terror era.</p> <p>But Ms. Duke said the war effort has changed and where in the last decade the U.S. thought it could fight terrorists overseas, "there is no longer a home game and an away game."</p> <p>"We are seeing a surge in terrorist activity because the fundamentals of terrorist activity have changed," she said.</p> <p>Ms. Duke also said that while her department is worried about domestic ideological violence, global jihadist threats remain a bigger danger to the U.S.</p> <p>FBI Director Christopher Wray said the new threat is attacks with hatchets and vehicles, and he said planning and recruitment online have made it tougher to track them.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>11/30 US: coalition airstrikes killed 801 civilians</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://www.foxnews.com/world/2017/11/30/pentagon-801-civilians-killed-in-coalition-airstrikes.html">http://www.foxnews.com/world/2017/11/30/pentagon-801-civilians-killed-in-coalition-airstrikes.html</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>BAGHDAD – The Pentagon says at least 801 civilians have been killed by U.S.-led coalition airstrikes against the Islamic State group in Iraq and Syria.</p> <p>The report released Thursday says five more strikes, all in Syria, were investigated over the past month and found to have resulted in 15 additional civilian deaths.</p> <p>Monitoring groups say the number of civilian casualties from airstrikes in the fight against IS is far higher.</p> <p>The London-based Airwars organization that tracks civilian deaths in the anti-IS operation says they believe more than 5,000 civilians have been killed as a result of coalition airstrikes in Iraq and Syria.</p> <p>IS held territory that once stretched from northern Syria to the edge of Baghdad has been reduced to pockets of desert along the Iraqi-Syrian border. The U.S.-led coalition launched the campaign of airstrikes against IS in August 2014.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>11/30 Yemen: clashes continue in capital</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/latest-yemeni-officials-clashes-continue-capital-51485064">http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/latest-yemeni-officials-clashes-continue-capital-51485064</a>
<b>GIST</b>	The Latest on developments in Yemen (all times local):

5:50 p.m.

Yemeni security officials say clashes between rival factions in the rebel-held capital, Sanaa, are continuing for a second day.

They say Thursday that Shiite Houthi rebels have largely taken control of a southern Sanaa neighborhood centered around a mosque named after the country's former president, Ali Abdullah Saleh, whose forces are allied with the rebels.

The officials spoke on condition of anonymity as they weren't authorized to talk to reporters.

The Houthis reportedly were supported by reinforcements from their northern stronghold and drove out forces loyal to Saleh with rocket-propelled grenades and machine gun fire, occupying buildings used by his political party. The officials say the Houthis accuse Saleh of fomenting a coup with the help of the United Arab Emirates, whose allies control territory in the south.

12:15 p.m.

Yemeni security officials say clashes between rival factions in the rebel-held capital, Sanaa, have killed about 10 fighters from both sides.

The officials say the fighting on Wednesday night in a southern Sanaa neighborhood centered around a mosque named after the country's former president, Ali Abdullah Saleh, whose forces are allied with the Shiite rebels also known as Houthis.

The two allies control much of Yemen's north and are facing off against a Saudi-led, U.S.-backed coalition fighting on behalf of the country's internationally recognized government.

Saleh's party accused the Houthis of attempting to occupy the mosque and sparking clashes that spread to nearby areas including the homes of Saleh's family. The statement appealed for calm.

The officials spoke on condition of anonymity as they weren't authorized to talk to reporters.

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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>11/30 Rebel infighting leaves 15 dead Yemen</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.upi.com/Top_News/World-News/2017/11/30/Rebel-infighting-leaves-15-dead-in-Yemen/2161512071406/?utm_source=fp&amp;utm_campaign=lh&amp;utm_medium=7">https://www.upi.com/Top_News/World-News/2017/11/30/Rebel-infighting-leaves-15-dead-in-Yemen/2161512071406/?utm_source=fp&amp;utm_campaign=lh&amp;utm_medium=7</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>Nov. 30 (UPI) -- At least 15 died when clashes broke out in Sanaa between Houthi rebels and forces loyal to former President Ali Abdullah Saleh, two groups allied in their fight against the internationally recognized Yemeni government.</p> <p>The fighting erupted Wednesday when Houthi guards at the Saleh Mosque were stopped from putting surveillance cameras in the minarets, sources told al-Arabiya. There also was fighting between Saleh's Republican Guard forces and Houthis when the militants attempt to break into the home of the former president's brother, Brig. Tariq Mohammed Abdullah Saleh.</p> <p>Saleh and his General People's Congress Party called on his supporters to take up arms against the Houthis throughout the region the alliance holds, which includes much of the northwest of the country. Saleh accused the Houthis of starting the fighting and of launching a coup.</p> <p>Al-Arabiya reported the Houthi militants used rocket launchers and hand grenades inside the mosque. Sources said the Republican Guards seized control over al-Sabaeen Square, which Houthis were occupying to take part in a celebration marking the birthday of the Prophet Muhammad.</p>

	<p>Houthi rebels, who represent the country's Zaidi Shiite Muslim minority, fought against the Saleh government periodically from 2004 until his ouster in 2012. With a common enemy in new President Abdu Rabbo Mansour Hadi, the Houthis and Saleh's supporters joined forces and the conflict exploded in 2014 and 2015. The rebels forced Hadi to flee the capital to the port city of Aden in February 2015.</p> <p>The rebel alliance formed a joint government in November 2016, the National Salvation Government.</p> <p>A coalition of eight Arab countries -- mostly Sunni Muslims -- led by Saudi Arabia took up the fight to restore Hadi to power in March 2015. The United States, Britain and France also support the coalition. The Hadi government controls much of eastern Yemen as well as the southern coast, including the second-largest city of Aden.</p> <p>The fighting has led to a humanitarian crisis in Yemen, where civilians are facing famine and disease. A Saudi blockade on rebel-held ports in Yemen earlier this month meant civilians already lacking food and medicine found supplies even more scarce. Saudi Arabia reopened some ports last week, but humanitarian organizations said it wasn't enough.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>12/01 Judge withdraws from Ohio man case</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://www.foxnews.com/us/2017/12/01/judge-withdraws-from-case-ohio-man-who-plotted-us-attacks.html">http://www.foxnews.com/us/2017/12/01/judge-withdraws-from-case-ohio-man-who-plotted-us-attacks.html</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>COLUMBUS, Ohio – A federal judge has excused himself from the case of an Ohio man who admitted he plotted to kill military members in the U.S.</p> <p>Judge James Graham filed the notice of recusal in federal court Wednesday without explanation in the case of defendant Abdirahman Sheik Mohamud.</p> <p>Mohamud pleaded guilty in August 2015 to supporting terrorism and making false statements to authorities. He was set for sentencing Friday. A new date will be set by Judge Michael Watson.</p> <p>Mohamud's attorney Sam Shamansky said Mohamud had confidence in Graham and has the same confidence in Watson to render a just sentence.</p> <p>Prosecutors are seeking 23 years, saying Mohamud tried to cover up dangerous terrorist activity.</p> <p>Mohamud is asking for leniency, saying he abandoned his attack plans.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>12/01 FBI probe of 'Antifa ideology' underway</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2017/12/01/fbi-probe-antifa-ideology-underway-wray-tells-house-panel.html">http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2017/12/01/fbi-probe-antifa-ideology-underway-wray-tells-house-panel.html</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>The FBI is investigating people inspired by “kind of an Antifa ideology,” bureau Director Christopher Wray said Thursday.</p> <p>Wray told members of the House Homeland Security Committee that people associated with the so-called anti-fascist or Antifa movement were subject to the FBI probe amid possible violent criminal activity.</p> <p>“While we're not investigating Antifa as Antifa — that's an ideology and we don't investigate ideologies — we are investigating a number of what we would call anarchist-extremist investigations, where we have properly predicated subjects of people who are motivated to commit violent criminal activity on kind of an Antifa ideology,” he told the House panel.</p>

Wray said the FBI was investigating about 1,000 domestic terror cases and all were based on threats rather than “ideology, opinion or rhetoric.” He added that out of about 1,000 open domestic terror investigations, all are focused on actual physical threats.

Antifa has gained prominence since last year following the violent clashes across the U.S. on university campuses and other gatherings. The loosely connected left-wing group of Antifa supporters has been criticized for using coordinated violence against people they deem to be espousing far-right ideology.

Federal agencies reportedly warned in 2016 about the possible outbreak of violent clashes or “domestic terrorist violence” perpetrated by the anarchists.

The FBI and Department of Homeland Security said that “anarchist extremists” and Antifa groups were the leading instigators of violence in public spaces, where they attack police, government and political institutions, racists, fascists and “symbols of capitalism,” Fox News reported.

Wray stressed on Thursday that the FBI was not pursuing members of the far-left group because of their association with the group, saying there must be credible evidence before the bureau can open an investigation.

“Because of the First Amendment issues and the freedom of expression issues and the somewhat ugly history that the FBI has had in the past, we have very specific rules on the domestic terrorism front,” he said.

“In order to open an investigation there has to be credible evidence of federal crime, [and] threat of force or violence to further a political or social goal. And if we have all of those three things then we open a very aggressive investigation.”

In October, the FBI warned that “black identity extremists” were a potential domestic terror threat, Fox News reported.

Wray became FBI director in August, following U.S. Senate confirmation. President Donald Trump had nominated Wray to replace James Comey, who was fired May 9.

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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>12/01 Army ‘hero’ war dogs on death row</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/5039355/hero-army-dogs-face-being-put-down/">https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/5039355/hero-army-dogs-face-being-put-down/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>TWO Army dogs which helped save thousands of lives while on duty in Afghanistan will be put down next week, because Top Brass say they can’t be re-homed.</p> <p>Belgian shepherds Kevin and Dazz sniffed out deadly IEDs on missions in Helmand Province before being retired.</p> <p>Both face lethal injections after chiefs ruled them unsafe for new homes. One angry handler said as a rescue campaign began: “We’ll do anything to save them.”</p> <p>A distraught handler has slammed the decision to destroy Army dogs Kevin and Dazz — saying: “This is such a cruel way to treat these animals that have given us so much.”</p> <p>The two Belgian Shepherds, retired after dozens of life-saving missions as specially-trained search dogs in Afghanistan, are due to be put down next week after chiefs ruled they can’t be re-homed.</p> <p>Former soldiers and handlers who worked with the pair — and with an ex-police hound named Driver which is also doomed to die — have written to the commanding officer at the Defence Animal Centre in</p>

Melton Mowbray, Leics.

But despite experienced handlers offering to take them, Army chiefs are standing firm, saying they aren't safe to be given new homes.

The angry handler said amid a campaign to rescue the trio: "People who worked closely with these dogs are devastated at the plans — they've begged to save them all.

"There's no protocol to decide if a dog is put down. The commanding officer decides and that's it. It's such a cruel way to treat animals that have given so much.

"We'll do anything to save these dogs. We'll go to Defence Secretary Gavin Williamson if need be."

Kevin and Dazz, both nine, sniffed out IEDs on several tours of Afghanistan, saving many lives. After being retired from the front line about four years ago they worked with trainees and are now at the Defence Animal Centre.

Once deemed too old for duty, they should have gone through a detrainning programme to see if they were suitable for new homes.

But the handler said the commanding officer had taken an "extreme view" after a recent incident where another dog bit a civilian.

SAS legend Andy McNab launched an online petition to save the hounds. He said: "Dogs like these saved me many times.

An Army spokesman said: "Wherever possible we endeavour to rehome military working dogs. Sadly there are occasions where this is not possible."

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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>11/30 Saudis destroy missile shot from Yemen</b>
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<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://www.cnn.com/2017/11/30/middleeast/saudi-yemen-missile/index.html">http://www.cnn.com/2017/11/30/middleeast/saudi-yemen-missile/index.html</a>
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<b>GIST</b>	(CNN)For the second time in a month, the Saudi military has intercepted and destroyed a ballistic missile it said was launched from Yemen on Thursday.
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The Saudi Press Agency, quoting Colonel Turki al-Maliki, the official spokesman of the Saudi-led coalition fighting the war in Yemen, said the missile was headed towards the Saudi city of Khamis Mushait on its southwestern border.

It was destroyed without causing any casualties, the spokesman was quoted as saying, but there were no details on how the missile was intercepted.

Houthi rebels in Yemen claimed success in the missile launch, saying it was a test firing, according to the pro-Houthi news agency SABA in Yemen.

Weeks earlier, Yemeni rebels fired a ballistic missile towards an international airport in Riyadh, which was intercepted before it struck.

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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>11/30 Judge: divulge 'enemy combatant' details</b>
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<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2017/nov/30/doj-ordered-divulge-details-us-citizen-held-enemy/">https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2017/nov/30/doj-ordered-divulge-details-us-citizen-held-enemy/</a>
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<b>GIST</b>	<p>A federal judge presiding over a challenge regarding a U.S. citizen's detention abroad as an enemy combatant has ordered the Trump administration to answer two questions regarding the man's legal rights following a contentious hearing Thursday.</p> <p>U.S. District Judge Tanya Chutkan expressed marked frustration over a federal prosecutor's "circular" arguments during Thursday's hearing in D.C. and questioned the rationality of the government's assertion that a civil liberties group cannot file motions on the man's behalf because the group has not been in contact with the man. The man's identity is unknown and he has been held in military confinement since he was captured in Syria in mid-September.</p> <p>"That kind of unchecked power is quite frankly, frightening," Judge Chutkan said, likening the man's detention to a scenario in which the government could snatch any citizen off the street and hold them indefinitely as an enemy combatant without allowing access to a lawyer.</p> <p>By 5 p.m. Thursday, the government will have inform the court whether the man has been advised of his right to counsel and whether the man has asserted those rights while in confinement.</p> <p>The American Civil Liberties Union filed the legal challenge, arguing that the Trump administration should not be able to hold the man without providing him access to legal counsel and has asked the court to allow the group the ability to inform the man of his right to counsel and to be able to provide him legal representation.</p> <p>According to the Justice Department, the man surrendered to the Syrian Democratic Forces on Sept. 12 and was turned over to U.S. forces. He has since been deemed an enemy combatant and is being detained in Iraq while authorities work to determine his "further disposition."</p> <p>"This is the nightmare scenario where the government has locked up an American in secret," said ACLU attorney Jonathan Hafetz in court. "There is no evidence here he does not want a lawyer."</p> <p>ACLU argued that it should be allowed to file motions as a "next friend" to the man because, although his identity is not known and he is inaccessible, he has reportedly expressed a desire for legal representation.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>12/01 Pakistan: gunmen attack agriculture complex</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/gunmen-attack-agriculture-institute-pakistan-wounding-11-51504976?">http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/gunmen-attack-agriculture-institute-pakistan-wounding-11-51504976?</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>Islamist militants stormed a provincial government complex for agriculture research in the northwestern city of Peshawar on Friday, killing nine students and wounding 35 others, police and rescue officials said.</p> <p>Police and military troops killed five attackers during a firefight and while clearing the complex, they said.</p> <p>The main Taliban militant group, Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan, claimed responsibility.</p> <p>Police chief Salahuddin Mahsud of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province said attackers opened fire on the main gate of a provincial Agricultural Department complex, initially wounding two guards and two students.</p> <p>Mahsud said three attackers clad in women's burqas then reached the gate in a rickshaw and opened fire to clear their way to the building. The ensuing firefight left nine dead and dozens more injured.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>12/01 Philippines to charge extremist's widow</b>
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SOURCE	<a href="http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/philippines-seeks-rebellion-charges-extremists-widow-51506102?">http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/philippines-seeks-rebellion-charges-extremists-widow-51506102?</a>
GIST	<p>Philippine prosecutors have recommended an extremist leader's widow to be charged with inciting rebellion for allegedly calling on fighters to join a bloody Islamic State group-linked siege in the country's south.</p> <p>State prosecutors said in a Department of Justice resolution seen by The Associated Press on Friday that there was "probable cause" to charge Karen Aizha Hamidon with nearly 300 counts of inciting rebellion.</p> <p>Hamidon was arrested by government agents in October for allegedly posting rebellious statements mostly through the Telegram and WhatsApp messaging services. Prosecutors say she posted at least 295 separate messages to invite fighters to join the five-month siege in Marawi city that troops crushed on Oct. 23.</p> <p>Hamidon's militant husband was killed by troops this year.</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>11/30 Officials: 400 Marines leaving Syria</b>
SOURCE	<a href="http://abcnews.go.com/International/raqqa-fight-400-us-marines-leaving-syria/story?id=51489623&amp;cid=clicksource_76_2_hero_headlines_headlines_hed">http://abcnews.go.com/International/raqqa-fight-400-us-marines-leaving-syria/story?id=51489623&amp;cid=clicksource_76_2_hero_headlines_headlines_hed</a>
GIST	<p>Four hundred U.S. Marines will be leaving Syria soon after completing their mission to help defeat ISIS in Raqqa, which the terrorist group once claimed as its capital in Syria, coalition officials said Thursday.</p> <p>"With the city liberated and ISIS on the run, the unit has been ordered home," the Combined Joint Task Force for Operation Inherent Resolve said in a statement. "Its replacements have been called off."</p> <p>The U.S.-led coalition fighting ISIS announced that troops from an artillery unit with the 1st Battalion, 10th Marine Regiment will soon leave Syria after providing crucial artillery support to the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), a Kurdish and Arab rebel group fighting ISIS in Syria.</p> <p>The SDF retook Raqqa from ISIS in mid-October, after an intense, street-to-street battle involving an estimated 2,500 ISIS fighters.</p> <p>An earlier Marine artillery unit arrived in May before the offensive to retake Raqqa, according to officials, and it provided artillery fire for the SDF forces that retook the Taqba Dam from ISIS before moving on to Raqqa.</p> <p>According to military officials, there are approximately 2,000 U.S. troops in Syria, although the official Defense Department force level is set at 503 personnel. A Defense Manpower Data Center quarterly personnel report listed about 1,700 American troops in Syria as of Sept. 30, but Pentagon officials have described that report as a snapshot of force levels that are constantly varying.</p> <p>"The departure of these outstanding Marines is a sign of real progress in the region," said Inherent Resolve's director of operations, Brig. Gen. Jonathan Braga. "We're drawing down combat forces where it makes sense but still continuing our efforts to help Syrian and Iraqi partners maintain security."</p> <p>"Our remaining forces will continue to work by, with and through partner forces to defeat remaining ISIS [fighters], prevent a re-emergence of ISIS and set conditions for international governments and NGOs to help local citizens recover from the horrors of ISIS' short-lived rule," Braga added.</p>
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HEADLINE	11/30 Organized crime behind illegal pot farms?
SOURCE	<a href="http://www.chronline.com/organized-crime-eyed-after-more-chinese-nationals-jailed-in-pot/article_3e7e7498-d608-11e7-bb95-3b6a6534e241.html">http://www.chronline.com/organized-crime-eyed-after-more-chinese-nationals-jailed-in-pot/article_3e7e7498-d608-11e7-bb95-3b6a6534e241.html</a>
GIST	<p>A team of investigators led by the Grays Harbor County Drug Task Force executed search warrants at suspected marijuana grow operations tended by Chinese nationals in Grays Harbor, Thurston and King counties this week, resulting in the confiscation of an estimated \$80 million or more in plants.</p> <p>Starting at 8:30 a.m. Tuesday, investigators began executing 50 search warrants. The raids resulted in 44 arrests, 26 vehicle confiscations, and the seizure of guns and other items of value, according to the sheriff's office.</p> <p>Marijuana plants, cash, gold and equipment and chemicals were seized after a series of raids in three Western Washington counties Tuesday.</p> <p>Investigators also found \$400,000 in cash and gold and seized 32,449 marijuana plants.</p> <p>The Lewis County Sheriff's Office and the county's Joint Narcotic Enforcement team were among more than two dozen agencies participating in Tuesday's raids.</p> <p>Illegal marijuana grows involving Chinese nationals in states that have legalized marijuana are becoming increasingly common, said Chief Criminal Deputy Steve Shumate, of the Grays Harbor County Sheriff's Office.</p> <p>"Throughout the western United States pretty much any state that's legal you'll see there have been big busts," he said.</p> <p>While no warrants were served in Lewis County Tuesday, several similar raids have been conducted in the county in the past year.</p> <p>As of October, JNET had served warrants at five grow operations and seized 6,000 plants since December 2106.</p> <p>Law enforcement agencies from New York and the East Coast helped local agencies in investigations of marijuana grows in Lewis County, according to information previously provided by JNET.</p> <p>In late September, JNET executed a similar search warrant on Senn Road in Napavine, seizing 2,500 growing plants and arresting two men Jian Ming Zhu, 61, and Jin Liang Tan, 36, who most recently lived in San Francisco.</p> <p>The men were suspected of being part of a marijuana trafficking operation on the West Coast between Washington and California.</p> <p>According to court documents, Tan told police he tends both of the grows raided on Sept. 27 and said he transports "large amounts of marijuana to Seattle in exchange for \$900 per pound."</p> <p>In October, deputies arrested Jing Ming Gao, 55, of Brooklyn, New York, in a "makeshift bedroom" in a Vader marijuana grow located in a barn. Gao was not immediately charged.</p> <p>"Additional suspects have been identified in this investigation and warrants will be requested for their arrests," according to a news release from JNET at the time.</p> <p>The investigation that led to Tuesday's warrants started when citizens in Grays Harbor County reported possible illegal marijuana grows in the Elma area. After police in McCleary, Aberdeen and Hoquiam also received complaints, the Grays Harbor task force took over the investigation.</p> <p>In the past four months, the task force learned suspects were buying homes for the purpose of setting up</p>

marijuana grows. Most were purchased with cash, and the purchases were conducted by “Chinese nationals involved in organized crime,” according to the Grays Harbor Sheriff’s Office.

“The proceeds from these illegal grows appear to be funding other criminal enterprises,” according to the sheriff’s office.

Shumate said investigations in other parts of the country have showed that organized criminal enterprises have brought groups of people from China to the western United States specifically to tend the illegal grows.

He said local investigators are still working to determine where all of the people arrested Tuesday were from, how they got here and where the profits from the massive grows were headed.

“Obviously that money is going somewhere,” Shumate said.

Investigators suspect the trail will head to the East Coast, he said, where marijuana’s street value is higher.

Of the 50 warrants executed, 38 were in Grays Harbor County, split between Hoquiam, Aberdeen, Grayland, Ocean Shores, Cosmopolis, Montesano, Elma and McCleary addresses.

Eight warrants were served in Bellevue, Kent and Medina in King County, and four were served in Olympia and Lacey.

The grows not only had no valid state licenses, but in some cases were set up in areas off limits to legal grows, such as houses near schools, according to the Grays Harbor Sheriff’s Office.

“There is a tremendous amount of work left to do for this massive investigation,” states a press release issued Wednesday from the sheriff’s office. “We again want to thank all of our federal, state and local partners who assisted with this significant operation.”

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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>11/30 France: Russia mushrooms w/cesium</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.yahoo.com/news/france-finds-traces-radioactive-cesium-russian-mushrooms-asn-111712295--finance.html">https://www.yahoo.com/news/france-finds-traces-radioactive-cesium-russian-mushrooms-asn-111712295--finance.html</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>PARIS (Reuters) - France has found traces of radioactive cesium on mushrooms imported from Russia, the head of French nuclear regulator ASN said on Thursday.</p> <p>ASN chief Pierre-Franck Chevet told the French senate that following the discovery of a cloud of radioactive pollution coming from Russia in October, levels of radioactive ruthenium 106 in the air had posed no safety threat to French citizens, but that controls on food imports had been strengthened.</p> <p>"The latest information I have is that it seems that traces of cesium have been found on mushrooms that would have come from Russia," Chevet told Senate hearing on nuclear security.</p> <p>Officials at French consumer protection agency DGCCRF were not immediately available for comment and the ASN did not immediately respond to request for further detail.</p> <p>In recent weeks, France has imported chanterelle mushrooms from Russia which are on sale in supermarkets in Paris.</p> <p>Chevet said the cesium traces did not appear to be in line with the calculations by French nuclear safety institute IRSN, which on Nov. 9 said it had detected unusual amounts of only ruthenium 106 in the atmosphere.</p>

	<p>"There is a contradiction between what has been measured and what has been calculated by the IRSN. Work is continuing," Chevet said.</p> <p>Scientists have said the presence of ruthenium without other radioactive elements would indicate there had probably been a spill of ruthenium rather than a bigger nuclear accident.</p> <p>Russian state weather service Roshydromet said last week it had found "extremely high pollution" of ruthenium 106 at nearly 1,000 times normal levels near the Mayak nuclear fuel reprocessing plant in southern Russia owned by Russian state nuclear company Rosatom.</p> <p>Mayak has denied that its plant was the source of increased level of ruthenium 106. Rosatom said there were no accidents at any of its facilities which could increase the level of ruthenium 106 in the atmosphere.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>12/01 Man drives to hospital after being shot</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://komonews.com/news/local/man-drives-himself-to-hospital-in-critical-condition-after-being-shot">http://komonews.com/news/local/man-drives-himself-to-hospital-in-critical-condition-after-being-shot</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>SHORELINE, Wash. -- An approximately 34-year-old man is in critical condition following a shooting near Shoreline early Friday morning, in which he was shot in a reportedly stolen car.</p> <p>According to the King County Sheriff's Office, the victim was with his girlfriend when they met a friend in the 15500 block of Westminster Way N. near Shoreline. Just before 1:45 a.m., Seattle police called sheriff's deputies to report that a man had driven to Northwest Hospital at 1550 N 115th St. and had suffered a gunshot wound.</p> <p>Authorities say there had been a disagreement between the two parties as the victim and his girlfriend were parked in the car at the address near Shoreline. The suspect then fired into the car, striking the victim.</p> <p>The victim was transferred to Harborview Medical Center in Seattle in critical condition after arriving at Northwest Hospital.</p> <p>The car the victim used to drive to the hospital had been reported stolen, according to the sheriff's office. It appears the victims knew their attacker, who is still at large, but no suspect description has been released.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>11/30 Cop taunts would-be killer w/KY jelly</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://www.foxnews.com/us/2017/12/30/cop-taunts-would-be-killer-with-lube-on-way-to-prison-are-going-to-need-lot-this.html">http://www.foxnews.com/us/2017/12/30/cop-taunts-would-be-killer-with-lube-on-way-to-prison-are-going-to-need-lot-this.html</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>A police officer taunted the Jacksonville man who shot him multiple times last year by taking out a tube of K-Y Jelly personal lubricant in court Wednesday and saying, "You are going to need a lot of this," local reports said.</p> <p>Kevin Rojas, then 19, shot the undercover police officer three times during a 2016 traffic stop, including once in the face, the Florida Times-Union reported.</p> <p>The critically-wounded officer, who was taking his son to school during the incident, returned fire but did not hit Rojas. His son was not injured.</p> <p>Local reports did not identify the undercover officer.</p> <p>In October, Rojas was found guilty of numerous felonies, including attempted first-degree murder, grand</p>

	<p>theft auto, attempted manslaughter, two counts of aggravated assault on a law enforcement officer.</p> <p>He was sentenced to life imprisonment on Wednesday. The wounded officer, who formerly served in the Army, began by calling Rojas a coward at the sentencing hearing, the Florida Times-Union reported.</p> <p>“I will take those bullets instead of a fellow officer and an innocent bystander,” the officer said, according to the Times-Union. “When I brought the fight back to you, you ran like a coward.”</p> <p>The officer then produced a tube of K-Y Jelly and told Rojas he would “need a lot” of it in prison, according to local reports.</p> <p>When questioned by a judge in a 30-minute hearing about the stunt, the officer refused to comment, the Times-Union reported.</p> <p>The officer's supervisors were aware of the incident and will address it, according to local reports.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>11/30 Dog steps on shotgun, shoots hunter</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.cbsnews.com/news/dog-steps-on-shotgun-shoots-hunter/">https://www.cbsnews.com/news/dog-steps-on-shotgun-shoots-hunter/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>WOOLSTOCK, Iowa -- Authorities say a pheasant hunter in north-central Iowa was accidentally shot and wounded when a dog stepped on shotgun trigger guard and the gun fired.</p> <p>The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) says the shooting occurred around 1:20 p.m. Wednesday at a public hunting area near Woolstock in southwestern Wright County.</p> <p>Ken Lonneman, a DNR conservation officer, told CBS News that four hunters and two dogs were looking for the game birds when one of the hunters placed a loaded shotgun on the ground.</p> <p>It went off when one of the dogs stepped on the trigger guard. Lonneman said it's unclear which dog discharged the shot.</p> <p>Several pellets lodged in the back of William Rancourt, of Lebanon, New Hampshire, who was standing about 22 yards away, the agency said. He was able to walk soon after being wounded and was taken to a hospital in Fort Dodge for treatment.</p> <p>One of the dogs belonged to Rancourt and the other belonged to one of his hunting companions, Lonneman said.</p> <p>Lonneman did not know the dogs' names, but said they were 1- and 2-year-old German shorthaired pointers. He described them as "very good dogs" and noted they were not at fault.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>11/30 Cities temps warming up for winter</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.cbsnews.com/news/climate-change-warm-winters-2017-climate-central-report/">https://www.cbsnews.com/news/climate-change-warm-winters-2017-climate-central-report/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>MINNEAPOLIS -- If you feel like winters "aren't what they used to be around here," you're right, CBS Minnesota reports.</p> <p>New analysis released Thursday by research institute Climate Central shows that, since 1970, average wintertime temperatures in Minnesota and Wisconsin are warming faster than almost any other area of the United States.</p> <p>The U.S. city that experienced the most warming was Burlington, Vermont, where average winter</p>

temperatures have risen 7.0°F in the last 47 years.

Winters in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area in in the southern Minnesota city Mankato have warmed 6.0°F during that period, the second- and third-largest increase among U.S. cities.

Fargo, North Dakota has warmed 5.9°F, and Duluth has warmed 5.8°F in the winter during that time.

Climate Central also noted that, in general, winter is the fastest-warming season for most of the country. Furthermore, the dramatic winter warming in northern states follows a general rule of climate change that cold areas and seasons warm faster, according to this independent study.

In the northeast for example, New York City has seen an increase of 3.2°F over the last 47 years, Washington D.C. has seen a 2.2°F increase and Portland, Maine, has seen a 4.7°F increase since 1970.

In Austin, Texas, there has been a 4.1°F increase during the winter months.

To arrive at their conclusion, scientists at Climate Central analyzed average temperatures during the months of December, January and February, using publicly available data from the National Center for Environmental Information (NCEI). All of the 344 climate sectors tracked by NCEI showed a wintertime warming trend since 1970 (which is the earliest date for which reliable data is available for all areas).

A week ago, CBS Los Angeles reported holiday temperatures were about 20-25 degrees higher than average for this time of year. Thanksgiving Day temperatures were the hottest ever in Los Angeles and at Newport Beach. The noon temperature in downtown L.A. hit 91°F at the official station, at USC. The previous record, 90°F, was set on Nov. 23, 1903, National Weather Service meteorologist Rich Thompson said.

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*You can read more from the report, and see how other cities are faring, by [clicking here](#).*

<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>11/30 Turkey aided Iran money laundering?</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-turkey-zarrab/turkish-gold-trader-implicates-erdogan-in-iran-money-laundering-idUSKBN1DU23B">https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-turkey-zarrab/turkish-gold-trader-implicates-erdogan-in-iran-money-laundering-idUSKBN1DU23B</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>(Reuters) - A Turkish-Iranian gold trader on Thursday told jurors in a New York federal court that Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan authorized a transaction in a scheme to help Iran evade U.S. sanctions.</p> <p>Reza Zarrab is cooperating with U.S. prosecutors in the criminal trial of a Turkish bank executive accused of helping to launder money for Iran. At the time of the alleged conspiracy, Erdogan was Turkey’s prime minister.</p> <p>Zarrab said he had learned from Zafer Caglayan, who was Turkey’s economy minister, that Erdogan and then-treasury minister Ali Babacan had authorized two Turkish banks, Ziraat Bank and VakifBank, to move funds for Iran.</p> <p>Both Ziraat and VakifBank denied taking part in the scheme.</p> <p>Erdogan’s spokesman, and an adviser to Babacan could not immediately be contacted by Reuters. Erdogan said earlier on Thursday that Turkey did not violate U.S. sanctions, CNN Turk reported. A spokesman for Erdogan’s government has called the case a “plot against Turkey.”</p> <p>The testimony came on the third day of the trial of Mehmet Hakan Atilla, an executive at Turkey’s state-owned Halkbank, who has pleaded not guilty in Manhattan federal court.</p> <p>U.S. prosecutors have charged nine people in the case with conspiring to help Iran evade sanctions, although only Zarrab, 34, and Atilla, 47, have been arrested by U.S. authorities.</p>

Over two days of testimony, Zarrab has told jurors that he helped Iran use funds deposited at Halkbank to buy gold, which was smuggled to Dubai and sold for cash. On Thursday, he said that he had to stop the gold trades and start moving money through fake food purchases instead in 2013, after U.S. sanctions changed.

Zarrab has said that Atilla helped design the gold transactions, along with Halkbank's former general manager, Suleyman Aslan.

On Thursday, Zarrab discussed a 2013 phone call with Atilla about his plan to switch from gold trades to fake food sales. He said Atilla did not understand at the time that no actual food would be sent to Iran, and was reluctant to sign off on the plan.

Zarrab said Aslan ordered Atilla to allow the transaction.

Zarrab has testified that in the course of his scheme, he bribed Aslan and former Turkish economy minister Zafer Caglayan.

Both Caglayan and Aslan were charged in the case. Reuters was not able to reach Caglayan or Aslan for comment.

Turkey's government has previously said that Caglayan acted lawfully, and Halkbank has said it acted lawfully as well. Caglayan previously said that similar allegations in a 2013 corruption investigation in Turkey that was later dismissed were "unfounded claims".

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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>11/30 Tesla shores up Australia's grid</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.reuters.com/article/us-australia-power-tesla/tesla-switches-on-giant-battery-to-shore-up-australias-grid-idUSKBN1DV3VR">https://www.reuters.com/article/us-australia-power-tesla/tesla-switches-on-giant-battery-to-shore-up-australias-grid-idUSKBN1DV3VR</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>HORNSDALE, Australia (Reuters) - Tesla Inc switched on the world's biggest lithium ion battery on Friday in time to feed Australia's shaky power grid for the first day of summer, meeting a promise by Elon Musk to build it in 100 days or give it free.</p> <p>"South Australia is now leading the world in dispatchable renewable energy," state Premier Jay Weatherill said at the official launch at the Hornsdale wind farm, owned by private French firm Neoen.</p> <p>Tesla won a bid in July to build the 129-megawatt hour battery for South Australia, which expanded in wind power far quicker than the rest of the country, but has suffered a string of blackouts over the past 18 months.</p> <p>In a politically charged debate, opponents of the state's renewables push have argued that the battery is a "Hollywood solution" in a country that still relies on fossil fuels, mainly coal, for two-thirds of its electricity.</p> <p>Supporters, however, say it will help stabilize the grid in a state that now gets more than 40 percent of its electricity from wind energy, but needs help when the wind dies down.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>12/01 Burundi govt. enforcers now getting killed</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://apnews.com/5bf2a9d735424cf2b767df7e977f75f9/Burundi's-government-enforcers-now-killed-for-their-silence">https://apnews.com/5bf2a9d735424cf2b767df7e977f75f9/Burundi's-government-enforcers-now-killed-for-their-silence</a>
<b>GIST</b>	KIGALI, Rwanda (AP) — Vanessa Kaneza is on the run, hiding from security agents she believes killed

her husband and may want to harm her.

Despite her family's ties to Burundi's ruling party, she no longer feels safe in a country where security forces are routinely accused of torturing and killing perceived opponents. Now, as the International Criminal Court begins looking into the alleged crimes, she and others fear the security forces have begun eliminating their own allies, like her husband, to ensure silence.

"I prayed for my husband daily to stop participating in hunting down people, but I didn't have power over him," Kaneza told The Associated Press. "I know he is already dead and I blame the president for this."

Her husband, a retired soldier named Aime Manirakiza, had been a member of the Imbonerakure youth group, which helped break up protests in 2015 over President Pierre Nkurunziza's bid to seek a disputed third term that he ultimately won.

Manirakiza had been active in Musaga, a neighborhood in the capital, Bujumbura, where Imbonerakure members were seen shooting into civilian crowds at the peak of the protests.

The 40-year-old disappeared in May. Kaneza, who later fled to neighboring Rwanda, said she was told that her husband was eliminated by his Imbonerakure colleagues acting on orders from "high up."

Local human rights activists have been documenting similar cases of witnesses of abuses who were killed or disappeared since the East African nation descended into the violence that has left hundreds dead and forced hundreds of thousands to flee into neighboring countries.

Imbonerakure members who are thought to have witnessed grave crimes are now at risk of being assassinated or arrested, said Pierre-Claver Mbonimpa, Burundi's most prominent human rights activist.

The ICC this month said judges have authorized an investigation into allegations of state-sponsored crimes in Burundi, including murder, rape and torture, committed since April 26, 2015. The ICC said it can investigate actions that occurred before Burundi's withdrawal from the Hague-based court took effect last month.

The reports of missing witnesses signal that "despite the government's rhetoric that it will resist any attempt by the ICC to investigate alleged crimes, it may also be concerned about having people being able to corroborate Imbonerakure's alleged participation in such crimes alongside security and intelligence officers," said Yolande Bouka, an independent analyst now based in the United States.

A prominent local activist has published a list online of dozens of Burundians "forcibly disappeared" over the past two years. It includes Imbonerakure members, activists and politicians from various parties, journalists, intelligence agents, police and army officers and civilians.

Some security agents who participated in alleged crimes have been eliminated as violently as their victims, said Pacifique Nininahazwe, who runs the website and has been sharing information with ICC investigators.

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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>11/30 Possible link in some teen suicides Utah</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://abcnews.go.com/Health/wireStory/link-found-utah-suicides-lost-device-privileges-51497661">http://abcnews.go.com/Health/wireStory/link-found-utah-suicides-lost-device-privileges-51497661</a>
<b>GIST</b>	Researchers studying a spike in teen suicides in Utah found that 18 of the 150 youngsters who took their own lives in a five-year period had recently lost privileges to use their electronic devices such as phones, tablets and gaming systems, according to a U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report made public Thursday.  The report was released after outside researchers earlier this month issued findings based on CDC data

showing an increase in suicide rates among teens across the U.S. over the 2010-2015 period occurred at the same time social media use surged. Teen suicides had declined in the two previous decades.

Both reports stop short of blaming electronics and social media for the rise in suicides, but say the findings beg for more research on the topic.

The findings add to a growing body of research that raise serious questions about whether young people who spend many hours on social media are more at risk for relationship problems, said Michael Friedrichs, a Utah state epidemiologist who was among those who spoke at a Thursday news conference in Salt Lake City.

More than half — 55 percent — of the Utah suicides from 2011-2015 had experienced a recent crisis, most of which were family or dating relationships, the report found.

"A social media connection or a phone connection is not a substitute for a real connection," said Michael Friedrichs, a Utah state epidemiologist. "People need to go outside. . . There is a lack of connectness that is not satisfied by being tethered to a gadget."

Utah requested the federal investigation to get more in-depth research done after the rate of suicides among youth 10-17 more than doubled from 2011-2015.

The peak of 44 youth suicides in 2015 marked an all-time high — and was more than double the yearly average from the previous two decades, state figures said. The 2015 rate — 11.1 youth suicides per 100,000 — was also more than double the national rate.

The rate has decreased slightly in 2016-2017, but remains much higher than ever recorded previously, state data said.

The federal researchers did not find a single factor driving the increase, but found that mental health issues seem to be a common factor with 35 percent of the victims diagnosed with some kind of mental health issue and 31 percent depressed when they died, the report found.

The report found that nearly 8 in 10 who killed themselves from 2011-2015 were men.

The Utah report doesn't break down why each of 18 victims lost their electronic devices, but said it was a combination of punishment by parents or the devices breaking.

Too much technology and social can also deprive kids of sleep, create unhealthy social comparisons and extend bullying from schools to the cyber world, said Kimberly Myers, the state's suicide prevention coordinator, a position created four years ago as a result of the rising rates.

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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>11/30 Rare quake shudders thru Northeast</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory/rare-quake-shudders-northeast-centered-delaware-51497735?cid=clicksource_81_2_hero_headlines_headlines_hed">http://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory/rare-quake-shudders-northeast-centered-delaware-51497735?cid=clicksource_81_2_hero_headlines_headlines_hed</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>A rare earthquake jolted the Mid-Atlantic region of the East Coast on Thursday evening, prompting some to flee offices and homes, but causing no serious damage or injuries.</p> <p>The U.S. Geological Survey said the 4.1 magnitude quake struck just after 4:45 p.m. and was centered about 6 miles (10 kilometers) east-northeast of Dover, Delaware. People from as far away as Washington and New York City reported to the USGS that they felt the movement.</p> <p>The coordinates of the quake put its center in the Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge, at a depth of about 5 miles (8.1 kilometers).</p>



Paul Caruso, a geophysicist with the USGS's earthquake information center in Colorado, said he didn't expect any significant damage from the small quake, which he described as unusual.

"I was talking with the other seismologists and we said, 'Wow, we don't ever remember a quake in Delaware," he said.

The quake jolted the downtown area of the state capital, Dover, sending a handful of lawmakers and workers in the statehouse outdoors to see what happened as area residents gathered for the city's annual Christmas tree lighting ceremony a couple of blocks away.

Gary Laing, a spokesman for the Delaware Emergency Management Agency, said in an email 30 minutes after the quake that there were no reports of damage.

In Baltimore, the jolt was strong enough to send some people streaming out of buildings and into the streets.

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## Crime, Criminals

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HEADLINE	<b>11/30 Cops on 'spice' raids risk exposure</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://health.usnews.com/health-care/articles/2017-11-30/cops-on-spice-raids-getting-high-by-accident">https://health.usnews.com/health-care/articles/2017-11-30/cops-on-spice-raids-getting-high-by-accident</a>
GIST	<p>THURSDAY, Nov. 30, 2017 (HealthDay News) -- Police and federal agents cracking down on the makers of "designer drugs" like Spice are getting high from the mind-altering substances themselves, a new U.S. government report shows.</p> <p>After one raid, six of nine agents had signs of Spice and "kratom" -- an herbal supplement with opium-like effects -- in their urine, according to the report from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.</p> <p>Spice is a mix of herbs and man-made chemicals that mimic the psychoactive effects of marijuana. But it's often more potent than the real thing, and inhaling or swallowing Spice can lead to serious reactions, the researchers noted.</p> <p>"Intentional [Spice] use has resulted in multiple toxicities, but little is known about occupational exposure," wrote researchers led by Dr. Loren Tapp, a medical officer at the CDC.</p> <p>Because of this, federal agents requested a health hazard evaluation in 2014. Agents' urine was tested before and after a raid.</p> <p>Occupational safety investigators also tested the air and surfaces in the illegal laboratory. They found a Spice compound and kratom.</p> <p>No signs of Spice or kratom were detected in the nine agents' urine before the raid, but six showed evidence of one or more of these substances afterwards, the researchers reported.</p> <p>From their previous dealings with Spice, four of the agents recalled feeling "high." Others recalled having cough, eye or throat irritation, dizziness or lightheadedness.</p> <p>At the time, there were no policies regarding work practices or personal protection during raids and evidence processing, the report noted.</p> <p>To do their job safely, the researchers said, law enforcement agents need basic safety measures, such as gloves and protective clothing, plus showers and locker rooms.</p>

	<p>"A properly designed forensic facility and good hygiene practices can reduce personal exposures to potential contaminants during law enforcement raids and while handling evidence," Tapp's team wrote.</p> <p>In addition to personal protective equipment, agents should be banned from eating, drinking and smoking while processing Spice evidence, the report said.</p> <p>The recommendations were published in the Dec. 1 issue of the CDC's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report.</p> <p>Although several Spice compounds are banned in the United States, drugmakers frequently modify the compounds to avoid illegal status. They package them as "herbal incense" and label them "not for human consumption," according to the report.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>11/30 Mexico record high kidnappings</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.insightcrime.org/news/brief/mexicos-record-high-kidnappings-fueled-by-fractured-cartels/">https://www.insightcrime.org/news/brief/mexicos-record-high-kidnappings-fueled-by-fractured-cartels/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>Official statistics in Mexico suggest that kidnapping cases will reach a record high this year, a consequence of the atomization of the country's main organized crime groups.</p> <p>According to statistics from the National Public Security System (Sistema Nacional de Seguridad Pública), more than 6,000 kidnappings were recorded during the first four years and ten months of the Enrique Peña Nieto administration. This represents 1,280 more kidnappings than those registered during an equivalent period of time during the Felipe Calderón administration.</p> <p>In addition to kidnappings, there has also been an alarming rise in the number of homicides. In October, there were a record 2,371 homicides, making it the most violent month in the last 20 years.</p> <p>Francisco Rivas, the director of the National Citizens Observatory (Observatorio Nacional Ciudadano), predicted that both crimes will reach record highs by the end of Peña Nieto's first six years in office.</p> <p>"I think we will continue to face serious problems with these issues for the remainder of these six years because we have not seen changes to the security strategy that make us think there will be greater territorial control," Rivas told El Universal.</p> <p><b>InSight Crime Analysis</b></p> <p>Mexico tried to reduce kidnappings by creating the National Anti-kidnapping Unit (Coordinación Nacional Antisecuestros – Conase) in 2014, where it allocated more than two billion Mexican pesos this year. But these measures have done little to reduce the crime.</p> <p>While there have been several serious blows to organized crime groups in recent years — the arrest of Joaquín “El Chapo” Guzmán, the decimation of the Knights Templar and the breakdown of major cartels like Sinaloa, the Zetas and the Familia Michoacana — these are pyrrhic victories.</p> <p>The fracturing of these groups has pushed many former members to shift toward committing more local crimes, such as kidnapping, homicides, extortion, microtrafficking and robberies. While these groups do not have the international ties needed to engage in drug trafficking, they do have the guns and experience to carry out many other criminal activities.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>12/01 Europol busts global ATM skimmer ring</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://www.zdnet.com/article/europol-smashes-global-atm-skimmer-ring/">http://www.zdnet.com/article/europol-smashes-global-atm-skimmer-ring/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>Europol has hunted down and arrested the alleged key members of a criminal ring dedicated to ATM skimming.</p> <p>On Thursday, the international law enforcement agency said that as part of a joint law enforcement push dubbed "Operation Neptune," four Bulgarian citizens were arrested on 30 November.</p> <p>Involving the Italian Carabinieri, the Bulgarian General Directorate of Combating Organised Crime, the National Police of Czech Republic, and Europol's European Cybercrime Centre (EC3), Neptune focused on honing in on the leaders of an ATM skimming ring which spread beyond Europe.</p> <p>According to Europol, the alleged leaders of the group not only tampered with ATMs in central European cities to skim the card details of residents and tourists alike, but also used this information to produce fake credit cards to cash out money from ATMs in countries outside of the bloc including Belize, Indonesia, and Jamaica.</p> <p>"Dozens" of ATMs have been identified as been tampered with through the ring, according to law enforcement, which includes through the use of small, barely noticeable cameras and magnetic strip readers which steal the information necessary to create counterfeit cards.</p> <p>In addition, over 1,000 fake credit cards were seized and evidence related to fraudulent international transactions reaching over €50,000 was discovered during the operation.</p> <p>The operation has been in motion since late 2015.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>11/30 Yakima security officer fires at fleeing car</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://mynorthwest.com/832944/yakima-county-security-officer-fires-gun-at-fleeing-vehicle/">http://mynorthwest.com/832944/yakima-county-security-officer-fires-gun-at-fleeing-vehicle/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>YAKIMA, Wash. (AP) — Yakima police are investigating an incident where a county security officer fired a gun at a vehicle that was reportedly stolen.</p> <p>The Herald-Republic reports that two Yakima police officers followed the vehicle into the Yakima County Juvenile Justice Center's parking lot Thursday morning under suspicion of it being stolen. When the driver of the vehicle attempted to flee, the security officer fired at the car.</p> <p>The driver, who crashed into another vehicle in the parking lot while trying to get away, suffered minor injuries and is expected to be OK. None of the officers were injured.</p> <p>City police are handling the investigation because the officer is with the county, but the sheriff's office will conduct its own administrative review.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>11/30 Homeless man jailed in 14yr-old girl rape</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://mynorthwest.com/832953/24-year-old-man-sentenced-for-rape-of-14-year-old-in-tacoma/">http://mynorthwest.com/832953/24-year-old-man-sentenced-for-rape-of-14-year-old-in-tacoma/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>TACOMA, Wash. (AP) — A 24-year-old man who pleaded guilty to multiple sexual assault charges has been sentenced for raping a 14-year-old girl in Tacoma.</p> <p>The News Tribune reports that Martine Arkeem Smith was sentenced to six years, eight months in prison on Tuesday.</p> <p>Court documents state Smith approached the girl as she was walking down a street in February 2015. He is</p>

	<p>accused of grabbing her arm and pulling her into a shed before sexually assaulting her and leaving the scene.</p> <p>The documents state the girl went home and told a foster parent what happened.</p> <p>Smith was homeless at the time of the incident. He pleaded guilty to third-degree child rape, indecent liberties and communicating with a minor for immoral purposes.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>11/30 Suspect killer attacked another cop in 2015</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://abcnews.go.com/US/suspect-killing-texas-trooper-viciously-attacked-cop-2015/story?id=51479705">http://abcnews.go.com/US/suspect-killing-texas-trooper-viciously-attacked-cop-2015/story?id=51479705</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>Newly released dashcam video shows Dabrett Black, the suspect in last week's murder of a Texas trooper, brutally assaulting a Smith County deputy in 2015.</p> <p>The confrontation between Black and Smith County Deputy Rigele Dean occurred in March 2015 after Dean, en route to a domestic assault call, spotted Black walking on the side of a road, according to Dallas ABC affiliate WFAA.</p> <p>In a statement taken by Smith County officials, Dean said that he initially passed by Black and turned around because he thought Black was trying to flag him down. When Dean exited the squad car and asked for identification, Black refused, and Dean decided to detain him. Black resisted the arrest and hit the officer in the face.</p> <p>Black was arrested and charged with murder in the death of Texas Department of Public Safety Officer Damon Allen on Thanksgiving after a routine traffic stop. Black allegedly shot Allen with a rifle as the trooper walked back to his cruiser after speaking to Black, police said.</p> <p>Dashcam video of the 2015 incident shows Black knocking Dean to the ground, sitting on top of him and repeatedly hitting him across the face. Dean said that when he attempted to pull his weapon from his holster, Black tried to pull it from his hands, saying, "You ain't gonna shoot me mother-----."</p> <p>Black's mother, who witnessed the entire encounter, is seen in the video trying to separate her son from the officer. Dean sustained two black eyes, six stitches and a broken nose in the attack.</p> <p>On the dashcam video, Black can be seen talking to himself about his military service and his beliefs that cops are targeting and killing innocent minorities.</p> <p>Black can be heard on camera saying, "Somebody supposed to be scared because you got a badge and a gun? I showed you that your badge and gun ain't s--- ... Just imagine if I had some weapons. Do you understand that?"</p> <p>Black agreed to a plea deal in the case, dropping the charge from a felony to a misdemeanor and served just one year in prison, according to court records. Smith County prosecutor Jacob Putnam also dropped a felony charge alleging that Black tried to take away the deputy's gun. Putnam did not receive authorization from the district attorney's office to cut this plea deal with Black, according to WFAA.</p> <p>In the months following his release, several emails were sent to Smith County officials by Black's probation officers detailing their concerns about Black's mental stability and fear of future attempts at retaliation against law enforcement officers, WFAA reported.</p> <p>One official wrote, "In my opinion, this is the kind of guy who will lurk in the shadows and try to ambush someone ... I am not trying to scare anyone, and I am not being paranoid. I just think the guy has some kind of agenda, and I'm not exactly sure what it is."</p>

	<p>Dean's mother posted on Facebook that she believed Allen was dead "because this criminal was not locked up for prior crimes," according to WFAA.</p> <p>Black is being held in the Freestone County Jail on a murder charge.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>11/30 Sweden convicts man of 'online' rape</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://www.foxnews.com/world/2017/11/30/swede-convicted-online-rape-handed-10-year-sentence.html">http://www.foxnews.com/world/2017/11/30/swede-convicted-online-rape-handed-10-year-sentence.html</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>COPENHAGEN, Denmark – A court in Sweden has sentenced a Swedish man to 10 years in prison for coercing teenagers in Canada, Britain and the United States to perform sexual acts in front of webcams by threatening them or their families.</p> <p>The Uppsala City Court said Thursday that Bjorn Samstrom was guilty of online sexual offenses against 27 children between 2015 and early 2017. The 41-year-old had threatened to post photos of his victims on porn sites or kill their relatives unless they performed sexual acts as he watched in Sweden.</p> <p>It was the first time in Sweden that a person had been convicted of rape when the sexual assaults took place over the internet.</p> <p>Under Swedish law rape doesn't have to involve intercourse. It can be another act that's considered equally violating.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>11/30 King Co. receives grant for gun crimes</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://komonews.com/news/local/king-county-receives-50000-grant-to-help-solve-gun-crimes">http://komonews.com/news/local/king-county-receives-50000-grant-to-help-solve-gun-crimes</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>SEATTLE - Finding links between unsolved shootings will get a boost from a \$500,000 federal grant announced on Thursday by the U.S. Attorney for Western Washington.</p> <p>The U.S. Justice Department awarded a Project Safe Neighborhood grant to focus on solving gun crime. The grant will provide funding for a Special Assistant U.S. Attorney to review every firearms case in King County to see if it is appropriate for federal prosecution.</p> <p>The focus will also be finding connections between shooting incidents in South King and Pierce Counties, and improve intelligence sharing between law enforcement and prosecutors, so guns can be linked to specific crimes.</p> <p>Every bullet that's fired, every shell casing it came from, has a ballistic fingerprint left by the gun.</p> <p>Since 1999, that evidence has been stored in The National Integrated Ballistic Information Network, known as NIBIN. It's a database used by law enforcement to connect ballistic fingerprints to specific guns.</p> <p>The U.S. Attorney's office said NIBIN partners have captured approximately 2.8 million images of ballistic evidence. But, the sharing of the information could be more efficient.</p> <p>The federal grant will also go toward improving that sharing between local law enforcement and prosecutors.</p> <p>"We are able to focus on those guns and the people who are using those guns and causing damage in our communities," said Hayes.</p>

Project Safe Neighborhoods helps local law enforcement by providing money and tools police can use to prosecute gun crimes.

“Even if we don’t know who has that gun, we can follow it around until we find it in someone’s possession and that can help us work backward and solve crimes we otherwise could never have solved,” said King County Prosecutor Dan Satterburg.

On June 28, 2016, a Department of Corrections officer was shot in Auburn in an attempt to arrest Robert Hall, who the U.S. Attorney said was involved in several shootings in multiple jurisdictions. Using NIBIN, prosecutors said they were able to connect the gun in Hall’s possession to the shootings.

“We had nine different shooting incidents with the same gun involved over two years,” said Hayes. “We clearly targeted that and we wanted to find out who was behind that gun and when we went to arrest that individual that’s the person who went ahead and took shots at the police.”

Hall has a trial date in March.

On May 5 2017, eight shots were fired at people standing in a Jack in the Box parking lot on Rainier Avenue in Seattle. It happened at a time where there were several high-profile drive-by shootings.

Nicholas Pines was arrested in connection to that shooting and charged in King County with unlawful possession of a firearm.

Court documents said the gun found in the car connected to Pines was used in shootings in Renton, Tukwila and unincorporated King County. The links were made by using NIBIN.

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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>11/30 Shoreline: 2 drive-by ‘acid-like’ attacks</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://q13fox.com/2017/11/30/two-drive-by-acid-like-attacks-damage-cars-outside-shoreline-home/">http://q13fox.com/2017/11/30/two-drive-by-acid-like-attacks-damage-cars-outside-shoreline-home/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>SHORELINE, Wash.– A family in Shoreline is on edge after someone sprayed some sort of acid on their cars.</p> <p>It’s now happened not once, but two separate times, the family says. Most recently on Thanksgiving morning.</p> <p>"They had like a super soaker type thing with some sort of acid substance and shot it down our driveway," said mom and homeowner Shauna Hawthorne. "It bubbles straight to the metal of the vehicle."</p> <p>The damage is obvious. And so far, it has has totaled two and now damaged six of the Hawthorne's and their parents cars. Some of the damage was to the new replacement cars, after insurance claimed two of her vehicles in the last incident were a total loss.</p> <p>"This was a brand new paint job because it happened before," Hawthorne said.</p> <p>The family was first vandalized this past August.</p> <p>"Now that it's happened a second time I'm extremely scared and I feel like it's targeted and I just... I feel helpless," said Hawthorne. "It was like 'Wow that’s crazy...didn’t happen to any other houses on the block'," she explained.</p> <p>Both times their house was the only one intentionally sprayed in the neighborhood.</p> <p>The second time, the family was prepared.</p>

It was all caught one of the family's seven new surveillance cameras installed after the first attack.

In the video, it appears a Crown Victorian, an old police interceptor, sprayed a chemical like substance out the window.

The substance has yet to be officially identified.

"Paint remover? Acid? Battery acid—my dad called it. I don't know. It was this really brown foamy substance when it was first on the vehicle," described Hawthorne.

Whatever it was, it's racked up nearly \$40,000-45,000 in repairs on six different cars. Hawthorne says the cars can be replaced but one of her biggest concerns is that her daughters window is at the end of the driveway.

"I have a child and I just don't know what to do. It happens in the middle of the night," Hawthorne said.

Now her family is living in fear -- unsure where the suspect will draw the line and are even considering moving.

"Somebody going to these measures with chemicals and stuff... I have no idea what this person's capable of," Hawthorne said. "I mean if you're crazy enough to do that, I don't know. I don't know anybody like that."

The King County sheriff's office is investigating both incidents but currently have no suspects in the case. They're asking the neighborhood to be extra alert; but so far there have been no similar reports of vandalism.

Sgt. Cindy West with the King County Sheriff's office says the suspects are potentially looking at Felony Vandalism charges for malicious destruction.

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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>11/30 Leader Oregon refuge standoff out of jail</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/ammon-bundy-leader-of-standoff-at-oregon-wildlife-refuge-released-from-nevada-jail/">https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/ammon-bundy-leader-of-standoff-at-oregon-wildlife-refuge-released-from-nevada-jail/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>LAS VEGAS — A rancher's son at the center of an armed standoff with government agents near his family ranch in Nevada in 2014 and a takeover of an Oregon wildlife refuge in 2016 was released Thursday from federal custody in Las Vegas.</p> <p>Ammon Bundy, 42, was greeted by his wife and six children while friends cheered as he walked out of the federal courthouse.</p> <p>His first words after 22 months behind bars were about family and American freedoms and his reasons for opposing federal power.</p> <p>"It's about people, and life, and trying to do the best we can to promote and benefit the enjoyment of life," he said. "That's all we've tried to do."</p> <p>Bundy's brief comments to reporters quickly shifted to the surprising order on Wednesday by Chief U.S. District Judge Gloria Navarro to release him, his father, Cliven Bundy, and a co-defendant from jail to house arrest with friends during their ongoing trial on charges in the armed standoff that stopped a federal roundup of Bundy cattle from public land.</p> <p>Navarro didn't specify why she reversed previous detention rulings. Her decision followed a four-hour, closed hearing amid questions from defense teams about whether federal prosecutors have turned over</p>

	<p>complete evidence records, and about the conduct of FBI and other government agents during the standoff.</p> <p>“I want to give Judge Navarro some credit here,” Ammon Bundy said outside the courthouse. “She saw something, and she did with her power what she had authority to do.</p> <p>“It shows where the evidence is taking this case, and what the truth is,” Bundy said.</p> <p>Cliven Bundy, 71, refused the offer and remains in custody.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>11/30 Crackdown on MS-13; UAC revolving door</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://www.foxnews.com/us/2017/11/30/feds-crack-down-on-ms-13-but-immigration-policy-lets-new-recruits-in-figures-show.html">http://www.foxnews.com/us/2017/11/30/feds-crack-down-on-ms-13-but-immigration-policy-lets-new-recruits-in-figures-show.html</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>Even as the feds crack down on MS-13 by taking scores of members off U.S. streets, another government agency could be helping the infamous gang replenish its ranks, federal records show.</p> <p>The Office of Refugee Resettlement in the 2017 fiscal year placed more than 40,000 unaccompanied Central American teenagers around the country, and while most are likely not criminals, some most certainly are. Even youth who come with the best intentions can wind up targeted by the murderous street gang, say experts.</p> <p>“In their relentless effort to expand gang membership and gain traction within our communities, they aggressively target our children in school,” Acting Immigration and Customs Enforcement Director Tom Homan said at a recent press conference.</p> <p>Of 214 MS-13 members rounded up by law enforcement in the past few weeks, officials say at least a third of the suspects would have been classified as UACs (unaccompanied alien children). Meanwhile, the Office of Refugee Resettlement in the Department of Health and Human Services continues to place children, some with existing gang ties, some vulnerable to recruitment and still others to victimization, as was the case in an April quadruple homicide in Central Islip, New York, that has been tied to the gang.</p> <p>According to the resettlement office website, 42,416 UACs were placed in the 2017 fiscal year, a drop from the previous year's 59,170 but higher than FY 2015's 33,726. Strikingly, in one area especially hard hit by MS-13 gang violence, the New York suburban counties of Nassau and Suffolk, there's been little respite in placements.</p> <p>Suffolk saw 1,045 UACs and Nassau 746 in the 2017 fiscal year. This, against the backdrop of suspected gang-related developments including the recent discovery of human remains in Freeport, Nassau County, and that April quadruple homicide. In 2016, Suffolk saw 1,472 children placed and Nassau 1,219.</p> <p>The downturn in placement numbers may appear promising to some observers. But for Brentwood High School, which has seen its share of MS-13 violence, including a double homicide in September 2016 that led to the arrest of several gang members, the infusion of UACs has intensified. According to a school official, 778 students who would be considered UACs registered for this school year. This is a significant increase over the 556 new registrations last year.</p> <p>Homan said UACs are particularly vulnerable to MS-13 recruitment in the United States because of their lack of family and community ties. He added that "schools have become ground zero for MS-13 recruitment. Children may face retribution from the gang for refusing to join.”</p> <p>The result? “They quickly transform into the lethal MS-13 gang members that they once feared,” Homan said.</p> <p>According to one law enforcement official, 22 percent of MS-13 arrests over last three years were UACs.</p>



	<p>UAC victims are not tracked since it is not policy to check the immigration status of victims or witnesses.</p> <p>On May 23, Sen. Ron Johnson, R-Wis., contacted Scott Lloyd, director of the Office of Refugee Resettlement, looking for answers regarding surreptitious placement of known gang members, vetting of UACs and placement policies.</p> <p>Lloyd said in his letter to Johnson that during a June 9 review of 138 UACs in their facilities, 35 were found to be gang members and four were forced into gang involvement. He didn't specify whether or where the these 39 were placed.</p> <p>"ORR considers if the UAC has reported gang involvement, displays gang affiliation, or has self-disclosed gang involvement," Lloyd wrote.</p> <p>"As part of the Community Safety Initiative, ORR has reached out to DHS to enhance information sharing between DHS and ORR regarding potential gang affiliation of UAC or their sponsors," wrote Lloyd.</p> <p>Many in law enforcement have questioned the diligence and timeliness of this information sharing, and with a recent surge of UACs crossing the Big Bend sector of Texas, the concerns remain.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>11/30 Baltimore passes 2016 level homicides</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://www.foxnews.com/us/2017/12/01/baltimore-records-319th-homicide-year-surpassing-2016.html">http://www.foxnews.com/us/2017/12/01/baltimore-records-319th-homicide-year-surpassing-2016.html</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>With a 21-year-old man's death by gunfire Thursday morning, Baltimore's tally of homicides for 2017 reached 319 -- or one more than the city recorded for all of 2016.</p> <p>That's according to a count by the Baltimore Sun.</p> <p>The all-time per-capita murder record in Baltimore was set in 2015, with 344 homicides.</p> <p>Recent years have seen an increase in homicides in the city, which saw fewer than 300 homicides each year from 2000 to 2014, according to the Sun's tally.</p> <p>Baltimore Mayor Catherine E. Pugh has called the city's gun violence "out of control." The most recent case to draw national attention was the November slaying of Baltimore police Detective Sean Suiter, who was fatally shot while on duty.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>11/30 Venezuela arrests former oil bosses</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://www.cnn.com/2017/11/30/americas/venezuela-oil-executives-detained/index.html">http://www.cnn.com/2017/11/30/americas/venezuela-oil-executives-detained/index.html</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>(CNN)Two former executives for Venezuelan national oil company PDVSA have been detained in an anti-corruption crackdown, Venezuelan Attorney General Tarek William Saab said Thursday.</p> <p>PDVSA's former president, Nelson Martínez, and former minister Eulogio Del Pino were detained, Saab said, adding that 16 other arrest warrants are out for other officials. For those not in the country, an Interpol alert will be requested.</p> <p>"Sixty-five managers of the oil industry have been detained, of whom 16 are senior heads," Saab said via the attorney general's office Twitter account, adding that these actions "strengthen our democracy."</p> <p>Saab said the "entrepreneurs" are the cause for the current deficit in the country.</p>

	The move comes after President Nicolas Maduro announced Sunday that Manuel Quevedo would run PDVSA in an effort to "clean up" corruption scandals within the oil company.
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>11/30 Grays Harbor sheriff updates pot raids</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://www.theolympian.com/news/local/article187231078.html">http://www.theolympian.com/news/local/article187231078.html</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>The Grays Harbor County Sheriff's Office provided additional details Wednesday about Tuesday's raids of dozens of suspected illegal marijuana growing operations in Thurston, Grays Harbor, and King counties run by Chinese nationals believed to be part of organized crime.</p> <p>Steve Shumate, Grays Harbor's Chief Criminal Deputy, posted on the department's Facebook page, providing the details including the locations of many of the busts. Among the locations: multiple sites on 10th Court Southeast in Olympia, and Laynard Drive Northeast in Lacey.</p> <p>At about 8:30 a.m. Tuesday, the Grays Harbor County Drug Task Force oversaw the operation that resulted in numerous search warrants being conducted throughout Grays Harbor County, as well as in Thurston and King counties.</p> <p>Shumate wrote that a total of 50 search warrants were executed among the three counties. There were 44 arrests made, 26 vehicles confiscated, along with multiple guns and other items of value. More than \$400,000 worth of cash and gold was seized. A total of 32,449 marijuana plants were confiscated. Law enforcement estimated the value of the plants in excess of \$80 million.</p> <p>Of the 50 search warrants, 38 were in Grays Harbor County, eight in King County, and four in Thurston County. Shumate said in some cases, there were multiple search warrants on the same streets.</p> <p>The investigation originated earlier this year when east Grays Harbor County citizens reported to the Sheriff's Office possible illegal pot grows near Elma. Later, McCleary Police received similar complaints.</p> <p>Grays Harbor County Sheriff's deputies as well as officers with the McCleary Police Department identified several possible locations where the grow operations appeared to be occurring. On Aug. 1, the Grays Harbor Drug Task Force took over the investigations.</p> <p>Over the past four months, the task force developed information that numerous homes were being purchased for the purpose of setting up illegal marijuana grows. The majority of the homes were purchased with cash by Chinese nationals. Investigators believe the proceeds from the grows were funding other criminal enterprises.</p> <p>The marijuana grow operations were not only operated without the proper licenses, but in some cases, the illegal grow operations were set up in restricted areas such as near schools.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>12/01 Accusers face risks breaking NDAs</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://apnews.com/3895454a10004f258ed7e18f25c74a26/Accusers-face-risks-in-breaking-nondisclosure-agreements">https://apnews.com/3895454a10004f258ed7e18f25c74a26/Accusers-face-risks-in-breaking-nondisclosure-agreements</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>CHICAGO (AP) — Details of alleged sexual assaults by Hollywood mogul Harvey Weinstein, comedian Bill Cosby and other famous figures are now widely known in part because several accusers did something they promised in writing never to do: They talked publicly about their allegations.</p> <p>When those women spoke out, they broke nondisclosure agreements — contractual pledges not to discuss what happened that are common features of financial settlements. In doing so, they helped start a national discussion about sexual misconduct and showed that the agreements do not necessarily offer the same</p>

ironclad protection that for decades has shielded the rich and powerful.

A look at how the agreements work and what can happen when accusers go public anyway:

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## WHAT THEY ARE

The agreements amount to contracts to buy and sell silence. Some require that accusers destroy emails and other evidence related to the allegations. The pacts are typically signed before an accuser sues or before a lawsuit gets to trial.

The accusers may see trading silence for money as their sole recourse to obtain a degree of justice, especially if statutes of limitation rule out criminal charges. Others fear opting for a civil or criminal trial means an emotionally draining courtroom fight in a media spotlight.

“Many women go into the settlement agreement because they just don’t want to face what potentially could be coming,” said former Fox News anchor Juliet Huddy, who, according to a New York Times report in January, signed a confidentiality deal to settle claims against former Fox News host Bill O’Reilly. “Some people just want to make it go away and move on with their lives.”

Those comments to NBC in October came in her first extended interview since the out-of-court settlement in 2016 with 21st Century Fox, Fox News’ parent company. But with her lawyer beside her, she was careful not to break the confidentiality pledge. She talked only generally about women coping with abuse but declined to offer any details about the allegations or settlement.

Zelda Perkins, a former Weinstein assistant, was among the first of his accusers to break a commitment to stay quiet — one she kept for nearly 20 years, until an October interview with the Financial Times. She said she’s speaking now about how Weinstein sexually harassed her “on every occasion I was alone with him” and about her 1998 settlement to spark debate “about how egregious these agreements are.”

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## THE CHALLENGE OF ENFORCEMENT

Two parties can agree to do just about anything in writing, but that does not mean courts will enforce the terms if disputes arise. Judges can refuse to enforce confidentiality clauses if there’s a wider public interest in breaking the silence, such as an accusers’ wish to expose an abuser so others are not victimized. Contracts clearly aimed at concealing crimes can be deemed unenforceable. And, in some instances, judges can decline to enforce them if they violate a victim’s free-speech rights.

Most judges would be reluctant to penalize a victim who violates a confidentiality pact, said Alan Garfield, a Delaware law professor. But each state sets its own rules about the provisions, he explained, and there’s no consensus among judges about assessing their legality.

“There’s just enough uncertainty to make people afraid to breach them,” he said.

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## SUING THE ACCUSER

When victims do break their silence, the accused have the option of suing for breach of contract, asking that settlement payouts be returned. But such action can backfire, making the accused look even worse, said Garfield: “It would look like a continuation of the abuse.”

It’s also risky. It could generate more sympathy for the accuser and draw more attention to allegations the accused sought to hide in the first place.

Bill Cosby is among the few who tried anyway.

He sued Andrea Constand in early 2016, two months after Pennsylvania authorities charged him with drugging and molesting her in 2004. Cosby argued that she breached confidentiality terms in their 2006 settlement, including by answering prosecutors' questions before they charged him.

She said Cosby opened the way for her to go public by going public himself with sweeping denials about ever assaulting anyone. Cosby withdrew the suit months later.

Cosby's first trial in June ended in a hung jury. His retrial is pending.

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#### OTHER CONFIDENTIALITY AGREEMENTS

Confidentiality provisions are often written into employment contracts. Former Fox News Channel CEO Roger Ailes sued former anchor Gretchen Carlson last year after she said publicly she was fired for refusing his sexual advances. Her allegations led to his ouster. Ailes, who died in May, said her contract prohibited her from going public until both sides first tried closed-door arbitration.

Prenuptial and postnuptial agreements can also contain confidentiality provisions. Donald Trump's did. In divorce-related proceedings, a New York court in 1992 let his first wife, Ivana Trump, strike a nondisclosure clause barring her from ever discussing their years as a couple. An appeals court reversed that decision, saying the confidentiality terms did not "offend public policy as a prior restraint on protected speech."

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#### PROPOSED CHANGES

Legislators in several states are now pushing for laws specifically instructing courts not to enforce provisions that keep names of the accused secret. Pennsylvania state Sen. Judy Schwank said sexual predators have "hidden behind" nondisclosure agreements, enabling harassment "to grow like a cancer."

But among those who could lose out are victims themselves. It's the prospect that accusers might be willing, at the right price, to keep quiet that enables them to press for higher payouts.

If laws say courts cannot enforce such provisions, that leverage is lost. And if confidentiality is off the table, the accused may conclude there's no point in even trying to settle.

Questions about how Congress deals with such cases arose after Rep. John Conyers was accused of sexual harassment by a former aide.

Marion Brown said the Michigan Democrat propositioned her for sex multiple times over more than a decade. She broke a confidentiality agreement Thursday to tell her story to "Today."

"I felt it was worth the risk," Brown said, "to stand up for all the women in the workforce that are voiceless."

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HEADLINE	<b>12/01 Japan: US contractor gets life for murder</b>
SOURCE	<a href="http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/us-marine-life-murder-rape-okinawa-woman-51505552?">http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/us-marine-life-murder-rape-okinawa-woman-51505552?</a>
GIST	A Japanese court on Friday convicted a U.S. military contractor of murder and rape charges in the death of an Okinawa woman and sentenced him to life in prison.  The Naha District Court also found Kenneth Shinzato, a former Marine, guilty of abandoning the victim's

body, court officials said. The 20-year-old woman was found in the forest in May, three weeks after she disappeared while taking a walk.

Shinzato was accused of hitting the woman in the head with a club, intending to rape her and stabbing her to death in the neck with a knife. He pleaded guilty to the charges of rape resulting in death and abandoning of the body, but denied murder intent.

Judge Toshihiro Shibata upheld prosecutors' demand for life imprisonment, saying there was no room for leniency, Kyodo News reported.

The case sparked outrage on the southern Japanese island where residents have long complained about heavy U.S. military presence and crimes linked to them. The anger led to a bilateral pact limiting immunity from Japanese prosecution for civilian workers at American bases.

Okinawa has also protested a contentious plan to relocate a Marine Corps air station in the crowded neighborhood of Futenma to a less-populated part of the island. The plan developed after a military aircraft accident near the current base and the 1995 rape of a girl by three American servicemen enraged Okinawans, but has since made little progress due to protests. Opponents want the air station completely removed from the island.

Half of about 50,000 American troops stationed in Japan are on Okinawa.

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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>11/30 Prosecutor: Baltimore cop planted drugs</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://abcnews.go.com/US/baltimore-police-sergeant-planted-drugs-suspects-car-federal/story?">http://abcnews.go.com/US/baltimore-police-sergeant-planted-drugs-suspects-car-federal/story?</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>A former Baltimore Police officer has been indicted for allegedly planting evidence in a suspect's car during a 2010 arrest, federal prosecutors announced Thursday.</p> <p>Former Sgt. Wayne Earl Jenkins, 37, allegedly planted heroin in a car after a driver who police were pursuing crashed into another car, prosecutors with the U.S. Attorney's Office in the District of Maryland said in a press release.</p> <p>A fatal crash</p> <p>On April 28, 2010, Jenkins was driving an unmarked Baltimore Police Department vehicle with another officer in the passenger seat when he -- along with a second officer in an unmarked car -- began to pursue the car, the press release states. The suspect, Umar Burley, who was driving at a high speed with passenger Brent Matthews in the passenger seat, struck a car at an intersection, and the impact sent the car into the front porch of a nearby row house, federal prosecutors said. The elderly driver of the other car became trapped and later died that day.</p> <p>There were no drugs inside the car prior to the crash, the indictment alleges. After the crash, and after the pair had been arrested, Jenkins told the fellow officer who was riding in the passenger seat of his car to call a sergeant who was not at the scene because he had the "stuff" in his car, according to the court documents.</p> <p>After medical personnel arrived, Jenkins then told the officer that the "stuff" was in the crashed car and that he was going to tell the third officer -- who had been driving a separate unmarked vehicle -- to find it because that officer was "clueless," according to the indictment.</p> <p>Allegations of planting evidence</p> <p>The officer then found about 28 grams of heroin that "Jenkins had planted in the vehicle," the court document says. Later that day, Jenkins allegedly wrote a false statement of probable cause, where he</p>

claimed that "32 individually wrapped pieces of plastic containing a tan powder substance" were recovered.

Jenkins "knew the heroin ... had been planted," the indictment alleges.

Later, Jenkins listened to recorded jail calls between Burley and Matthews, which indicated that they were aware that the heroin in the car had been planted, the court document states. Jenkins then told the officer who had been his passenger that he could not testify in the case if it went to trial because "something had been put in the car," referring to the heroin that had been planted, the indictment alleges.

Burley and Matthews were later charged and imprisoned on federal drug charges based on the false report, the indictments states. In 2011, Burley had been sentenced to 15 years in prison for the federal drug charge to be served concurrent to a 10-year sentence for a vehicular manslaughter conviction, according to the press release. Matthews had been sentenced to 46 months in prison on federal drug charges.

The Justice Department has filed a petition for the federal drug convictions against the pair to be vacated, "because they are innocent," according to the press release.

#### Charges mounting

On Thursday, Jenkins was charged with destruction and alteration or falsification of records in federal investigations and deprivation of rights under color of law, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office. He is currently awaiting a Jan. 16 trial on criminal racketeering and fraud charges from a previous indictment and could face an additional sentence of 20 years in prison if convicted of the new charges against him, the court document states.

Jenkins was fired on July 26, Baltimore Police Chief of Media Relations T.J. Smith told ABC News. Jenkins' attorney, Steven Levin, declined to provide a comment to ABC News. He remains in jail as he awaits trial, prosecutors said.

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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>12/01 San Francisco: illegal 'not guilty' murder</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://abcnews.go.com/US/jury-finds-undocumented-immigrant-guilty-murder-kate-steinle/story?id=51497686&amp;cid=clicksource_4380645_1_hero_headlines_bsq_hed">http://abcnews.go.com/US/jury-finds-undocumented-immigrant-guilty-murder-kate-steinle/story?id=51497686&amp;cid=clicksource_4380645_1_hero_headlines_bsq_hed</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>A jury has found Jose Ines Garcia Zarate not guilty in the murder of Kate Steinle, the woman whose shooting death on a San Francisco pier in 2015 ignited an immigration debate.</p> <p>Garcia Zarate was acquitted of first-degree murder, second-degree murder and manslaughter. However, he was found guilty of being a felon in possession of a firearm.</p> <p>Garcia Zarate, of Mexico, had been deported several times and has previous convictions for re-entry after deportation. Before the killing, he had been released from a San Francisco jail after a minor drug charge was dismissed. While U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement had issued a detainer for Garcia Zarate, he was released under the city's sanctuary laws.</p> <p>Garcia Zarate had claimed he found the gun used in the shooting wrapped in a T-shirt under a bench and that it went off accidentally, The Associated Press reported. But prosecutors argued he carelessly pointed the weapon at people. The Bureau of Land Management previously said that the gun belonged to one of its enforcement rangers and was stolen from a federal agent's car.</p> <p>The case gained national attention during the 2016 presidential race when then-candidate Donald Trump cited it as an example of why the sanctuary cities, which limit a city's cooperation with the federal government's efforts to enforce immigration law, should be ended.</p>

	<p>Defense attorney Francisco Ugarte offered his condolences to the family after the verdict was read, telling reporters Steinle's death was an "incomprehensible tragedy."</p> <p>Ugarte added the case "was used to foment hate" and "catapult the presidency."</p> <p>"Today was a vindication for the rights of immigration," he said. "We have to reflect on how we talked about this case," adding that nothing about Garcia Zarate's race and immigrant status had any relevance the case.</p> <p>Alex Bastin, deputy chief of staff for the San Francisco District Attorney's Office, said the verdict was not what they had hoped for but they would respect the jury's decision.</p>
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