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## Event Calendar

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

## Events, Opportunities

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HEADLINE	04/09 ATF has a 'missing, lost' gun problem
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/powerpost/wp/2018/04/09/afts-problem-of-lost-stolen-or-missing-guns-has-gotten-better-but-its-still-a-worry/?utm_term=.c8a4702f00e4">https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/powerpost/wp/2018/04/09/afts-problem-of-lost-stolen-or-missing-guns-has-gotten-better-but-its-still-a-worry/?utm_term=.c8a4702f00e4</a>
GIST	<p>Gun control is a never-ending argument in American politics, but it should not be an issue within U.S. law enforcement agencies.</p> <p>Yet, here comes another report about loose controls leading to government firearms getting lost or being stolen.</p> <p>The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives “generally has strong physical controls.” But a report by an internal watchdog also found record-keeping deficiencies, storage shortcomings and just plain sloppiness with guns.</p> <p>The Justice Department’s Office of Inspector General determined that the ATF, responsible for tracking stolen weapons, had “26 instances of lost, stolen, or missing firearms” between fiscal 2014 and 2017. Although that is not much compared with the organization’s more than 35,500 firearms, stun guns and silencers, it is disturbing, particularly because one of the stolen guns was later used in a crime. Presumably, silencers are used for training because police are not in the ambush business.</p> <p>This report also is troubling because it is not the only one about police losing guns.</p> <p>“Our findings are particularly concerning,” Inspector General Michael E. Horowitz said last week, “because prior audits identified similar issues and recommended corrective action.”</p> <p>Audits going back 16 years also identified ATF “control weaknesses over its ammunition inventories.” The agency developed better record-keeping in 2002, yet a 2008 report found that the “ATF failed to enforce the requirement to perform annual ammunition inventories and maintain accurate and complete ammunition inventory records.” Although the ATF’s monthly loss rate for firearms has decreased 55 percent since 2008, it remains slightly higher than in 2002.</p> <p>An agency statement said the “ATF is committed to strictly enforcing all of the established agency policies for reconciling records, storage, tracking and physical security. The OIG report recognizes the effective internal controls dealing with ATF owned weapons that are tracked in the electronic property management systems.”</p> <p>ATF firearms have vanished under embarrassing circumstances, according to the report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ten firearms, including one rifle, were stolen from government vehicles in separate incidents. The agents received four- or five-day suspensions.</li><li>• A neighbor found an ATF gun on top of a vehicle. The responsible agent was suspended for four days.</li><li>• Agents twice lost pistols at restaurants. One officer received a letter of reprimand; the other was suspended for eight days.</li></ul>

- An agent who left a weapon in a briefcase on the Metro was suspended for 10 days.
- A missing revolver was found in an employee’s personal car, resulting in a 25-day suspension, the severest disciplinary action listed.
- Horowitz said his office identified “several significant deficiencies related to tracking and inventory of ammunition. For example, ammunition tracking records were understated by almost 31 thousand rounds at the 13 sites we audited. Given that ATF has over 275 offices, the number of unaccounted ammunition rounds is likely much higher.”

That raises a disconcerting question — does the ATF know how much ammunition is missing? If all 275 offices have unaccounted materiel at the rate of the 13 audited sites, that would equal more than 650,000 rounds. That’s a lot of bullets.

“When inventories are inaccurate,” Horowitz said, “there is increased risk that ammunition may be lost, stolen, or misplaced without detection.”

That also applies to explosives.

Despite the ATF’s generally strong control of explosives, inspectors could not find all the explosive material recorded on the agency’s log: “Therefore ATF cannot provide evidence that the explosives were not lost or stolen.”

If we were talking about a comparatively few missing paper clips in an area of otherwise strong controls, this wouldn’t be a problem. But even a few missing guns, explosives and bullets is serious business, particularly because this is a recurring situation with federal law enforcement.

The inspector general’s office made 10 recommendations, and the ATF agreed with all of them. The recommendations focused on better record-keeping and inventory controls, including not storing ammunition in public facilities, as two field offices had done.

When it comes to missing goods, the ATF is not alone.

Department of Homeland Security employees lost 228 firearms, 1,889 badges and 25 secure immigration stamps from fiscal 2014 through 2016, according to an October report by the DHS inspector general. That report followed a similar one in 2010 about 289 lost handguns, rifles and shotguns over a three-year period by the DHS, the nation’s largest law enforcement agency.

“The highly sensitive nature and potential for public harm intensifies the significance of each lost firearm, badge, and secure immigration stamp,” the report said. “It is crucial for DHS officers entrusted to protect the public to set the standard by adhering to policy and properly safeguarding high-risk assets.”

Two years ago, the Justice Department’s inspector general found problems with the Bureau of Prisons’s “controls and practices for safeguarding armory munitions and equipment that increase the risk that these materials could be lost, misplaced or stolen without being detected.”

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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>04/10 Northeast extreme weather whiplash</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/capital-weather-gang/wp/2018/04/10/from-75-degrees-to-45-in-one-day-the-northeast-is-about-to-experience-extreme-weather-whiplash/?utm_term=.e784bc727206">https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/capital-weather-gang/wp/2018/04/10/from-75-degrees-to-45-in-one-day-the-northeast-is-about-to-experience-extreme-weather-whiplash/?utm_term=.e784bc727206</a>
<b>GIST</b>	For all intents and purposes, this weekend is going to be summer. Temperatures are going to hit 80 degrees as far north as Massachusetts. If pools were open already, it might be a nice weekend to catch some vitamin D. The sun will be out and the trees will be budding. The only way you’ll know it’s only April is the extreme air pollen concentration and all of the allergies that go along with it.

But as it often does, spring will turn on us. Summery temperatures will drop precipitously over the course of a day. In New York City, highs near 80 degrees Saturday will plunge into the 40s. Farther north, daytime temperatures may not get out of the 30s. It's extreme weather whiplash — typical for the month of April.

A classic, powerful spring storm dives into the Lower 48 this week, and it's going to upend the beautiful, warm weather faster than it began. Severe thunderstorms will sprout across the South and Mid-Atlantic. Snow will hammer the Upper Midwest and, combined with strong winds, could create whiteout conditions.

The storm is going to be snowy from the Rockies to the Midwest. From Colorado to Michigan's Upper Peninsula, this storm will drop anywhere from a few inches to two feet. The heaviest snow looks like it will target a swath from eastern South Dakota to the Upper Peninsula. Some model forecasts suggest totals will reach at least 20 inches in northern Wisconsin.

The storm will produce severe weather in the South as early as Friday. Through the weekend it will shift east, ending up in the Mid-Atlantic on Sunday. Damaging wind gusts, large hail and tornadoes will be possible in the late afternoon as the cold front approaches.

Behind that front, the winterlike temperatures blow in.

Highs on Saturday will touch 80 degrees in Washington, the Tri-State area and even parts of Massachusetts. It will be 20 degrees warmer than normal for this time of year up and down the Interstate 95 corridor.

After the cold front plows through Sunday, highs will drop to the 60s on Monday. By Tuesday, they'll be back in the 40s and 50s for much of the Northeast. In Pennsylvania and Upstate New York, high temperatures may reach only the 30s on Tuesday afternoon.

Temperatures will regulate to the 50s and 60s in the Mid-Atlantic and the Northeast by the middle of next week, but if you're aching to do some true warm-weather activities, Saturday is your day.

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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>04/10 Opioid deaths rising w/heroin, synthetics</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/post-nation/wp/2018/04/10/study-despite-decline-in-prescriptions-opioid-deaths-skyrocketing-due-to-heroin-and-synthetic-drugs/?utm_term=.880710d0600f">https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/post-nation/wp/2018/04/10/study-despite-decline-in-prescriptions-opioid-deaths-skyrocketing-due-to-heroin-and-synthetic-drugs/?utm_term=.880710d0600f</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>Fatalities from heroin and black-market synthetic opioids skyrocketed while the nation saw a decline in the number of opioid painkiller prescriptions and the overdose deaths attributed to them, according to a study.</p> <p>The research from the American Action Forum shows that as authorities cracked down on the overprescribing of powerful painkillers, international cartels filled the void with cheap heroin and powerful synthetic opioids such as fentanyl.</p> <p>The number of opioids prescribed nationwide sharply dropped in 2010, as did the death rate from prescription-opioid overdoses. The annual growth rate of deaths involving prescription opioids slowed from 13.4 percent before 2010 to 4.8 percent after. This came after authorities went after pill mills and rogue doctors, states began implementing prescription drug monitoring programs and Purdue Pharma released a reformulated version of the painkiller OxyContin that was more difficult to crush and thus more difficult to abuse, though some users found ways around it.</p> <p>Deaths involving heroin and fentanyl sharply spiked in the years after. The annual growth rate of heroin deaths surged from 4.1 percent before 2010 to 31.2 percent after; the growth rate of death from fentanyl use went from 13.7 percent to 36.5 percent.</p>

Illicit opioids are “filling this void of unmet demand,” said Ben Gitis, who co-authored the study with intern Isabel Soto.

Gitis said many people became dependent on prescription opioids, and when the narcotics became more difficult to obtain, people turned to whatever alternative they could find. The cartels saw that market and filled it rapidly.

“While restrictions on prescription opioids appear to have slowed the growth in overdose fatalities involving those substances, the total number of opioid-involved overdose fatalities has accelerated due to staggering growth in overdose deaths involving heroin and synthetic opioids,” Gitis and Soto wrote.

More than 42,000 people died from opioid-related overdoses in 2016, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The increase in deaths from synthetic opioids such as fentanyl has been staggering: From 2013 to 2016, the number of deaths involving these substances grew 84.2 percent each year, according an analysis of CDC data.

Part of the reason for the surge in deaths is many users do not know exactly what drugs they are buying and using, and in some cases, they are inadvertently ingesting lethal amounts of synthetic opioids, which include fentanyl and carfentanil, an animal tranquilizer that has killed scores of people. The substances often are cut into heroin or pressed into counterfeit pills that users believe are painkillers or other drugs. The synthetic drugs also are proving to be resistant to overdose-reversing substances such as Narcan.

Gitis said the study shows that while policymakers need to address the flow of illicit opioids, they must do so while tackling the root problem of addiction.

“Say policymakers were to start turning more attention to the supply of illicit opioids, heroin and synthetic opioids, which is obviously something that needs to happen.” Gitis said. “Doing that without addressing dependency could turn users to other types of drugs to use in their addiction.”

He added: “Really, the root cause is the dependency itself.”

The opioid crisis has had a profound effect on the nation’s economy. In a previous study, Gitis and Soto found that nearly 1 million people were not working because of opioid dependency in 2015. The loss of employees and their productivity from 1999 to 2015 cost the U.S. economy \$702 billion, or just less than \$44 billion per year, the study calculated. Employers also have reported they are unable to fill jobs because people cannot pass drug tests.

Hundreds of municipalities around the country are now suing opioid manufacturers, distributors and others up and down the supply chain, claiming they knowingly peddled an addictive product that led to deaths and dependency.

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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>04/11 Claim: 4M black voters are missing</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/monkey-cage/wp/2018/04/11/nearly-4-million-black-voters-are-missing-through-early-death-or-over-incarceration-that-distorts-u-s-politics/?utm_term=.938b2c6b00b6">https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/monkey-cage/wp/2018/04/11/nearly-4-million-black-voters-are-missing-through-early-death-or-over-incarceration-that-distorts-u-s-politics/?utm_term=.938b2c6b00b6</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>Blacks in the United States die younger and are jailed at much higher rates than whites. While both these disparities are widely known, few people consider how profoundly they shift the economic and sociopolitical balance of racial power between these two racial groups.</p> <p>To state the obvious, Americans who are dead or in jail cannot vote (with few exceptions to the latter, but not many). Disproportionately high rates of early death and incarceration mean more blacks go “missing” from the electorate, and these people cannot make their voices heard in politics.</p>

The black infant mortality rate is 2.2 times that of whites, and those who die before their first birthday never have the opportunity to participate in politics. Actually, all individuals who die before reaching age 18 never get the opportunity to vote. Most important, people who die between the age of 18 and the age of their life expectancy have fewer life-years to participate in politics compared with those who survive as expected.

Black people, on average, die in higher proportions than whites at all ages before their age of life expectancy. Early deaths of blacks not only prevent many blacks from voting in the election immediately after death, but in subsequent elections as well. The point here is the effect of early mortality on political disadvantage is cumulative, increasingly diluting the political voice of blacks compared with whites.

The current life expectancy at birth of all Americans is a little short of 79 years. Because Americans can first vote at age 18, they can participate in about 15 presidential elections in their lifetimes. This means that even one fewer election in which black people cannot vote compared with whites would be a lot — a 7 percent possible participation difference between blacks and whites due solely to early mortality.

And, unfortunately, there is more to this story.

Blacks not only die at much younger ages than their white counterparts, but they are also incarcerated at much higher rates. For instance, research has shown that, despite similar rates of illicit drug usage, black people are more than 13 times more likely than white people to be jailed on drug charges. Overall, incarceration rates for blacks are six times higher than that of whites. In the majority of states, felons and ex-felons cannot vote.

Taking many black people out of the American electorate can shift election outcomes and perpetuate social inequality in the United States.

That is what we discuss in our recent article, finding that, as of 2010, 2.74 million voting-age black people were “missing” from their communities because of excess mortality and incarceration. To this number we add the 1.17 million black people released from prison, but still banned from voting, to find that, were black and white living conditions equal in the United States, approximately 3.9 million more black people would have been able to vote in 2010.

By “excess mortality and incarceration,” we are referring to black people who would not have died or been imprisoned if they had the same mortality and incarceration rates as whites. Because these two rates are not the same, many blacks end up “missing” from their communities.

We estimate the extent of the “missing” black population in the United States using a model that compares geography-specific gender ratios for blacks with gender ratios for whites. Assuming that differences in gender ratios result from excess mortality and incarceration that disproportionately affect black people — especially black men — we are able to produce estimates for the “missing” black population nationally as well as across state and federal legislative districts.

Accounting for missing black people throughout geographies, we estimate a national black disenfranchisement rate of 13.2 percent. That is, 13.2 percent of the national voting-age black population that would have been enfranchised, were black and white living conditions in the United States equivalent, cannot vote.

In which states is “black missingness” the worse?

We took a look at where this “black missingness” might be worst. Based on our estimates, the states of Alabama, Florida, Kentucky, Tennessee and Virginia have total black disenfranchisement rates between 20.7 and 24.3 percent. We also looked at local levels throughout the nation and found that in 20 congressional districts, black disenfranchisement rates range from 20 to 38.6 percent.

Missing black voters also affect state legislatures. We identified the 20 legislative districts in the United

	<p>States with the highest black disenfranchisement rates caused by early mortality and excessive incarceration. There, we estimate black disenfranchisement rates range between 27.4 and 44.3 percent, and 31.4 and 42.9 percent, respectively.</p> <p>Does “black missingness” affect who gets elected?</p> <p>Yes. Excess mortality and incarceration could have shifted the outcome of 11 gubernatorial and seven Senate elections between 1970 and 2004, according to our research. That is because black people overwhelmingly vote Democratic; they do not split their tickets. The large numbers of missing black voters in congressional and state legislative districts influence state policies, the balance of power between political parties and local electoral representation — meaning, who gets elected.</p> <p>Since racial disparities in health and incarceration result in such a large number of missing black voters, an observer might ask: How truly representative is American democracy?</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>04/11 Russia warns against Syria strike</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://apnews.com/228f57d6e9ee402c8dc3b3342f40fe9e/The-Latest:-Russian-lawmaker-warns-against-Syria-strike">https://apnews.com/228f57d6e9ee402c8dc3b3342f40fe9e/The-Latest:-Russian-lawmaker-warns-against-Syria-strike</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>BEIRUT (AP) — The Latest on the Syria conflict (all times local):</p> <p>11 a.m.</p> <p>A senior Russian lawmaker has warned the United States that Russia would view an airstrike on Syria as a war crime.</p> <p>U.S. President Donald Trump has threatened military action after last weekend’s suspected chemical attack on a rebel-held town near Damascus, which activists and rescuers say killed at least 40 people. The Syrian government and its ally Russia have denied that such an attack ever happened.</p> <p>State news agency RIA Novosti on Wednesday quoted Andrei Krasov, deputy chairman of the State Duma’s defense committee, as saying that Russia will treat a U.S. airstrike on Syria “not just as an act of aggression but a war crime of the Western coalition.”</p> <p>Russia has been a key backer of Syrian President Bashar Assad, providing air cover for his offensive against the Islamic State group and Syrian rebels. Russian military advisers are deployed at many Syrian government facilities.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>04/11 Botched Hawaii alert prompts FCC advice</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://apnews.com/b085148a11e147a49b11771b8da8d512/Botched-Hawaii-missile-alert-prompts-advice-on-alert-drills">https://apnews.com/b085148a11e147a49b11771b8da8d512/Botched-Hawaii-missile-alert-prompts-advice-on-alert-drills</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>HONOLULU (AP) — The missile alert Hawaii mistakenly sent to the public in January prompted the Federal Communications Commission on Tuesday to recommend that government workers avoid using the phrase “this is not a drill” during practice sending emergency notices.</p> <p>The FCC included the advice in its final report on what went wrong when Hawaii accidentally warned a ballistic missile was about to hit the islands.</p> <p>A Hawaii Emergency Management Agency employee sent the alert to cellphones and broadcasters during an exercise. He thought it was a real emergency but other workers understood it was an exercise.</p>

The report said a supervisor played a recorded script that included the phrase “this is not a drill” and that deviated from procedure. The recording blended wording from a standard drill and phrases from a message that would be sent to broadcasters during a real attack.

The commission said language used in actual emergencies should be clearly distinguishable from tests.

The report also recommended limiting the ability of employees to create and modify drill messages.

Agencies should have a plan to use social media as another means of communicating with the public alongside standard cellphone and broadcast alerts, the commission said.

In January, the Hawaii agency did not use Twitter and Facebook to inform the public about the error until 13 minutes and 16 minutes after the alert was sent.

The report highlighted a misunderstanding between supervisors at the Hawaii agency as one more reason for the mistake.

The midnight shift supervisor decided to run the drill with just a few minutes notice as the day shift was starting work. But the day shift supervisor did not realize the midnight shift supervisor planned to conduct the exercise with day shift officers. The day shift supervisor wasn’t present to supervise the drill.

Other emergency management agencies the commission interviewed said conducting a drill without proper supervision “would not be tolerated.”

The agency conducted drills at a rate that far exceeds the norm for emergency management agencies, the commission said. In the eight days leading up to the Jan. 13 test, it conducted ballistic missile drills six times. The frequent tests combined with lack of proper safeguards made a false alert more likely to occur, the commission concluded.

The report mentioned previously reported problems as contributing factors — including a lack of a plan for correcting a false alert and the agency’s failure to require a second warning officer to confirm an alert before it is sent.

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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>04/11 Arizona teachers seek raise; eye protest</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://apnews.com/05096ff4cb9e44a495bdb957b7a130d6/Arizona-teachers-demanding-raise-will-protest-at-schools">https://apnews.com/05096ff4cb9e44a495bdb957b7a130d6/Arizona-teachers-demanding-raise-will-protest-at-schools</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>PHOENIX (AP) — Teachers will be wearing red shirts and walking arm-in-arm at around a thousand schools across Arizona to show solidarity in their demand for higher salaries.</p> <p>Wednesday’s “walk-ins” are part of a grassroots movement pushing for a 20 percent raise and more than \$1 billion in new education funding. Arizona’s demonstration is part of a wave of educators demanding higher pay that started in West Virginia where teachers successfully won a 5 percent raise after a statewide strike.</p> <p>Oklahoma teachers have walked out in protest over educating funding, and Kentucky educators called in sick to protest pension reform.</p> <p>Arizona Educators United has mobilized teachers and supporters across the state through their #RedforEd campaign. In addition to a 20 percent pay bump, they’re seeking increased pay for support professionals, a permanent raise structure, and a freeze on corporate tax cuts until per-pupil spending reaches the national average.</p> <p>Noah Karvelis, a co-founder of Arizona Educators United, said while the request for raises has received</p>



<p><a href="#">Return to Top</a></p>	<p>the most attention, teachers are ultimately fighting for their students.</p> <p>“Our teachers are part of it, but we’re having kids learning in abysmal situations — no paper towels in the classrooms, no textbooks in the classroom, no chairs or not enough chairs for kids,” he said. “We’re essentially throwing away a whole generation of Arizonans and their futures and that’s unacceptable.”</p> <p>So far, Gov. Doug Ducey and the Republican-controlled legislature haven’t budged to the group’s demands. The governor has stuck by his proposal for a 1 percent increase this year, while pledging that other fund hikes will come down the road.</p> <p>A lack of legislative action could trigger a massive job action. On Monday, Arizona Educators United told their 35,000 Facebook members to prepare for a possible walk-out this week that would close schools. It urged members to ensure their students have places to go during the day, and to check that superintendents and school boards are aware of the actions.</p> <p>Arizona teachers are among the lowest paid in the nation. According to the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics, Arizona elementary teachers earned a median wage of \$43,280 in 2017 and high school teachers \$46,470, the 3rd and 6th lowest in the nation, respectively. Adjusted for local cost of living, federal figures show elementary teachers actually rank 49th in earnings and high school teachers 48th.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>04/10 DOJ halts legal aid to foreign nationals</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/immigration/justice-dept-to-halt-legal-advice-program-for-immigrants-in-detention/2018/04/10/40b668aa-3cfc-11e8-974f-aacd97698cef_story.html?noredirect=on&amp;utm_term=.82b29a23357c">https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/immigration/justice-dept-to-halt-legal-advice-program-for-immigrants-in-detention/2018/04/10/40b668aa-3cfc-11e8-974f-aacd97698cef_story.html?noredirect=on&amp;utm_term=.82b29a23357c</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>The U.S. immigration courts will temporarily halt a program that offers legal assistance to detained foreign nationals facing deportation while it audits the program’s cost-effectiveness, a federal official said Tuesday.</p> <p>Officials informed the Vera Institute of Justice that starting this month it will pause the nonprofit’s Legal Orientation Program, which last year held information sessions for 53,000 immigrants in more than a dozen states, including California and Texas.</p> <p>The federal government will also evaluate Vera’s “help desk,” which offers tips to non-detained immigrants facing deportation proceedings in the Chicago, Miami, New York, Los Angeles and San Antonio courts.</p> <p>The Executive Office for Immigration Review, which runs the Justice Department’s immigration courts, said the government wants to “conduct efficiency reviews which have not taken place in six years.” An immigration court official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because the audit has not been formally announced, said the review will examine the cost-effectiveness of the federally funded programs and whether they duplicate efforts within the court system. He noted, for example, that immigration judges are already required to inform immigrants of their rights before a hearing, including their right to find a lawyer at their own expense.</p> <p>But advocates said the programs administered by Vera and a network of 18 other nonprofits are a legal lifeline for undocumented immigrants.</p> <p>“This is a blatant attempt by the administration to strip detained immigrants of even the pretense of due-process rights,” said Mary Meg McCarthy, executive director of the National Immigrant Justice Center, one of the organizations that offers the legal services with Vera.</p> <p>In a statement, the Vera Institute said a 2012 study by the Justice Department concluded that the program was “a cost-effective and efficient way to promote due process” that saved the government nearly \$18 million over one year.</p>

	<p>The Trump administration has also clashed with the Vera Institute over whether its subcontractors were informing undocumented immigrant girls in Department of Health and Human Services custody about their right to an abortion. The issue was later resolved.</p> <p>The Justice Department is ramping up efforts to cut an immigration court backlog of 650,000 cases in half by 2020. Attorney General Jeff Sessions last week imposed production quotas on immigration judges to spur them to clear cases more quickly.</p> <p>Immigration courts are separate from U.S. criminal courts, where defendants are entitled to a government-appointed lawyer if they cannot pay for their own legal counsel.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>04/11 Russia: will shoot down any US missiles</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-russia-diplomat/russian-envoy-to-lebanon-any-u-s-missiles-fired-at-syria-will-be-shot-down-idUSKBN1HI0PU">https://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-russia-diplomat/russian-envoy-to-lebanon-any-u-s-missiles-fired-at-syria-will-be-shot-down-idUSKBN1HI0PU</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>BEIRUT (Reuters) - Russia's ambassador to Lebanon said any U.S. missiles fired at Syria would be shot down and the launch sites targeted, a step that could trigger a major escalation in the Syrian war.</p> <p>Russian Ambassador Alexander Zasytkin, in comments broadcast on Tuesday evening, said he was referring to a statement by Russian President Vladimir Putin and the Russian armed forces chief of staff.</p> <p>The Russian military said on March 13 that it would respond to any U.S. strike on Syria, targeting any missiles and launchers involved in such an attack. Russia is Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's most powerful ally.</p> <p>The United States and its allies are considering whether to hit Syria over a suspected poison gas attack that medical relief organizations say killed dozens of people in the rebel-held town of Douma near Damascus on Saturday.</p> <p>"If there is a strike by the Americans, then...the missiles will be downed and even the sources from which the missiles were fired," Zasytkin told Hezbollah's al-Manar TV, speaking in Arabic. He also said a clash "should be ruled out and therefore we are ready to hold negotiations".</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>04/10 Review welfare programs ordered</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2018/apr/10/donald-trump-orders-top-bottom-review-welfare-prog/">https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2018/apr/10/donald-trump-orders-top-bottom-review-welfare-prog/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>President Trump signed an executive order Tuesday for a government-wide review of welfare programs, with a goal of putting more people back to work, White House officials said.</p> <p>The order directs all federal agencies involved in providing more than \$700 billion in low-income assistance annually to study programs that are "failing Americans," and to report back in 90 days with recommendations, said White House domestic policy council director Andrew Bremberg.</p> <p>"Our country still struggles from nearly record-high welfare enrollments," Mr. Bremberg said in a conference call with reporters. "President Trump endorses reforms that ensure those in need receive assistance, while eliminating the economic stagnation that has resulted from long-term government dependence."</p> <p>The executive order states that federal policy will be to reform welfare programs to empower people following "principles of economic mobility." Those principles include:</p>

- Improving employment outcomes and economic independence, including by strengthening existing work requirements and introducing new ones.
- Promoting “strong social networks” to escape poverty, “including through work and marriage.”
- Addressing populations that “may particularly struggle to find and maintain employment (including single parents, formerly incarcerated individuals, the homeless, substance abusers, individuals with disabilities, and disconnected youth).”
- Reducing wasteful spending by consolidating or eliminating federal programs that are duplicative or ineffective.

The review will encourage tougher work requirements for programs such as Medicaid, food stamps and subsidized housing, officials said.

Mr. Trump’s order states that many well-meaning welfare program “have instead delayed economic independence, perpetuated poverty, and weakened family bonds.”

“While bipartisan welfare reform enacted in 1996 was a step toward eliminating the economic stagnation and social harm that can result from long-term government dependence, the welfare system still traps many recipients, especially children, in poverty and is in need of further reform and modernization in order to increase self-sufficiency, well-being, and economic mobility,” the order states.

Despite the strong economy, administration officials said enrollment in welfare programs remains high. The White House said in 2016, more than 16 million “able-bodied adults” were enrolled in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or food stamps.

In January 2018, more than 74 million Americans were enrolled in Medicaid and the Children’s Health Insurance Program, a 29-percent increase over the 2013 baseline period, the White House said.

There are also a record 28 million able-bodied adults on Medicaid. The White House said that number has quadrupled since 2000.

Senior administration officials noted that unemployment is at historic lows, and U.S. employers are seeking to fill about 6 million vacant positions.

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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>04/10 Tacoma: temporary homeless shelters</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://www.thenewstribune.com/news/local/article208542539.html#storylink=mainstage">http://www.thenewstribune.com/news/local/article208542539.html#storylink=mainstage</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>Temporary shelters now have a permanent place in Tacoma's municipal code.</p> <p>The City Council on Tuesday approved permanent regulations that will allow nonprofits and churches to run temporary shelters to help the city address what it has called a homelessness crisis.</p> <p>Those rules provide for a maximum of six shelters across the city, and they have to be spread across each of Tacoma's four police sectors. The shelters will be able to run for six months, can have a maximum of 100 residents, will allow children under 18 with a parent or guardian, and will require that residents undergo background checks and pre-screenings for warrants. No sex offenders will be permitted as shelter residents.</p> <p>The council passed a modified version of its original regulations Tuesday that will allow shelters to extend their time for up to another six months — to operate for up to a year total — if they meet certain conditions, and with the blessing of neighborhood and community groups around the shelter.</p> <p>Councilman Ryan Mello has expressed concern about banning the lowest-level sex offenders from these shelters, and Councilman Chris Beale has said requiring background checks might exclude people who have committed minor, non-violent offenses from seeking shelter.</p>

On Tuesday, however, they did not bring forward any amendments to address those concerns, as they had been expected to do. Both said they hope the community conversation around those concerns will continue, and said they didn't want to create additional barriers for faith groups or nonprofits who may want to apply to run shelters.

Since temporary regulations for the shelters were passed last fall, one church — Bethlehem Baptist on Tacoma's Eastside — has begun operating a shelter for homeless families in its gym.

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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>04/10 US-Mexico border plan hits a wall</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.stripes.com/news/us-mexico-border-plan-including-more-troop-deployments-hits-a-wall-1.521389">https://www.stripes.com/news/us-mexico-border-plan-including-more-troop-deployments-hits-a-wall-1.521389</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>WASHINGTON — A flurry of White House activity last week to deploy thousands of National Guard troops quickly to the U.S.-Mexico border has hit a wall: coordinating a plan.</p> <p>So far, the governors of Texas, Arizona and New Mexico have pledged more than 1,600 troops to the southern border in the coming weeks. That’s close to the lower end of President Donald Trump’s goal to send 2,000 to 4,000 troops.</p> <p>But as plans neared the one-week mark since Trump’s directive for states to deploy the troops to the border, much confusion marked the effort, as the troops’ overall mission, the overall states participating, timing considerations and costs still remained largely unclear.</p> <p>“States are still digesting the proclamation,” said Mark P. Nevitt, a professor at the University of Pennsylvania Law School. “Trump’s proclamation to deploy the (National Guard) was not driven by requests from the states for federal funding and support – unlike in 2006 and 2010. This is unique.”</p> <p>Unlike previous efforts under former Presidents Barack Obama and George W. Bush, a rushed call for the deployments by the White House and reluctance among critics to contribute to the plan has made for a rocky launch.</p> <p>Under Trump’s April 4 memorandum, state governors are in the driver’s seat on whether to deploy National Guard troops to the border or not. Trump’s request was issued under Title 32 of the U.S. Code, which designates a state-led operation that is federally funded.</p> <p>Already, Nevada and Oregon have rejected any potential efforts to contribute to the buildup and the key border state of California has yet to sign on.</p> <p>“As Commander of Oregon’s Guard, I’m deeply troubled by Trump’s plan to militarize our border,” Oregon Gov. Kate Brown, a Democrat, said April 4 in a series of tweets. “There’s been no outreach by the president or federal officials, and I have no intention of allowing Oregon’s Guard troops to be used to distract from his troubles in Washington.”</p> <p>A spokeswoman for Nevada Gov. Brian Sandoval, a Republican, said the effort wasn’t considered an “appropriate mission,” after consulting with Brig. Gen. William R. Burks, the adjutant general of the Nevada National Guard.</p> <p>This, as Democratic California Gov. Jerry Brown, a staunch opponent to Trump’s immigration policies, has yet to issue support for the plan.</p> <p>So far, the Pentagon has offered some brief details on the operation, saying the troops would provide air support, road and infrastructure maintenance and help operate surveillance systems. The troops will not be conducting arrests, however.</p>

And while state opposition could help slow the overall effort, it won't halt it, said Mark Cancian, a senior adviser at Washington think tank Center for Strategic and International Studies.

"States can make it harder but they can't stop the president's policy," he said. This is drawing opposition because "it's symbolic of the president's immigration policy. It's going to get some opposition. Under a different president and a different time, these states may have gone along with it."

"Each state (National Guard) bureau will work with the federal government" to the scope of the activity, Nevitt said. "But as command and control resides with the state governor, they can limit and define their participation. Those negotiations are likely occurring now."

The funding will likely come from the personnel budget for the National Guard, which for fiscal year 2018 is about \$12 billion, said Andrew Sherbo, a University of Denver finance professor who has tracked government and defense budget issues.

Travel and per diem costs would be pulled from the operations and maintenance budget for the Guard, which is about \$14 billion this year, he added.

"The Guard may simply be doing training on the border," so that could mean marginal personnel costs, Sherbo noted.

For now, it appears Texas, Arizona and New Mexico will deploy the largest share of troops.

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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>04/10 US warns British banks on oligarch links</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.nytimes.com/2018/04/10/world/europe/britain-banks-sanctions-oligarchs.html?hp&amp;action=click&amp;pgtype=Homepage&amp;clickSource=story-heading&amp;module=first-column-region&amp;region=top-news&amp;WT.nav=top-news">https://www.nytimes.com/2018/04/10/world/europe/britain-banks-sanctions-oligarchs.html?hp&amp;action=click&amp;pgtype=Homepage&amp;clickSource=story-heading&amp;module=first-column-region&amp;region=top-news&amp;WT.nav=top-news</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>LONDON — The United States on Tuesday ratcheted up its efforts to block Kremlin-linked industrialists from doing business in the West, warning that British banks will have to sever their relationships with the tycoons if they want continued access to American financial institutions.</p> <p>Sigal P. Mandelker, a top American Treasury official in London to meet with her counterparts, said British banks could face "consequences" if they continued to carry out significant transactions on behalf of the 24 influential Russians sanctioned by Washington on Friday. The list includes the industrialists Oleg Deripaska and Viktor Vekselberg, along with Kirill Shamalov, who American officials have identified as President Vladimir V. Putin's son-in-law.</p> <p>"These are blocking sanctions," Ms. Mandelker, under secretary of the Treasury for terrorism and financial intelligence, said at a briefing with reporters. "There of course would be consequences for U.K. financial institutions" that continued to do business with the Russians.</p> <p>The warning has resonated in London, which for decades has served as a haven for Russia's wealthiest families. Russian investors own iconic British assets like the Chelsea Football Club and swaths of high-end London real estate, and they support thriving networks of lawyers, financial advisers and estate agents.</p> <p>The United States has long prodded its European partners to match its economic sanctions against high-ranking Russians, but it has encountered resistance because Russia's business ties to Europe are so much deeper than to the United States.</p> <p>Ms. Mandelker said there has been great unity on Russia among European nations since March 4, when Sergei V. Skripal, a former Russian double agent, was found poisoned in southwestern England. She said the United States was consulting intensively with British financial institutions and oversight agencies as it prepared to impose the latest round of sanctions.</p>

	<p>“We have very strong and close allies and partners in the U.K.” she said. “They understand clearly what the risks are. We continue to communicate those risks to them.”</p> <p>The ruble slid sharply in value for a second day on Tuesday. The mining giant, Glencore, which is based in Switzerland, began loosening its ties with Mr. Deripaska’s company, Rusal, which is one of the world’s largest aluminum producers. Glencore announced it had canceled a planned swap of its stake in Rusal for shares in another Deripaska company, and Glencore’s chief executive, Ivan Glasenberg, who has served on Rusal’s board since 2007, said that he would step down.</p> <p>The new American sanctions expose financial institutions outside the United States to penalties if they “knowingly facilitate significant financial transactions” on behalf of the listed Russian oligarchs.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>04/10 Washington’s first female firefighter dies</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://mynorthwest.com/950888/washingtons-first-female-firefighter-dies/">http://mynorthwest.com/950888/washingtons-first-female-firefighter-dies/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>SEATTLE (AP) — Washington state’s first female firefighter has died.</p> <p>The Seattle Times reported Tuesday that retired Bellevue Fire Department Capt. Jeanette Woldseth died in February from complications due to cancer. She was 64.</p> <p>Woldseth first became a volunteer firefighter in Bellevue, but she had her sights on becoming a full-time firefighter with the department. In 1977, Bellevue hired the then-23-year-old, who became the first paid female firefighter in the state.</p> <p>Woldseth was promoted to lieutenant in 1981 and then captain in 1985. She retired in 2002.</p> <p>Friends and colleagues say she was meticulous and confident as a firefighter and detailed as a captain.</p> <p>A memorial in her honor is scheduled for Saturday in Bellevue when those who knew Capt. Woldseth will share their stories.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>04/10 Sawant: Seattle playground for rich</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://mynorthwest.com/950649/kshama-sawant-says-seattle-is-a-playground-for-the-rich-calls-for-amazon-protest/">http://mynorthwest.com/950649/kshama-sawant-says-seattle-is-a-playground-for-the-rich-calls-for-amazon-protest/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>Seattle City Councilmember Kshama Sawant is calling for a protest Tuesday outside Amazon.</p> <p>In a tweet, Sawant said Seattle is becoming a “playground for the rich,” noting that rents are out of control and home ownership is out of reach for many.</p> <p>The protest, Sawant says, is to fight for taxing big businesses such as Amazon to fund affordable housing.</p> <p>This is her tweet in its entirety:</p> <p>“Rents are out of control in Seattle. Homeownership no option for most of us, w/ median price \$820,000. City’s becoming a playground for the rich. Working people need to fight to tax big biz like Amazon to fund affordable housing! Protest 5:30PM today at Amazon Campus 7th &amp; Lenora”</p> <p>Sawant is a proponent of an employee hours tax — or head tax — being explored by the city. Money generated from the proposed tax would fund affordable housing projects and emergency services.</p> <p>When city leaders first proposed a head tax, Sawant encouraged her fellow council members to double the</p>

	<p>tax on big business. Under Sawant’s proposal, Amazon would pay approximately \$8 million a year, she said.</p> <p>“That is less than six parts in thousand of one percent of their 2016 revenue,” she said at the time. She added the fractions are “so small, it doesn’t even make sense. “It’s 1/625th of the money they ... intend to use to build a new campus.”</p> <p>The city council recently began crafting legislation for a new head tax. It follows a task force’s recommendation to implement such a tax to raise up to \$150 million a year. Sawant said it’s the most “rational solution.”</p> <p>Meanwhile, business owners have expressed concern over a head tax. Seattle Chamber of Commerce CEO Marilyn Strickland warned that all businesses would be taxed, many of which may not be able to afford it.</p> <p>“My understanding from the proposal received by the Progressive Revenue Taskforce on Housing and Homelessness is that they want to tax all businesses. They talked about having a tax on every single business so that people would put quote ‘skin in the game.’”</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>04/10 Apple 100% renewable energy power</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.bleepingcomputer.com/news/apple/apple-is-now-100-percent-globally-powered-by-renewable-energy/">https://www.bleepingcomputer.com/news/apple/apple-is-now-100-percent-globally-powered-by-renewable-energy/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>Through the use of clean energy projects around the world, Apple is now globally powered by 100% renewable energy. This includes all their retail stores, offices, data centers, and co-located facilities in 43 countries, which includes the United States, the United Kingdom, China and India.</p> <p>According to Apple, they are committed to combating climate change and to creating a healthier environment and have created numerous renewable energy projects that facilitate this goal. This includes solar arrays, wind farms, and newer technologies such as biogas fuel cells, micro-hydro generation systems, and energy storage technologies.</p> <p>“We’re committed to leaving the world better than we found it. After years of hard work we’re proud to have reached this significant milestone. We’re going to keep pushing the boundaries of what is possible with the materials in our products, the way we recycle them, our facilities and our work with suppliers to establish new creative and forward looking sources of renewable energy because we know the future depends on it.” - Tim Cook, Apple’s CEO</p> <p>Apple has stated that they currently have 25 renewable energy projects that produce 626 megawatts of generation capacity, with 286 megawatts being produced from solar panels in 2017. For example, Apple’s new headquarters in Cupertino uses solar panels on the top of their buildings, which produce 17-megawatts of clean energy.</p> <p>Apple has also announced that 23 of their energy suppliers are committed to operating on 100% clean energy. With 15 more projects under construction, over 1.4 gigawatts of renewable energy will ultimately be generated in 11 countries.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>04/10 Seattle has a real gender wage gap</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://crosscut.com/2018/04/seattles-gender-wage-gap-worse-we-thought">https://crosscut.com/2018/04/seattles-gender-wage-gap-worse-we-thought</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>In 2017, women in Seattle’s transportation and utilities departments earned just 8 percent of all overtime pay, despite comprising 35 percent of the workforce, according to data from the city.</p>

In real terms, where men across three of the city's largest departments — Transportation, Public Utilities and City Light — brought home about \$39 million in extra pay last year, women earned just \$4 million. That's despite the fact that women on average were hired to work nearly the same number of regular hours per year.

It's a disparity that drags down the pay ratio between men and women in that corner of City Hall by more than 10 points: Where women's base salaries before overtime equate to 90 percent of men's, their gross salaries, including overtime, dip to below 78 percent.

At an individual level, men in the transportation and utility departments increased their salaries through overtime by an average of \$12,571, while women increased theirs by only \$2,385, or just 19 cents to the dollar.

This disproportionality is a sharp departure from a relatively rosy 2015 analysis, which found women who work for the city made nearly 90 cents to the dollar. At the time, former Mayor Ed Murray's bragged that the results show Seattle “outperforms the region and the rest of the nation.”

But the city did not include overtime pay in its analysis, casting a shadow on the results of that report.

“We would have seen a much bigger pay gap if we'd seen that data,” said Barbara Reskin, Professor Emeritus of Sociology at the University of Washington and member of the city's Pay Equity Task force that helped to carry out the research.

Overtime disparities are especially pronounced in the utilities and transportation departments, where men overwhelmingly hold positions more likely to earn the extra pay.

Already, the Seattle Department of Transportation, Seattle City Light and Seattle Public Utilities represent \$3 billion of the city's total \$5.6 billion budget. As Seattle infrastructure explodes with its population, the departments have relied on overtime to keep pace. In 2017, they doled out \$43 million for extra hours, with City Light accounting for nearly \$30 million of that.

Twenty-one employees made more than \$100,000 in overtime alone and workers routinely doubled their annual salary through working extra hours.

Crosscut has not received data for the city as a whole. But the effect of the overtime disparity in other corners of the city is not likely to be as pronounced as it is in utilities and transportation because most departments, with the exception of Police and Fire, do not rely so heavily on overtime.

In a statement, a spokesperson for Seattle Public Utilities, Andy Ryan, pointed to work the department is doing with apprenticeship programs and recruitment. “We recognize that we have work to do to continue building a diverse and inclusive workforce,” Ryan said in an email. “SPU is committed to providing employment opportunities for women and people of color, including in positions that have historically been occupied by men.”

City Light's Administrative Services Officer DaVonna Johnson, echoed this sentiment. “We continue to work hard to recruit more women and minorities to these well-paying jobs,” she said in an email. “Among recent efforts are: Participation in the Women in Trades Fair; ANEW (Apprenticeship and Non-traditional Employment for Women) pre-apprenticeship program; Vocational/community college outreach; Hosted tours; Veteran job fairs.”

The overtime drag on pay equity is not just a Seattle issue. In fact, it may account for why the rapid narrowing of the gap over several decades has stalled in recent years.

In 1960, women made just 60 cents to the dollar. By 2004, that number had climbed to 77 cents. But in the subsequent years, that progress has slowed. In a recent study from PayScale, women are likely to earn 78 cents to the dollar in 2018.



In a 2014 paper published in the American Sociological Review, researchers suggested that the gap has not closed more quickly in part because of “overwork” — 50 hours or more in a week. “Because a greater proportion of men engage in overwork, these changes raised men’s wages relative to women’s and exacerbated the gender wage gap by an estimated 10 percent of the total wage gap,” wrote authors Youngjoo Cha and Kim A. Weeden.

In Seattle, cable splicers, line workers and electrical workers in Seattle City Light earn the most overtime, often responding to power outages and racing to get new construction on the grid. One cable splicer, Michael Yi, earned over \$203,000 in overtime, nearly tripling his annual salary.

As it happens, these positions are dominated by men. Of 78 cable splicers, only nine are women; of 142 line workers, only ten are women.

SCL’s Johnson said, across the department, 7.5 percent of “skilled trade” jobs are women, which she said is higher than other publicly owned utilities. “Skilled trades positions at Seattle City Light tend to have the most opportunities for overtime and are among the highest paid hourly workers at the utility,” she said.

It’s a similar dynamic in SPU: According to the spokesperson Ryan, “Service/Maintenance and Skilled Craft categories tend to work the most overtime. Employees in these categories have significantly higher percentages of men than women.”

The gender disparity in overtime-friendly jobs illustrates how the wage gap is less-often the result of blatant discrimination and more commonly because of systemic biases and preconceived ideas about men’s work versus women’s work.

“I’m not saying it’s on purpose, but this kind of culture just favors who’s there first,” said UW Professor Reskin in an interview. “In our society it’s men who were in those jobs first and it’s very hard to get those jobs integrated. . . . And then when that culture is somehow also labeled as masculine or feminine, there’s resistance [to integration]. Because the people who already have it want to preserve it for members of their group.”

In the 2015 study referenced by Murray, a consultant could not find any evidence of explicit gender bias or discrimination among Seattle employees holding the same jobs. It also could not find significant disparities in hirings or promotions. Side by side, men and women in the same positions earned almost the same amount.

The ten-cent disparity Seattle did find stemmed largely from unequal distribution of labor in more lucrative jobs. In response, the city pledged to examine recruitment and hiring practices, among other steps.

Similar forces are also at play when it comes to overtime. But Reskin said the task force wasn’t given that information to include as part of their 2015 analysis. “I don’t know what was going on then,” she said, acknowledging that overtime disparity is an important part of the larger picture.

Additionally, although the 2015 report did not find any explicit biases in promotion, there is discrepancy in which utility and transportation employees get “out of class” assignments — temporary placements in jobs above an employee’s pay grade.

Out of class assignments are “supposed to give people opportunities for future promotions because they’re getting experience,” said Denise Krownbell, a City Light employee and President of PTE Local 17. “And it helps the city because it gets them cross trained.”

The temporary increase in pay can also help pensions later.

But of 1,335 out of class assignments in City Light, Transportation and Public Utilities, 1,030 went to

men, which means only 23 percent of the assignments went to women. It is unclear how many women applied for out of class placements.

For Reskin, these disparities get at a larger question of how biases work. "The greater the decision makers' latitude in deciding who gets any special deals such as overtime the more likely they will give them to . . . people whom they see as like them," she said. Whether it's intentional or not is, to a certain degree, beside the point.

She added, "This boils down to whether there are criteria for determining who gets overtime and how much they get [and] whether those criteria can be justified and are actually used in allocating overtime."

And as Crosscut has reported, employees in SDOT — particularly women — have gone on record with concerns that favoritism within the city is real. One employee with SDOT, who requested anonymity for fear of retaliation, accused her department of using both overtime and out of class assignments as an avenue for showing this favoritism.

"Both [overtime] and [out of class] provide paths by which SDOT management can give raises to anybody they please without having to go through a monitored hiring and wage-setting process, without scrutiny," this person said. "[Overtime] and [out of class], then, are both methods of meting out favoritism and arbitrary pay raises, mainly to men."

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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>04/10 Seattle protests planned if Mueller fired</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.kiro7.com/news/local/local-protests-planned-if-president-moves-against-special-counsel/730468804">https://www.kiro7.com/news/local/local-protests-planned-if-president-moves-against-special-counsel/730468804</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>SEATTLE - Seattle is ready to pull the trigger on protests if President Donald Trump takes action to get special counsel Robert Mueller fired. KIRO 7 looked at the four actions that would push people into the streets of Seattle, within just 24 hours.</p> <p>Activists in Seattle have been planning for nearly a year to launch a demonstration if Mueller is let go. There is still the question of whether the president actually has the authority to fire Mueller.</p> <p>A local constitutional expert says legal experts are in agreement that the president cannot fire Robert Mueller on his own, but he can search to find someone who will. And activists we spoke to today say they are ready.</p> <p>"It's an attack on our country," said Trump, in what seemed to be a signal that he might finally make good on his long-standing threat to get rid of special counsel Robert Mueller.</p> <p>It certainly seemed that way to Kati Wilkins of Indivisible Seattle.</p> <p>It is really concerning," said Wilkins. "And we get really concerned that he's actually going to do it every time we make, we hear these comments."</p> <p>But Wilkins and several activists are working to put those concerns into action.</p> <p>"And everybody's pretty much ready to go on it," said Wilkins. "It's a very rapid response."</p> <p>Indeed, that is the plan, says Kati Wilkins. She spoke outside the Henry M. Jackson federal building in downtown Seattle where the activists would all gather.</p> <p>She says there are four actions could trigger a mass protest: If the president fires Attorney General Jeff Sessions; if he fires the Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein; if he then finds someone to fire Mueller; or if he pardons former administration officials like General Michael Flynn.</p>

The groups would put out the call. Wilkins says they believe thousands will come.

"Yeah, we absolutely think it will be a large event," she said.

The president's spokeswoman, Sarah Huckabee Sanders, said the president believes he can fire the special counsel.

But constitutional law expert Jeffrey Needle insists no U.S. president can fire a special counsel.

"I don't care what Sarah Huckabee says," Needle said. "I don't care what Donald Trump actually thinks. Donald Trump does not have the lawful authority to fire the special prosecutor by himself. Only somebody in the justice department has that authority."

Needle pointed to the regulations governing under the special counsel law.

"The special counsel may be disciplined or removed from office only by personal action of the attorney general," Needle read.

And even then, he said, the attorney general could fire the special counsel only if he believes he is guilty of misconduct, dereliction of duty, incapacity, conflict of interest or for other good cause.

Still, the president could insist.

"I suspect that Donald Trump will eventually find someone to do his bidding in the chain of command," said Needle. "And then all hell breaks loose. And moveon.org goes crazy. And everybody hits the streets.

This is how the activists say it will work: If they get the word before 2 p.m. Pacific time, the protest will begin at 5 o'clock that night. If it comes after 2, the protest will start the very next day at noon.

They will march from Cal Anderson Park to the Federal Building on 2nd Avenue.

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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>04/10 Audit: SPD costs for special events</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://www.king5.com/article/news/local/spd-struggles-to-recover-staffing-costs-for-special-events-says-audit/281-537169258">http://www.king5.com/article/news/local/spd-struggles-to-recover-staffing-costs-for-special-events-says-audit/281-537169258</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>The City of Seattle is looking back at parades and protests, and asking the question -- what was the cost?</p> <p>An audit completed by the city focuses on police staffing at 724 special events in 2016. Officers earned \$10.3 million in wages as a result, according to City of Seattle Auditor, David Jones.</p> <p>"How much money is the city absorbing? What is that gap between what the event organizers might pay and what the city picks up in costs," asks Jones.</p> <p>For free speech events in 2016, the cost of staffing officers came to \$1.6 million. Organizers of those events were not required to reimburse that money.</p> <p>Jones explained why, saying, "It is a constitutional right to express your opinion."</p> <p>The police department does expect to be paid by organizers for other events.</p> <p>Other types of special events pay for police services.</p> <p>The Office of the Auditor took note of the cost recovery process in 2016 and found at one location, Seattle</p>

	<p>Center, the amount billed varied. Bumpershoot was charged \$40 an hour for police work. Bite of Seattle paid \$25 an hour. Northwest Folklife paid \$1.73 an hour.</p> <p>"Folklife paid a lot less and I don't know if that had to do with the amount of revenues they could bring in or their financial situation," said Jones.</p> <p>He also highlights the 2016 Capitol Hill Block Party, noting that organizers were charged \$16,683 for 249 hours of police services. However, the report found "SPD wages for the event, including upstaffing and police emphasis work in the area, were \$124,502 for 1,773 hours worked."</p> <p>"The city should think about how much of the cost do we want to bear for policing services at special events," said Jones. "Let's make a thoughtful decision."</p> <p>The report will be presented at City Hall on Wednesday.</p>
<p><a href="#">Return to Top</a></p>	<p>Click on link to review SPD Staffing Cost and Recovery Audit report:  <a href="https://www.scribd.com/document/376072025/SPD-Staffing-Cost-Recovery-Audit#from_embed">https://www.scribd.com/document/376072025/SPD-Staffing-Cost-Recovery-Audit#from_embed</a></p>

<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>04/10 Summer forecast: gas prices to rise 14%</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://q13fox.com/2018/04/10/gas-prices-will-shoot-up-14-percent-this-summer-forecast-says/">http://q13fox.com/2018/04/10/gas-prices-will-shoot-up-14-percent-this-summer-forecast-says/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>Summer driving will be more expensive this year. Thanks, OPEC.</p> <p>Prices at the pump are likely to be 14% higher than last summer — an average of \$2.74 per gallon nationwide, but much higher in Washington, the US government estimated on Tuesday.</p> <p>The price of oil has climbed because of efforts by OPEC and Russia. Brent crude, the global benchmark, surged 3.5% on Tuesday to \$71.04 a barrel, the highest since late 2014. That's already above the EIA forecast of \$63 for this summer, suggesting gas prices could go even higher. Brent crude averaged just \$51 last summer.</p> <p>Summer driving season, which the EIA considers April through September, is historically when demand peaks for gasoline as Americans go on vacation. The EIA expects highway travel to increase 1.3% over last summer.</p> <p>Although gas is well below the \$4 a gallon prices of 2008, it has risen because of the recovery in the oil markets. The average gallon of gasoline fetched \$2.66 on Tuesday, according to AAA. That's up from \$2.39 last year, just as summer driving season was beginning.</p> <p>Of course, those are just national averages. West Coast states are grappling with more pain at the pump.</p> <p>Drivers in California, Oregon, Nevada, Washington State, Hawaii and Alaska already pay more than \$3 per gallon, according to AAA. California's average gas price has jumped to \$3.52, compared with \$2.99 a year ago.</p> <p>Washington is third-highest in the nation, at an average of 3.19 per gallon.</p> <p>After crashing to just \$26 a barrel in early 2016, crude oil has more than doubled in price. Supply in the United States is very strong. Production of crude recently hit record high because of the shale oil boom.</p> <p>But foreign oil supply is down, largely because of OPEC's efforts to boost prices by curbing production. Saudi Arabia-led OPEC and Russia reached an agreement in late 2016 to pump less oil. OPEC and its allies agreed last November to extend the cuts through the end of 2018.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>04/10 WSP: wrong-way drivers happen often</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://q13fox.com/2018/04/10/wsp-reports-of-wrong-way-drivers-happens-more-than-you-think/">http://q13fox.com/2018/04/10/wsp-reports-of-wrong-way-drivers-happens-more-than-you-think/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>SEATTLE -- Six people were sent to local hospitals after a violent crash Monday night in south King County.</p> <p>Four people, including a 5-year-old child, are all still recovering at Harborview Medical Center after surviving a situation none of us hope to encounter – a wrong-way driver. That's what investigators say happened late Monday night on SR 516 near Kent.</p> <p>One of those crash victims was listed in satisfactory condition at Harborview but the three others, including the 5-year-old, are either in serious or critical conditions.</p> <p>Two more people were killed in the causing driver's vehicle. Troopers say they were traveling eastbound in the westbound lanes.</p> <p>Troopers with the Washington State Patrol said they get reports of wrong-way drivers happen often. In King County alone last year, troopers responded to 250 reports.</p> <p>“Wrong-way drivers are more dangerous, I would say, 100 percent of the time, just because you have the dynamics of a car meeting head on in a way it’s not designed by manufacturers to meet,” said trooper Nick King.</p> <p>It’s happened several times in recent memory: One man was killed in a wrong-way crash on I-90 last month, a suspected DUI driver was arrested after causing a violent crash on I-405 in Renton, and troopers say the wrong-way driver who killed two and injured another in Maple Valley admitted to smoking meth before getting behind the wheel.</p> <p>“It’s a speeding bullet and it’s going to bounce off stuff until it stops,” said King</p> <p>So how can you protect yourself in a similar situation? Troopers say drivers should stay out of the left lane, it’s only supposed to be used for passing anyways. Troopers also remind everyone to always wear your seat belt and never drive distracted.</p> <p>“All we can do is pay attention to when you’re driving, put down our distractions,” said King. “All you’re doing is lessening your odds to be able to react to perceived danger.”</p> <p>Investigators say it could take days to determine if Monday’s causing driver may have been under the influence.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>04/10 Starbucks military family stores Kitsap Co.</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://q13fox.com/2018/04/10/starbucks-announces-2-military-family-stores-in-kitsap-county/">http://q13fox.com/2018/04/10/starbucks-announces-2-military-family-stores-in-kitsap-county/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>SEATTLE — Starbucks dedicated its 40th and 41st military family store Tuesday at a ceremony in Kitsap County.</p> <p>The stores are at 3190 NW Bucklin Hill Rd, Silverdale and 80 Washington Ave, Bremerton. Both locations are near military facilities and have become a gathering place for veterans and military families.</p> <p>Outwardly, these locations have signs dedicating the store to military families. Military and submarine-inspired art also line the walls inside of the store.</p> <p>But the workers are the biggest difference with these stores. Starbucks pledged to focus on hiring and honoring veterans and military spouses at these locations. Patriotic green apron will identify those employees who have served or are a military spouse.</p>

Military family stores were created as part of Starbucks' 2013 initiative to hire 10,000 military veterans and spouses. It has since grown into an opportunity to create meaningful connections between veterans and their communities and to be the leading champion for active duty service members, veterans, military spouses and their families.

Last year, Starbucks announced it had reached its commitment to hire 10,000 veterans and military spouses two years ahead of schedule. Now, with 15,000 hires to date, the company is on track to meet its new goal of 25,000 hires by 2025.

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**HEADLINE** 04/10 How Seattle politicians get to work

**SOURCE** <https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/politics/walk-bike-bus-or-drive-how-seattle-politicians-get-to-work/>

**GIST** Seattle politicians have kept busy in recent weeks making decisions that affect commuters. Mayor Jenny Durkan's administration moved to delay construction on a First Avenue streetcar line and a Fourth Avenue bike lane. She proposed tolling downtown streets and the City Council voted to allow more parking-free development.

All that transportation news got some readers thinking: How do the city's elected officials get to and from work?

Busing and carpooling are popular options among council members, it turns out, while the police handle Durkan's transportation.

The Seattle Times asked all nine council members and the mayor how they traveled to City Hall and back each day last week.

Some politicians pick a transportation mode and stick with it. Councilmember Mike O'Brien, a Fremont resident critical of Durkan's decision to delay the Fourth Avenue bike lane, said he pedaled to and from City Hall all five days.

"Just under five miles each way," the transportation-committee chair wrote in an email, saying he usually bikes to events during the workday but sometimes takes transit.

Councilmember Rob Johnson, who lives in Ravenna and championed the legislation that will allow more housing to be built without off-street parking, is also a one-mode man. Johnson bused to and from work each day last week, an aide said.

Other council members mix it up. Sally Bagshaw, a downtown resident who lives closer to City Hall than her colleagues, biked three and walked two days last week.

"I make the decision to ride depending on how hard it's raining or whether I have a midday or after-work meeting where riding my bike will be the best option," she wrote.

M. Lorena González, a citywide representative who lives in West Seattle, was the only council member to travel by boat last week. She stepped aboard King County's West Seattle Water Taxi on her way home last Tuesday and Wednesday.

González rode the bus to work last Monday through Thursday and back home Monday, according to an aide. On Thursday, the council member caught a light-rail train to the airport.

The council's other citywide representative, Queen Anne resident Teresa Mosqueda, usually takes the bus to City Hall, she said. Last Monday and Friday, she drove.

“I had to go to the machinist hall down in South Park this morning, midday to the QA Help Line, this afternoon to the U District, and then I don’t leave the U District until 7 p.m.,” she wrote in an email Friday.

“So today is a good example of a day where I did have to use a car.”

More and more people are reaching downtown Seattle by means other than driving alone: 48 percent used transit in 2017, up from 42 percent in 2010, while 25 percent drove alone, down from 35 percent.

Carpooling is an option council members Lisa Herbold, Bruce Harrell, Kshama Sawant and Debora Juarez all used last week.

Herbold, who lives in West Seattle’s Highland Park neighborhood and who cast the lone vote against Johnson’s parking legislation, said she carpooled both ways last Wednesday.

“I bus-commuted to and from work on Monday. On Tuesday, I bus-commuted one way and carpooled the other,” wrote Herbold, who was out sick Thursday and Friday.

Harrell, the council’s president and a Seward Park resident, carpooled last Thursday, according to an aide. He drove an “electric vehicle” the four other days, the aide said.

Sawant doesn’t live quite as close to City Hall as Bagshaw, but she also sometimes walks to and from work. That’s what the Leschi resident did last Friday, an aide said.

Last Monday, Sawant worked away from the office, while on Tuesday and Thursday she carpooled, the aide said. On Wednesday, she used a rideshare service.

Debora Juarez, who lives in Lake City, carpooled Monday through Thursday last week, an aide said. On Friday, she drove to North Seattle College, where she holds in-district office hours.

Council members must pay for parking in the City Hall garage, council spokeswoman Dana Robinson Slote said.

Durkan travels differently from the council members. She is a former U.S. attorney who has kept her home address under wraps through a program that protects criminal-justice employees who have received serious threats.

“All her transportation needs are arranged by the police department’s executive-protection unit,” said Sean Whitcomb, a police spokesman.

That means the mayor is driven, Whitcomb said.

Though only O’Brien and Bagshaw commuted by bike last week, safety for cyclists is top of mind for other council members as well.

During a briefing Monday, Mosqueda said one of her aides was hospitalized last Friday after being hit by a car while biking home from work. One of Sawant’s aides and González’s husband were also recently hit while biking, they said.

“We need to have a sense of urgency and stay true to our commitment to safe ways for people to get around the city,” González said.

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SOURCE	<a href="https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/homeless/seattle-still-has-no-strategy-for-thousands-of-people-living-in-vehicles/">https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/homeless/seattle-still-has-no-strategy-for-thousands-of-people-living-in-vehicles/</a>
GIST	<p>The last vestige of former Seattle Mayor Ed Murray’s plan to create parking lots for homeless people who sleep in their vehicles is an inhospitable scrap of land in the industrial tangle of the Sodo District.</p> <p>Railcars and traffic on the Spokane Street viaduct regularly roar past a row of RVs, whose reflections can be seen in refrigerator-sized potholes scattered across the lot. The site is unfenced, so people who are not staying there can freely use the porta-potties set up for the residents. It is not much of a home.</p> <p>Yet 10 people still live there, with eight RVs between them, because it is the only city-sanctioned place in Seattle where they can stay long-term without fear of being ticketed or towed. Those RVs represents a minuscule fraction of the more than 2,300 homeless people countywide who sleep in vehicles, a population that has tripled since 2012.</p> <p>Despite the rising numbers, and widespread recognition that Murray’s plan failed, Seattle still has no coherent strategy to address the needs of vehicle residents.</p> <p>That is in part because Seattle city government has not been united about what its primary focus should be: to get people out of their vehicles and into housing? Or simply get their vehicles off the streets?</p> <p>By the former measure, success has been extremely limited. Murray’s safe-lot program — launched in Ballard in January 2016 — got only 11 people housed, despite costing \$35,000 a month.</p> <p>It is also a failure by the latter measure. More than 750 vehicle-camping complaints were made to the city since January 2017, many of them clustered in the city’s industrial areas of Ballard, Interbay and Sodo, where RVs can legally park overnight.</p> <p>Some of the people living in the Second Avenue vehicle safe area are burdened by addiction or have criminal records that make securing housing especially difficult. One former camper remains in jail, charged in a January shooting in South Park.</p> <p>And while the city takes little action, people living in the lot are dying while waiting for housing. Since Jan. 1, three residents of the lot have died — two were older men who suffered from long-term diseases. And on Thursday afternoon, 27-year-old Sabrina Tate was found dead on the floor of her RV. She’d been living in the lot for the past year but was at the top of the list for a tiny home in one of the city’s authorized encampments and had recently reconnected with her family. Her cause of death has yet to be determined.</p> <p>Given the crisis, homeless advocates, businesses and neighborhoods alike continue to call for a new plan. Vehicle camping accounts for 40 percent of King County’s unsheltered population and is far more common than occupying tents. Seattle is spending \$5.1 million on outreach and removal of tent encampments, yet has no dedicated budget for vehicle camping.</p> <p>Seattle Mayor Jenny Durkan did not respond to an interview request for this story. Her office said some policy changes are in the works.</p> <p>Bill Kirlin-Hackett, director of the Interfaith Task Force on Homelessness and a longtime advocate for vehicle campers, is tired of waiting. “If we had any pride in what we were trying to do, for the dignity of people, we would have provided something more hospitable” than the current lot, he said.</p> <p><b>A failed plan</b></p> <p>The idea for a safe-lot program dates to 2008, when the state Legislature earmarked a \$10,000 grant for such a program. It finally took firm shape in 2011, when Seattle Councilmember Mike O’Brien worked with Our Redeemer’s Lutheran Church in Ballard, and planned for other churches to join.</p> <p>Eventually, Compass Housing Alliance began doing outreach to vehicle residents parked in the church lots and on city streets, with the goal of getting them into housing.</p>



But at its peak, the Compass program, called Road to Housing, had four churches with a combined 10 spots for vehicle residents, said Robert Bowery, who oversaw the program for Compass.

The impetus for Murray's version of a much larger safe-lot program came with increasing pressure from neighborhoods across the city in 2015 to address vehicle campers, and crime and trash associated with some of them.

Of particular concern that summer was a site in North Seattle called "Bangarang Village" on North Northlake Way near Gas Works Park, where vehicle campers had parked in protest of what they considered the city's intensifying parking enforcement.

Soon after Murray had declared a state of emergency on homelessness in November, 2015, frustration with RV dwellers in Interbay then started to boil over in the Queen Anne and Magnolia neighborhoods.

The city could have towed many of the RVs for violating Seattle's rule that requires vehicles to move every 72 hours.

But taking away people's last form of shelter, or facing their possible resistance to that removal, was a risky tactic, especially with Seattle police still under a federal consent decree for excessive use of force, said Scott Lindsay, Murray's criminal justice adviser who helped create the RV safe lot program.

"The appearances of forcible removal and confiscation of their home were politically untenable," he said.

The city's solution — parking lots large enough to handle RVs, with round-the-clock security, intensive case management, electricity and water — "wasn't focused on solving vehicular residency," Lindsay said.

And with that, the city opened an expensive program for some of the most broken-down RVs and tough-to-house people in the city. In fact, some vehicles were towed in.

All of those people deserved help, said Graham Pruss, a former outreach worker for Road to Housing and executive director of the nonprofit WeCount, but he believed the city's goal "was to basically to drive in what were seen as the worst offenders on the street, and they were trying to drive them off the street into this lot."

The plan sputtered quickly. Instead of three safe lots, as planned, it opened only one in Ballard, and that was shuttered in August 2016 because so few participants actually got housed.

The lot in Sodo is a stripped-down version called a safe zone, costing \$5,300 a month, mostly for the portable bathrooms and garbage collection. The lot lost its case managers last December when Compass decided not to renew their contract. The zone was meant to be temporary but has been open for nearly two years.

Since January, only one city employee, Jackie St. Louis, has been assigned to connect the Sodo safe-zone residents to housing and social services. That's in addition to St. Louis' full-time job leading the city's Navigation Team, which does outreach to hundreds of homeless encampments around Seattle.

#### RVs v. cars

Within the homelessness-advocacy community, vehicle residents are somewhere in an unenviable middle, seen as outsiders who don't fit neatly into the homeless services system. They are viewed as having better shelter than people living in tents, yet still not inside.

There are also perceived differences among the vehicle dwellers themselves. People in cars and trucks are thought to be newer to homelessness and more willing to move into housing. People in RVs tend to be harder to get into housing, and RVs can sometimes appeal to people whose criminal history makes it difficult to get approved for a lease.

“There can be a sense (among RV residents), and maybe rightfully so, ‘I am housed, I have a door that I can close, a roof over my head,’” said St. Louis.

Other cities that have been more proactive in addressing vehicle homeless take those distinctions into account. In San Diego, for example, a vehicle safe-lot program bans RVs.

Seattle’s program never distinguished between RV and car residents.

There was a nearly equal number of each type during last year’s point-in-time count: about 876 people in cars, and 861 people in RVs; an additional 577 people lived in vans.

Any new vehicular-homelessness strategy in Seattle must give people incentives to participate because it’s not illegal to live in your vehicle in Seattle, Pruss said. He recommends adding parking spaces to existing shelters. He emphasized that many of the people living in cars and RVs desperately want housing — but there is simply nowhere else they can find it.

“These vehicles are affordable houses, straight up,” Pruss said. “They are producing new forms of housing where they do not see them available.”

“Future steps”

Seattle’s meandering approach to vehicle camping returned to the public forefront last month. In a potentially precedent-setting case, a King County Superior Court judge ruled that \$557 in impound fees charged to a vehicle camper named Steven Long violated the prohibition on excessive fines in the Eighth Amendment of the Constitution.

The city is appealing the case; Durkan’s office said the appeal may complicate development of a city new strategy to deal with vehicle camping.

The Seattle City Council has already considered several ideas, including relaxing enforcement of some parking rules. It also considered a second Navigation Team for car campers, but shifted that money to a drug-diversion program, which may also help vehicle residents.

Durkan said in a statement the city will evaluate the cost to operate the safe zone and its impacts to neighboring businesses “to determine future steps.” Her office said Seattle is trying to get state money to expand the Navigation Team and is trying to improve trash collection around RVs.

Until Durkan’s administration comes up with a new plan, residents in the last vehicle safe zone in Sodo are on borrowed time. The city planned to shut it down April 30 but decided to extending the lot’s permit through July.

The limbo, and the lack of a strategy, frustrates both sides of the equation on vehicle homelessness.

There were at least four fires in February in RVs parked outside the safe zone throughout Sodo, said Erin Goodman, executive director of the Sodo Business Improvement Area. One of those RVs hadn’t been towed for more than a month, during which time it was scavenged and was actually moved throughout the neighborhood.

“It was a hulk of an RV traveling around Sodo, completely burned out, for six weeks, before it finally was removed,” Goodman said.

And at the safe lot, Matt Irvin, 36, said he is frustrated that the city is not allowing new RVs to park, even though there is room.

He drove his RV into the safe zone several weeks ago after he got a ticket while parked on a street a few blocks away. He was given permission to stay until mid-April. After that, the city plans to block

	<p>unpermitted vehicles from parking there.</p> <p>Irvin isn't sure where he'll go then. He's had a serious criminal record since he was a juvenile, which makes getting a job hard. He was a machinist for a decade but lost that gig after the 2008 recession.</p> <p>"Paying rent is no problem if you have a job, the ability to use money," he said, standing in the lot after another train had rumbled by his RV, the last shot at a home he had. "If you don't have that, then what are you supposed to do. Just die?"</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>04/10 US warning at UN: will respond</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://www.foxnews.com/world/2018/04/10/us-warning-at-un-world-must-see-justice-done-on-syria.html">http://www.foxnews.com/world/2018/04/10/us-warning-at-un-world-must-see-justice-done-on-syria.html</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>As President Donald Trump on Monday warned he soon would be making "major decisions" to respond "forcefully" to murderous suspected chemical attacks against civilians in the rebel-held Syrian town of Douma, the stakes for the United Nations in the made-in-Syria crisis were just as high.</p> <p>Nikki Haley, U.S. Ambassador to the U.N., passionately outlined the challenge for the world organization at an emergency meeting of the Security Council, called to debate what to do next about the April 7 chemical assault by the regime of Bashar al-Assad.</p> <p>The attack is believed to have killed more than 40 people, including numerous women and children, and left perhaps 100 more injured.</p> <p>"We have reached the moment when the world must see justice done," Haley warned. "There can be no more rationalizations for our failure to act."</p> <p>"History will record this," she declared, "as the moment when the Security Council either discharged its duty or demonstrated its utter and complete failure to protect the people of Syria."</p> <p>"Either way," Haley summarized, "the U.S. will respond."</p> <p>What that U.S. action will be, and when it will occur, Trump promised to reveal shortly, though "after the fact," as he told journalists.</p> <p>But the U.N.'s haplessness in confronting chemical assaults and numerous other war crimes by Assad's forces, backed by Russian warplanes and Iranian-supported militias, has reached its own high-water mark, culminating in the emergency Council session and anything that occurs after it.</p> <p>As a result of that cynical war of attrition behind diplomatic cover, "the U.N. is worse than meaningless," Frederick Kagan, resident scholar and director of the Critical Threats project at the American Enterprise Institute, told Fox News days in advance of the latest chemical attack. "It is allowing itself to be manipulated as cover for atrocities and war crimes."</p> <p>Kagan called diplomats "foolishly naïve" for accepting previous resolutions that endorsed a tattered ceasefire and virtually non-existent "de-escalation zones" that Assad and his backers had repeatedly violated at will.</p> <p>"The Russians always intended to violate them," he said.</p> <p>Yesterday at the Security Council, Haley essentially agreed. Charging that the hands of Putin's regime "were all covered in the blood of Syrian civilians," she declared. "Russia could stop this senseless slaughter if it wanted. But it stands with the Assad regime and supports [it] without any hesitation."</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>04/10 Concern: Russian soldiers in crosshairs</b>
SOURCE	<a href="http://www.latimes.com/nation/la-na-pol-trump-syria-russia-20180410-story.html">http://www.latimes.com/nation/la-na-pol-trump-syria-russia-20180410-story.html</a>
GIST	<p>As Pentagon planners ready a possible military response to a suspected poison gas attack in Syria, one danger has sparked special concern — whether U.S. airstrikes may inadvertently kill Russian soldiers in Syria and escalate the regional war into a confrontation between Washington and Moscow.</p> <p>The chances of a potential clash would increase if President Trump opts for a heavy bombardment, employing not only Tomahawk cruise missiles fired from Navy ships offshore — as he did last year after a previous chemical attack — but also manned bombers and other warplanes to strike multiple targets in Syria, current and former officials say.</p> <p>Although Trump said Monday that he would make a "major decision" in 24 to 48 hours, the timing of a U.S.-led strike could be delayed by Syria's announcement Tuesday that it will allow international chemical weapons inspectors into the country to investigate Saturday's attack, which left about 50 people dead in the rebel-held town of Duma, as well as by the need for the Pentagon and U.S. allies to get sufficient military forces in place.</p> <p>Trump canceled his planned trip to Colombia and Peru, which was scheduled to start Friday, so he could focus on the crisis. He spoke Tuesday with British Prime Minister Theresa May and French President Emmanuel Macron and the White House said they "agreed not to allow the use of chemical weapons to continue," suggesting a joint operation is being planned.</p> <p>Trump also met Tuesday with the emir of Qatar, Sheik Tamim bin Hamad al Thani, whose country hosts a major U.S. air base likely to be involved if Trump sends manned warplanes against Syria.</p> <p>Qatar and the U.S. see "eye to eye," the emir said, adding "we can't tolerate a war criminal, someone who killed 500,000 of his own people."</p> <p>Clearly neither Moscow nor Washington wants a direct conflict in Syria. The U.S. has about 2,000 troops deployed chiefly in the country's north, where they support Kurdish troops fighting Islamic State. The Pentagon uses a so-called deconfliction hotline from its air base in Qatar to make sure U.S. and Russian aircraft avoid each other in Syrian airspace.</p> <p>The Russian military contingent in Syria is slightly smaller — estimated at fewer than 2,000 troops and fewer than 100 warplanes. So the U.S. and its allies could carry out targeted reprisals on Syrian military targets with limited risk of causing Russian casualties, especially if the U.S. warns Moscow ahead of the strikes, U.S. officials say.</p> <p>But Trump has raised the possibility that Moscow could face some sort of retaliation as well, warning Tuesday that Russia or any other nation found to share responsibility with Syria for the suspected gas attack would "pay a price."</p> <p>Pentagon officials are probably urging Trump to target factories where Syrian President Bashar Assad's forces are preparing chlorine and other chemical agents used against rebels and civilians, assuming those are known.</p> <p>They also probably would target the Syrian security units that carried out last weekend's attack, reportedly using helicopters to drop barrel bombs, and the government's command and control facilities, said Derek Chollet, a former senior Pentagon official who worked on Syria in the Obama administration.</p> <p>"Most likely what the U.S. will do is warn the Russians in advance and then use missile strikes to target Assad regime facilities of some sort" instead of a wider bombing campaign, said Ilan Goldenberg, a Syria expert at the Center for a New American Security, a Washington policy analysis organization.</p>

If Trump approves a more punishing campaign, U.S. commanders are likely to insist on taking out Syria's air defense systems, which reportedly include sophisticated Russian-supplied S-400 ground-to-air missile batteries.

Pentagon officials would be wary about telling Russia the timing or targets of an air raid, fearing Moscow would pass the intelligence to Assad's forces and help them shoot down allied jets.

The U.S. also could use radar jamming and low-level aircraft to defeat the Syria defenses. U.S. warplanes have flown over Syria for four years to find and destroy Islamic State forces, said Chollet. None have been shot down.

"There's a lot we know" about Assad's air defenses, said Chollet. "So we're much more capable of managing the risk to our planes."

To reduce the risk, U.S. warplanes could launch so-called long-range "standoff" air-to-ground missiles, which are capable of striking Syrian targets without the pilot entering the nation's airspace.

Israel has used those missiles repeatedly in recent years to strike Syria, most recently on Monday when missiles slammed into an air base in central Syria. Israel has not confirmed launching the attack, which reportedly killed 14 people, including seven Iranians.

The Navy has a destroyer armed with cruise missiles in the eastern Mediterranean, and U.S. warplanes based around the region could be used for a major air campaign, Pentagon officials said.

An aircraft carrier strike group, including the carrier Harry Truman as well as a guided-missile cruiser and four guided-missile destroyers, is due to leave Norfolk, Va., on Wednesday for the Middle East. But it won't be in position to launch attacks on Syria for at least a week, officials said.

Syrian government forces and their allies were on alert Tuesday and taking precautionary measures at military bases and posts in government-held areas amid fears of a U.S. strike, war monitors said.

Hundreds of Russian contractors and mercenaries are reported to be working in Syria. On Feb. 7, U.S. airstrikes hit a Syrian-backed militia as it approached a valuable oil and gas field held by U.S.-backed forces in eastern Syria. Russia later acknowledged that five of the dead were Russian citizens, but the incident drew little attention and Moscow did not publicly complain, in part because the deconfliction line was used to try to warn the column away.

If any Russians are killed in U.S. reprisals for Saturday's attack, Moscow could step up harassment of U.S. warplanes and outposts in the region, former officials say.

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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>04/11 Kentucky teachers call for 'day of action'</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.cnn.com/2018/04/11/us/kentucky-teachers-pension-governor/index.html">https://www.cnn.com/2018/04/11/us/kentucky-teachers-pension-governor/index.html</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>(CNN)Kentucky Gov. Matt Bevin signed a controversial pension reform bill that is firmly opposed by a teachers' group, which has called for a "day of action" later this week.</p> <p>The Kentucky Education Association urged its members to come to the state Capitol on Friday, in response to key decisions by the governor. It had called for teachers and supporters to rally at the state legislature, before Bevin signed the controversial pension reform, Senate Bill 151 into law on Tuesday.</p> <p>In a message to teachers, KEA President Stephanie Winkler asked "each school district or citizen that can legally be in Frankfort, to be there" on Friday.</p> <p>At least one school district, Trimble County Public Schools, had announced school closures to allow</p>

educators and personnel to travel to Frankfort.

Last week, Kentucky teachers marched to the Capitol to denounce the pension bill and demand funding for schools to help pay for textbooks, technology and programs. On March 30, more than 20 county schools closed after teachers called out of work after lawmakers passed the pension bill.

KEA opposes the pension reform, in which new hires will have to enter a hybrid cash balance plan, which differs from a traditional pension, and would limit new sick days that teachers can put toward their retirement. It also wants the state legislators to override Bevin's veto of a budget bill and a revenue bill, with Winkler saying if these two bills don't pass, "this is very bad news for public education."

After signing the pension bill Tuesday, Bevin called it "a very good bill" and criticized the KEA in an interview with WHAS Radio.

"They are absolute frauds," he said. "They are not looking out for the best interest of their teachers, they are looking out for the best interest of themselves. KEA leadership is a fraud."

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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>04/10 Chinese investment in US dropped 36%</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://money.cnn.com/2018/04/10/news/economy/chinese-investment-united-states/index.html">http://money.cnn.com/2018/04/10/news/economy/chinese-investment-united-states/index.html</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>Chinese investment in the United States plummeted in 2017. And that was before a trade fight erupted between the two countries.</p> <p>For years, Chinese entities have pumped a significant amount of money into the US, deepening ties between the world's two largest economies.</p> <p>But such investment fell from \$46.5 billion in 2016 to \$29.7 billion in 2017, according to a report released Tuesday by the Rhodium Group and the National Committee on U.S.-China Relations. That's a drop of more than one third, though 2017 was still the second highest year on record.</p> <p>The sharp decline set in well before President Donald Trump launched a series of aggressive trade actions against China, including slapping tariffs on steel and aluminum imports, and calling for up to \$150 billion in additional tariffs on Chinese goods as punishment for intellectual property theft.</p> <p>So what accounted for the dip?</p> <p>China has tightened restrictions on outbound investment because it's worried that its biggest conglomerates could be overextending themselves.</p> <p>"The Chinese, about a year and a half ago, started to impose capital controls, which stopped people from doing a lot of [US] acquisitions," said Stephen Orlins, president of the National Committee on U.S.-China Relations.</p> <p>In 2017, Beijing said it would limit overseas investments by Chinese companies in industries like real estate, hotels, entertainment and sports clubs.</p> <p>There's also a tougher regulatory environment in the United States.</p> <p>The Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States, or CFIUS, is an inter-agency panel chaired by the Treasury Department. It vets certain deals that could give a foreign investor control of a US business for national security risks.</p> <p>That panel has been increasingly aggressive under Trump. Experts say CFIUS has been examining more deals, while heavily scrutinizing tie-ups that could give foreign companies access to sensitive technologies</p>

	<p>or personal data on Americans.</p> <p>More than \$8 billion in deals were abandoned in 2017 because the parties couldn't address concerns raised by CFIUS, according to estimates from the Rhodium Group and the National Committee on U.S.-China Relations.</p> <p>The 2018 outlook for Chinese investment in the US doesn't look much better.</p> <p>"The commercial appetite of Chinese firms for US investment expansion is stronger than ever, but regulatory hurdles are unlikely to fade in Beijing and will almost surely increase in the US, casting uncertainty over the near-term outlook," the report said.</p> <p>And the fact that China and the United States are now locked in an escalating fight over trade likely won't help.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>04/10 Sacramento police new body-cam policy</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.cbsnews.com/news/stephon-clark-shooting-sacramento-police-issue-new-bodycam-directive/">https://www.cbsnews.com/news/stephon-clark-shooting-sacramento-police-issue-new-bodycam-directive/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>SACRAMENTO, Calif. - Sacramento police have issued their first written policy on when officers can turn off body cameras after two officers muted their microphones following the fatal shooting of an unarmed man in his grandparents' backyard. Deputy Chief Ken Bernard discussed the new memo Monday at a meeting of the Community Police Review Commission after it was issued to officers last week.</p> <p>Body camera footage of the killing of 22-year-old Stephon Clark reveals that two officers were told to mute their microphones about seven minutes after the shooting. The new policy requires officers to verbalize their reason for turning off the microphone. The policy was in the works before Clark's shooting but it prompted the department to issue the guidance more quickly, said police spokesman Sgt. Vance Chandler.</p> <p>The March 18 killing sparked two weeks of protests and calls for police reform.</p> <p>In both body camera videos released after the shooting, an officer can be heard saying, "Hey, mute," then the video goes silent and officers talk among themselves, reports CBS Sacramento. One officer is heard saying, "You guys good?" before the audio cuts out.</p> <p>Last month, the president of the NAACP's Sacramento chapter pointedly questioned department policy during an emotionally charged press conference, the station reported.</p> <p>"Why was the audio turned off after the shooting? What was the protocol for turning off the audio?" Betty Williams said.</p> <p>Williams told the station last month, "That creates an additional layer of mistrust, as if, 'We need hide something.'"</p> <p>Chandler said the department is still investigating who told the officer to turn the mic off and whether that individual is a supervisor, who turned the mic off and if that decision was appropriate.</p> <p>Body camera use is covered in training but officers haven't received any written direction on when the equipment can be turned off until now, Chandler said. He couldn't immediately provide details on what directives officers were given during training.</p> <p>Sacramento Police Chief Daniel Hahn previously said officers should only turn off their microphones when having personal conversations or dealing with a confidential informant.</p>

	<p>"Regardless of what the reason was for muting the mic in that instance, it still bred more mistrust and that is another chip away at the trust in general that we have between the police department and the community," he said in a recent interview with The Associated Press.</p> <p>The new memo says officers can turn off their cameras while dealing with a victim of sexual assault or if a supervisor instructs them to do so.</p> <p>Officers can also turn off the equipment if a victim or witness is refusing to provide a statement on camera and the situation is non-confrontational, or when speaking to a doctor, nurse or paramedic.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>04/10 US, Russia clash at UN</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria/u-s-russia-clash-at-u-n-over-chemical-weapons-attacks-in-syria-idUSKBN1HG0D8">https://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria/u-s-russia-clash-at-u-n-over-chemical-weapons-attacks-in-syria-idUSKBN1HG0D8</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>UNITED NATIONS/BEIRUT (Reuters) - Russia and the United States tangled on Tuesday at the United Nations over the use of chemical weapons in Syria as Washington and its allies considered whether to strike at President Bashar al-Assad's forces over a suspected poison gas attack last weekend.</p> <p>Moscow and Washington halted attempts by each other in the U.N. Security Council to set up international investigations into chemical weapons attacks in Syria, which is in the throes of a seven-year-old civil war.</p> <p>U.S. President Donald Trump and Western allies are discussing possible military action to punish Assad for a suspected poison gas attack on Saturday on a rebel-held town that long had held out against government forces.</p> <p>Trump on Tuesday canceled a planned trip to Latin America later this week to focus instead on responding to the Syria incident, the White House said. Trump had on Monday warned of a quick, forceful response once responsibility for the Syria attack was established.</p> <p>Pan-European air traffic control agency Eurocontrol warned airlines to exercise caution in the eastern Mediterranean due to the possible launch of air strikes into Syria in next 72 hours.</p> <p>On the diplomatic front, the United Nations Security Council failed to approve three draft resolutions on chemical weapons attacks in Syria. Russia vetoed a U.S. text, while two Russian-drafted resolutions failed to get a minimum nine votes to pass.</p> <p>Moscow opposes any Western strike on its close ally Assad and has vetoed Security Council action on Syria 12 times since the conflict started.</p> <p>U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley told the Security Council that adopting the U.S.-drafted resolution was the least that member nations could do.</p> <p>"History will record that, on this day, Russia chose protecting a monster over the lives of the Syrian people," Haley said, referring to Assad.</p> <p>At least 60 people were killed and more than 1,000 injured in Saturday's suspected chemical weapons attack on the town of Douma, according to a Syrian relief group.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>04/10 Texting drivers make roads even worse</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2018-04-10/more-americans-ignore-laws-barring-texting-">https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2018-04-10/more-americans-ignore-laws-barring-texting-</a>



	<a href="#">and-driving</a>
GIST	<p>If you're driving right now, it's far more likely you are reading this on your phone than you would have been a year ago.</p> <p>Despite a harrowing surge in traffic fatalities, American drivers appear to be getting worse at avoiding Instagram, e-mail and other mobile-phone distractions while driving. More people are using their phones at the wheel, and for longer periods of time, according to a study published Tuesday from Zendrive, a San Francisco-based startup that tracks phone use for auto insurers and ride-hailing fleets.</p> <p>“As you have more young drivers on the road, and as people increasingly become addicted to their smartphones, it will continue being a major health issue—almost an epidemic—in this country,” said Zendrive founder Jonathan Matus.</p> <p>From December through February, Zendrive technology monitored 4.5 million drivers who traveled 7.1 billion miles, comparing the results with the year-earlier period. Roughly two out of three of those people used a mobile phone at least once.</p> <p>Among those who picked up their phones, they used them for an average of almost four minutes—a 5 percent increase from last year.</p> <p>“It might not seem like a lot, but even 10 seconds is very significant when you look at the number of people on the road,” Matus said.</p> <p>Phone use increased dramatically across the country, including in 14 states that have banned handheld phones behind the wheel. Phones were being used more often in California, Oregon and Washington, where lawmakers drastically strengthened regulations last year, allowing only hands-free use of mobile phones.</p> <p>Vermont was the only U.S. state in which Zendrive recorded a decline in drivers on phones. In Mississippi and Rhode Island, the worst states for distracted driving, subject drivers spent almost 8 percent of their time on the phone. Rhode Island, in particular, may provide an interesting test case when its hands-free law takes effect this summer.</p> <p>Phone use peaks around 4 p.m., when three out of four drivers, on average, are stealing a peak at their screens, perhaps trying to beat traffic and finish work at the same time. It drops steadily through the night, though drivers who use phones just before midnight tend to stay on them the longest, more than four minutes at a time.</p> <p>Those with iPhones used their devices far more often, and far longer, than those on Android-based handsets.</p> <p>One of the few bright spots of the study is that drivers tend to use their phone as they first start out on a trip, perhaps ending a message thread before settling in for the journey.</p> <p>While that window of time isn't any safer than any other moment behind the wheel, Matus believes it may present an opportunity for changing behavior. A publicity campaign urging drivers to finish screen work, or just catch up on Instagram, before setting out could produce results.</p> <p>“Legislation, by itself, is clearly not enough,” he explained.</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>04/11 Airlines warned on possible Syria strikes</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2018-04-11/airlines-warned-to-stay-cautious-on-possible-syria-air-strikes">https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2018-04-11/airlines-warned-to-stay-cautious-on-possible-syria-air-strikes</a>

<p>GIST</p>	<p>Eurocontrol, an air traffic agency in Europe, asked airlines to apply caution on flights to the eastern Mediterranean region because of possible air strikes in Syria over the next 72 hours.</p> <p>“Due consideration needs to be taken when planning flight operations in the Eastern Mediterranean,” the agency said in a statement posted on its website citing the European Aviation Safety Authority. The EASA issued a rapid alert notification for the eastern Mediterranean and Nicosia areas, Eurocontrol said.</p> <p>There’s a possibility of intermittent disruption in radio navigation equipment, Eurocontrol said.</p> <p>President Donald Trump intensified preparations for a U.S. response to a suspected chemical weapons attack in Syria. Trump said late Monday that the U.S. will respond “forcefully” to a suspected chemical weapons attack by Syrian President Bashar al-Assad’s regime over the weekend, after suggesting earlier that Russian President Vladimir Putin may share responsibility.</p>
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<p>HEADLINE</p>	<p><b>04/10 Sudan to release all political prisoners</b></p>
<p>SOURCE</p>	<p><a href="http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/sudans-president-orders-release-political-prisoners-54365351?">http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/sudans-president-orders-release-political-prisoners-54365351?</a></p>
<p>GIST</p>	<p>Sudan's President Omar al-Bashir ordered the immediate release of all political prisoners on Tuesday as part of national dialogue efforts, the state news agency said.</p> <p>The report carried by SUNA did not say how many individuals would be released, but said the move came in the spirit of "reconciliation, national harmony and peace."</p> <p>It said the release "opens the door to participation of all political forces" to discuss the country's issues.</p> <p>Opposition figures in Sudan are regularly detained, and parties who opposes al-Bashir face numerous state obstacles.</p> <p>Sudan is grappling with a currency crisis and hyperinflation that has stoked discontent, although public demonstrations are effectively banned and regularly quashed by security forces.</p> <p>Protests erupted in Khartoum and other parts of the country in January after the government slashed subsidies and devalued the local currency, measures aimed at strengthening the battered economy. Hundreds of people were detained in those and subsequent protests, though some were later released.</p>
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<p>HEADLINE</p>	<p><b>04/10 HUD awards Puerto Rico \$18.5B recovery</b></p>
<p>SOURCE</p>	<p><a href="http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/us-awards-185-billion-recovery-grants-puerto-rico-54365605?">http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/us-awards-185-billion-recovery-grants-puerto-rico-54365605?</a></p>
<p>GIST</p>	<p>The U.S. government announced Tuesday that it will award \$18.5 billion worth of disaster recovery grants to Puerto Rico to help repair homes, businesses and its crumbling power grid as the U.S. territory struggles to recover from Hurricane Maria.</p> <p>It is the largest single amount for such assistance ever awarded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, said Deputy Secretary Pamela Patenaude during a visit to the U.S. territory.</p> <p>"Our goal is to get people back into their homes, get people back to work and to build a stronger Puerto Rico for future generations," she said.</p> <p>The money will be issued through the agency's Community Development Block Grant program.</p>

	<p>Patenaude said that Puerto Rico planning officials will develop a disaster recovery plan in upcoming weeks.</p> <p>The announcement comes as 54,000 power customers remain in the dark more than six months after the Category 4 storm hit. Officials have said they expect power to be fully restored across the island by May, just days before the Atlantic hurricane season starts.</p> <p>HUD already had allocated \$1.5 billion to Puerto Rico in February for post-hurricane recovery efforts.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>04/10 US aircraft carrier in South China Sea</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/us-carrier-sails-disputed-sea-china-shows-force-54361569?">http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/us-carrier-sails-disputed-sea-china-shows-force-54361569?</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>As fighter jets streaked overhead, a U.S. aircraft carrier sailed through the South China Sea on Tuesday in the latest display of America's military might after China built a string of islands with military facilities to assert its claims in the strategic waters, sparking regional alarm.</p> <p>The U.S. Navy flew a small group of Philippine generals, officials and journalists to the USS Theodore Roosevelt, where fighter jets landed and took off by catapult with thunderous blasts. The nuclear-powered carrier, and its 65 supersonic F18 jets, spy planes and helicopters, was en route to Manila.</p> <p>Recent U.S. deployments of aircraft carriers, backed by destroyers, to perform freedom of navigation exercises to Beijing's territorial claims are reassuring allies but also prompting concerns with China's own show of force in the busy waterway.</p> <p>"It's a showcase of the capability of the U.S. armed forces not only by sea but also by air," Philippine army Lt. Gen. Rolando Bautista said after joining a tour of the 97,000-ton carrier.</p> <p>"The Americans are our friends. In one way or another, they can help us to deter any threat," Bautista said, adding that the American military presence helps secure vulnerable Philippine waters.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>04/11 Israel strikes Hamas for border bomb</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/israel-strikes-hamas-bomb-explodes-gaza-border-54383943?">http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/israel-strikes-hamas-bomb-explodes-gaza-border-54383943?</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>The Israeli military says it has struck several Hamas targets in Gaza after a bomb planted on the border exploded near Israeli troops.</p> <p>The military says the explosive device was placed along the border fence area during protests that have been taking place there. It exploded near an Israeli bulldozer on Wednesday.</p> <p>No one was wounded by the bomb, and there were no immediately reports on casualties from the retaliatory strikes.</p> <p>Israel says it holds Hamas responsible for all violence emanating from Gaza and will not allow the border area to become a combat zone.</p> <p>Hamas has called for Palestinians to amass at the border as part of a weeklong campaign of protests against a decade-old Israeli and Egyptian blockade of the territory. Twenty-six protesters have been killed thus far.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>04/10 Oklahoma teachers walkout continues</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://abcnews.go.com/US/oklahoma-teachers-rally-capitol-walkout-enters-7th-day/story?">http://abcnews.go.com/US/oklahoma-teachers-rally-capitol-walkout-enters-7th-day/story?</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>Oklahoma teachers rallied at the state Capitol Tuesday on the seventh day of their walkout as classes remained canceled in the state's largest school districts.</p> <p>A group of teachers marched over 100 miles from Tulsa to Oklahoma City, where the state capitol is. They are asking the Oklahoma Legislature to provide \$50 million more in funding and to repeal a capital gains tax exemption. They are also asking Gov. Mary Fallin to veto a lodging tax repeal bill, which would eliminate \$42 million in funding, according to the Oklahoma Education Association, the state's largest union.</p> <p>The walkout comes after the West Virginia teachers' strike catalyzed a movement of teachers demanding higher pay. Arizona and Kentucky teachers have voiced their frustrations regarding teachers' salary and education underfunding.</p> <p>According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Oklahoma teachers are paid almost \$20,000 less than the national average salary for teachers.</p> <p>Fallin recently approved a \$6,100 pay raise for teachers, but Oklahoma teachers said this is not enough. They are requesting a \$10,000 pay raise over three years.</p> <p>A November report from the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities found that Oklahoma cut roughly \$1,000 per pupil over the last nine years. Instead of diverting money to education funding, the state cut income taxes and severance tax rates on oil and gas.</p> <p>Education funding cuts have forced growing class sizes and limited basic supplies, according to the Oklahoma Education Association.</p> <p>Still, teachers are hopeful their efforts will create change. Oklahoma Education Association President Alicia Priest posted a video Monday night on the organization's Facebook page, noting the Oklahoma Highway Patrol estimated around 50,000 people were in the walkout crowd on Monday.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>04/10 OPCW team to inspect Syria attack site</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/russia-invites-chemical-weapons-experts-visit-syria-site-54355908?">http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/russia-invites-chemical-weapons-experts-visit-syria-site-54355908?</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>The international chemical weapons watchdog said Tuesday it was sending a fact-finding mission to the Syrian town where a suspected chemical gas attack took place over the weekend, following a request from the Syrian government and its Russian backers that appeared to be aimed at averting punitive Western military action.</p> <p>It was not immediately clear whether the announcement would delay or prevent a U.S. strike in Syria. President Donald Trump has vowed to respond "forcefully" to Saturday's attack on civilians in the town of Douma, and warned that Russia — or any other nation found to share responsibility — will "pay a price."</p> <p>In a statement, the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons said a fact-finding mission was "preparing to deploy to Syria shortly," though it did not give a more precise timetable on when the inspectors would arrive.</p> <p>The incident has sparked international outrage and ratcheted up tensions in the already volatile Mideast, raising the specter of possible imminent American retaliation amid Russia's warnings against any such action, and denials that any chemical weapons attack took place.</p>

	Adding to the tensions, Iran, a strong ally of Syrian President Bashar Assad, threatened to respond to an airstrike on a Syrian military base on Monday that the Syrian government, Russia and Iran blamed on Israel.
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>04/10 China pledges open economy, cut tariffs</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-trade-china/chinas-xi-renews-vow-to-open-economy-cut-tariffs-as-u-s-trade-row-deepens-idUSKBN1HH084">https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-trade-china/chinas-xi-renews-vow-to-open-economy-cut-tariffs-as-u-s-trade-row-deepens-idUSKBN1HH084</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>BOAO/BEIJING, China (Reuters) - Chinese President Xi Jinping promised on Tuesday to open the country's economy further and lower import tariffs on products like cars, in a speech seen as an attempt to defuse an escalating trade dispute with the United States.</p> <p>While much of his pledges were reiterations of previously announced reforms that foreign businesses say are long overdue, Xi's comments sent stock markets and the U.S. dollar higher on hopes of a compromise that could avert a trade war.</p> <p>Xi said China will widen market access for foreign investors, addressing a chief complaint of its trading partners and a point of contention for U.S. President Donald Trump's administration, which has threatened billions of dollars in tariffs on Chinese goods.</p> <p>Trump struck a conciliatory tone in response to Xi's speech, saying in a post on Twitter that he was "thankful" for the Chinese leader's kind words on tariffs and access for U.S. automakers, as well as his "enlightenment" on the issue of intellectual property.</p> <p>"We will make great progress together!" Trump tweeted.</p> <p>Washington charges that Chinese companies steal the trade secrets of American companies and force them into joint ventures to get hold of their technology, an issue that is at the center of Trump's current tariff threats.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>04/10 Emergency alert systems not secure?</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://www.mcclatchydc.com/news/nation-world/national/national-security/article208455179.html">http://www.mcclatchydc.com/news/nation-world/national/national-security/article208455179.html</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>WASHINGTON — The emergency alert systems that blare out warnings during natural disasters, terrorist incidents or manmade calamities could be hijacked into sending out false alarms.</p> <p>A security company, Bastille, said Tuesday that it had found a vulnerability in San Francisco's emergency alert system that would allow hackers to trigger the city's sirens or even blare out malicious messages.</p> <p>The Boston manufacturer, ATI Systems, said it had developed a patch that will be rolled out shortly and noted that such a hack "is not a trivially easy thing that just anyone can do."</p> <p>Balint Seeber, director of vulnerability research at Bastille, which has offices in San Francisco and Atlanta, Georgia, said he began studying vulnerabilities in the system of 114 public sirens and outdoor speakers scattered about San Francisco in 2016. Once he determined the radio frequencies employed, he said it would be easy to hijack the unencrypted system, even using only a \$30 radio and a laptop.</p> <p>ATI's siren systems are installed at military bases, nuclear and petroleum plants, universities and urban centers across the country.</p> <p>False alarms have caused dangerous panic, as was seen in Hawaii on Jan. 13. Human error, not hacking, caused an emergency text message warning of an incoming nuclear attack at a time of heightened tension</p>

with North Korea. It sent residents flooding into the streets, into underground shelters and clogging freeways on the islands.

A hacker did trigger all 156 emergency sirens in Dallas to sound off on April 7, 2017, waking up city residents.

An expert on the nation's emergency alert systems, retired Rear Adm. David G. Simpson, said older parts of the nationwide network were not designed to thwart hackers.

"It should be very concerning to citizens but certainly to emergency management professionals," said Simpson, the former chief of the Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau of the Federal Communications Commission.

Older alert systems, he said, "were never designed to counter an advanced cyber adversary. They are very vulnerable."

Any vulnerability in emergency alert systems, trusted by the public, could undermine confidence in the government's ability to detect and warn people of real threats, he said.

"If you set up a system where a large population is residing and knows that the system is exclusively for emergencies, and people have confidence that it works, when it goes off, people genuinely get really scared and distressed," Seeber said.

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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>04/10 US allies warn of action on Syria</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.cnn.com/2018/04/10/middleeast/syria-chemical-attack-france-response-intl/index.html">https://www.cnn.com/2018/04/10/middleeast/syria-chemical-attack-france-response-intl/index.html</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>(CNN) — US allies have rallied behind President Donald Trump's warning that Syria would pay a "big price" if it is found to have carried out a chemical attack on the rebel-held town of Douma.</p> <p>France on Tuesday became the latest ally to warn of action if Syria "crossed a red line" in Saturday's suspected chemical attack. According to activist groups, helicopters dropped barrel bombs filled with toxic gas on the town situated on the outskirts of the capital Damascus, killing dozens of civilians and wounding scores more.</p> <p>As Western leaders considered next steps, Trump canceled a trip to South America planned later in the week, in order to oversee the US response to Syria. Vice President Mike Pence will attend the 8th Summit of the Americas in his place, the White House said in a press briefing Tuesday.</p> <p>White House press secretary Sarah Sanders offered no new indications of how the US plans to respond to the suspected chemical attack in Syria.</p> <p>"The President has been clear. We're working with our partners and allies and our national security team to look at all options," Sanders said. "All options are on the table, but I'm not going to get ahead of what the President may or may not do."</p> <p>Also Tuesday, Russia vetoed a US draft resolution at the UN Security Council that would have established an independent investigation into what happened in Douma. The draft condemned the suspected attack, demanded humanitarian aid for the region and called for an inquiry.</p> <p>French President Emmanuel Macron is expected to discuss the situation with Trump in the next 48 hours, government spokesman Benjamin Griveax told Europe 1 radio Tuesday.</p> <p>France has previously warned it would respond with strikes on Syrian government forces, if evidence of chemical attacks was found.</p>

	<p>British Prime Minister Theresa May, who has called the alleged attack "barbaric," is also set to discuss the situation with Trump on Monday, a Downing Street spokesperson told CNN.</p> <p>But Russia has warned of severe repercussions in the face of Western military intervention in Syria.</p> <p>The Syrian government and Russia vehemently deny involvement and accuse rebel groups of fabricating the attack claims to hinder the army's advances and provoke international military intervention.</p>
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## Cyber Awareness

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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>04/10 SirenJack exposes alert systems to hijack</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.zdnet.com/article/radio-flaw-exposed-cities-emergency-alert-sirens-to-hackers/">https://www.zdnet.com/article/radio-flaw-exposed-cities-emergency-alert-sirens-to-hackers/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>A vulnerability in a popular emergency alert system, widely used across towns and cities, exposes sirens to hijack, allowing hackers to trigger false alarms.</p> <p>Security researchers at Bastille, a security firm with a focus on finding radio frequency vulnerabilities, found that the vulnerability in emergency alert systems supplied by Boston-based ATI Systems can be exploited by sending a malicious activation message over the radio airwaves.</p> <p>Because the radio protocol that ATI uses isn't encrypted, activation messages can be forged.</p> <p>This put cities like San Francisco and other major landmarks and installations at risk of cyberattack, including One World Trade Center in New York, West Point Military Academy, and the Indian Point nuclear power station -- all of which are ATI customers.</p> <p>The vulnerability, dubbed "SirenJack," might take some flak for becoming the latest in a long list of branded vulnerabilities with a name, a logo, and a website.</p> <p>But the impact of the flaw could be serious if exploited.</p> <p>These emergency systems are found across the US, primarily used to warn against natural disasters and terrorist attacks, but also inbound threats from hostile nation states. The systems are far from perfect. Almost exactly a year ago, an unknown hacker replayed a radio signal used during regular scheduled tests of the system to maliciously trigger Dallas' emergency alert system in the middle of the night.</p> <p>Although the hack was more of an annoyance to Dallas residents, Bastille researchers say that this kind of attack could cause widespread panic.</p> <p>Earlier this year, Hawaii officials mistakenly sent an emergency alert to mobile users in the state to warn of an incoming ballistic missile. The alert sent panic and confusion across the islands during the height of North Korea's escalating nuclear missile testing.</p> <p>Balint Seeber, director of threat research at Bastille, told ZDNet how the vulnerability works.</p> <p>"ATI's systems employ a custom digital radio protocol, using a well-known physical layer, designed to work over standard analog radio equipment (even \$30 handheld radios)," he said.</p> <p>He said that a replay attack -- like what was used in Dallas -- would not work because the protocol employs elements that change from week to week, but "do so in an easily discernible manner." Regardless, the core payload used to activate the sirens remains the same each week.</p> <p>"I collected recordings of each week's test, decoded the transmissions, and built up a corpus of packets in</p>

which I was able to recognize the relevant patterns, thereby becoming certain that malicious activation payloads could be constructed by using the known activation payload and adding the correct additional bits adhering to the observed pattern," he explained.

An attacker would have to be within radio range of the targeted city, he said.

But, in many emergency alert system setups, repeaters are used to amplify weaker signals and rebroadcast them over a wider area. With the right equipment, Seeber said, an attacker could be successful from "at least tens of miles away."

Since their private disclosure in January, the researchers have confirmed that San Francisco, where Bastille first discovered the vulnerability, patched its systems in March. News of the firmware upgrade was first reported by StateScoop last week.

Bastille was asked not to test the since-patched systems, and was unable to verify the efficacy of the patch.

Seeber said that from passive observation that new transmissions in San Francisco appear to now be encrypted.

Though not all ATI systems have been patched, Bastille released some details of the vulnerability in line with its industry-standard, 90-day responsible disclosure policy.

But despite the coordinated disclosure schedule and press releases, A spokesperson for ATI sent a statement (which we have uploaded) just an hour before publication, claiming that Bastille's work was "against the law."

"Their recent activity was done by recording the communication protocol, which appears to be in violation of the FCC rules," the statement said.

The statement appeared to backtrack an earlier statement that the company issued alongside Bastille's statement.

In an earlier statement, ATI said it has "created a patch which adds additional security features to the command packets sent over the radio," adding that the patches are undergoing testing and will be rolled out "shortly."

But ATI's new statement downplayed Bastille's findings.

"The vulnerability is largely theoretical and has not yet been seen in the field," the new statement read.

ATI also said it can "add additional encryption to make the commands as secure as possible if the client is concerned and can generate funding to finance the changes."

The spokesperson said that, despite its claims, ATI has not launched legal action against Bastille.

Bastille also confirmed that systems in Sedgwick County, Kan., were vulnerable, along with several major university campuses and other military facilities in Arizona, Massachusetts, and South Carolina.

It's not known if county officials will pay to secure their systems. Local officials did not respond to a request for comment.

Bastille researchers were not immediately available for comment at the time of publication.

Later, Bastille hit back at ATI's claim.

"We're satisfied that we are standing on solid legal grounds," said a spokesperson.



"Bastille did not break the law in researching the SirenJack vulnerability. There is a law against intercepting certain radio signals, but that law specifically does not apply to intercepting public safety radio communications if they are 'readily accessible to the general public'. The courts have interpreted 'readily accessible to the general public' to mean 'unencrypted'."

When asked about ATI's second statement,, Bastille added: "We're not sure why they included and highlighted this exclusion in their document since it undermines their entire allegation."

When reached, ATI chief executive Ray Bassiouni would not be quoted for this story.

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**HEADLINE** 04/10 Widespread school threats online game

**SOURCE** <https://www.abc57.com/news/widespread-school-threats-may-be-part-of-online-game>

**GIST** SACRAMENTO (KQVR-TV) -- Hundreds of school districts across the country, including dozens in California, received online threats, Monday according to police.

The culprits may be a European group trying to shut down schools as part of an online game.

"We did some brainstorming about what we could do to make sure all of our kids were safe," said Riverbank Unified School District Superintendent Daryl Camp.

He said he got the threatening email at 10 Sunday night. He called the local police immediately.

"No specific schools, however, there was a reference to bullying and bombs and guns, but no specific information," said Camp.

After learning a similar false threat had been sent to all school districts in Stanislaus County, Camp said he felt comfortable to hold classes Monday.

"We really thought based on the information that we had and working together with law-enforcement that Riverbank schools, as they usually are, or a safe place for kids and we wanted education to continue," said Camp.

But that wasn't the case in other impacted districts. Classes were canceled in Emeryville.

"Information we've obtained, this is a hoax," said one law enforcement official.

Tuolumne schools remained open, as did Calaveras county schools and five school districts in the San Diego area, all were emailed similar threats.

"The school is sort of damned if you do, damned if you don't. They have to react law enforcement has to react," Jeff Harp, a former FBI agent, told CBS Sacramento.

Police say the threats originated overseas in Europe from an online group playing a game to see who could force the most schools to close.

A group claiming responsibility tweeted last month that they successfully caused hundreds of schools in the United Kingdom to close their doors.

While most schools in the US remained open, many were on high alert.

	<p>“Anytime you have a prank that utilizes law-enforcement resources and take some away from where they’re supposed to be it can be a very dangerous thing,” said Harp.</p> <p>The FBI is working with local agencies on this case. The agency has not verified who sent the messages.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>04/10 Hackers adapting to govt. adversaries</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://fcw.com/articles/2018/04/10/cisco-cyber-report-johnson.aspx">https://fcw.com/articles/2018/04/10/cisco-cyber-report-johnson.aspx</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>A new threat report from Cisco found that hacker are increasingly able to mask their presence and take advantage of security vulnerabilities inherent in two popular technologies -- the cloud and internet-of-things devices -- to gain network access.</p> <p>The report highlights how malicious actors are using increasingly sophisticated methods to hide and obscure the presence and intent of their actions from government cyber watchdogs.</p> <p>Some forms of malware are being designed to evade modern security practices that isolate malicious code. Attackers also rely on cloud services like Dropbox and Google Docs to hide in the "noise" of legitimate network traffic.</p> <p>"Clearly the malware is getting more and more creative," said Dan Kent, chief technology officer for Cisco federal and director of engineering.</p> <p>As another example, the report points to the 2017 WannaCry attacks, which security researchers have attributed to The Lazarus Group and which Western governments, including the Trump administration, have said were conducted at the behest of North Korea. Though hundreds of thousands of computers were affected, only about 300 people actually paid the ransom, and the attacks yielded surprisingly small earnings, around \$143,000. Cisco researchers believe that the "ransomware" aspect of the attacks may have been "merely a smokescreen" to hide the real objective: wiping data.</p> <p>Dedicated denial of service attacks powered by hijacked IoT devices represent a real and growing threat, particularly reflection and amplification vectors that can exponentially increase the amount of traffic that botnets can direct. Kent said federal agencies tend to have better security procedures around their devices to prevent them from being hijacked, but their public facing websites are vulnerable to DDOS attacks. Additionally, the federal government plays a significant incident response and coordination role for the private sector and state and local governments, where the weaknesses are more pronounced.</p> <p>"What we've seen is without any type of perimeter anymore and clearly with some of these IoT devices ... you don't have the level of security" said Kent. "A lot of these devices get put on the network without IT even knowing until after the fact."</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>04/11 NSA: attack tactics rarely change</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.infosecurity-magazine.com/news/cyberuk18-nsa-attack-tactics-change/">https://www.infosecurity-magazine.com/news/cyberuk18-nsa-attack-tactics-change/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>“Every day we’re battling a new cyber-threat, but the more that things change the more that they stay the same.”</p> <p>Speaking at the CyberUK conference in Manchester, Dave Hogue, technical director of the NSA’s Cybersecurity Threat Operations Center (NCTOC) talked about a hack of the US Navy in 2012 that caused over \$12m of damage and caused a network to be taken down twice, however in 2017 hackers used a known vulnerability to hit Equifax and it has cost over \$600m to fix so far.</p> <p>“These two stories, five years apart, are discretionally similar in nature,” he said. “We have sophisticated</p>

adversaries using unsophisticated means to cause great damage. In fact, I'll tell you as the overseer of NSA's operational teams, we have not responded to a zero-day in over 24 months.

"Adversaries are getting into networks using non-technical means, taking advantage of hardware and software technologies that are not compliant with the latest offerings, and taking advantage of bad security practices such as solutions that are no longer vendor-supported."

Hough said that advice and solutions are widely available, such as application whitelisting, two-factor authentication and role-based access controls. "There are a lot of outdated things that are making a comeback," he said. "How can we get a better focus that the security industry is not conveying? Are we making progress? Probably not."

Hough called for a change in the paradigm, which he starts with everyone seeing themselves as part of operations "as the adversary goes after everything and everyone to achieve their objectives."

He said that the second part is to be more predictive and preventative, and build layers of defenses to defeat common layers of attack. This includes better collaboration and working to build a picture "that involves working across industry, government and academia sectors to have thorough and sustained campaigns that make it costly for the adversary to operate."

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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>04/10 Hackers target business supply chains</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://www.channelpro.co.uk/news/10806/hackers-target-business-supply-chains">http://www.channelpro.co.uk/news/10806/hackers-target-business-supply-chains</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>Hackers are targeting supply chain firms to gain access to commercially sensitive data from them and their customers, according to the UK's National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC).</p> <p>A large number of managed service providers (MSPs) were subject to such cyber attacks in 2017, according to the joint report by the National Cyber Security Centre (NSCS) and the National Crime Agency (NCA), which warned channel partners and their customers to take steps to defend against similar attacks this year.</p> <p>The report, titled 'The cyber threat to UK businesses 2017-2018', explained how such attacks, including the compromise of a large number of MSPs, are normally designed to breach confidentiality and integrity, but may also be designed to affect availability, through methods such as supplying defective equipment.</p> <p>The cost of web-based threat detection shouldn't be inaccessible for small businesses. Learn about how Cyberlytic helped protect an automotive company from online threats.</p> <p>Further opportunities for threat actors to interfere with the supply chain may also be afforded by inserting bugs into hardware and software updates for contracts where partners are responsible for the ongoing servicing of hardware or software.</p> <p>The report warned: "When done well, supply chain compromises are extremely difficult (and sometimes impossible) to detect.</p> <p>"Network monitoring can detect unusual or suspicious behaviour, but it is still difficult to ascertain whether a security flaw has been deliberately introduced (possibly as a backdoor) or results from a careless error on the part of developers or manufacturers - or indeed to prove that any potential access has been exploited. Services of almost any sort can be affected, particularly if they involve electronic connectivity or data import."</p> <p>Significant examples cited include two software companies, MeDoc and CCleaner, which were compromised at source, leading to their customers being infected with malware when downloading the software or any updates.</p>

UK businesses' cyber threat risk is "bigger than ever", the NCSC said, and the report revealed there had been there had been 34 significant attacks - defined as attacks that require a cross-government response - between October 2016 and the end of 2017, with 762 less severe attacks across this period.

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**HEADLINE** 04/10 DHS 'Cyber Storm' tests info-sharing

**SOURCE** <https://www.cyberscoop.com/dhs-cyber-storm-jeanette-manfra-critical-infrastructure/>

**GIST**

A global cybersecurity drill hosted Tuesday by the Department of Homeland Security served to “push participants out of their comfort zone” to practice information sharing at a time of heightened risk to critical infrastructure, top DHS cybersecurity official Jeanette Manfra said.

“Cyberthreats to critical infrastructure continue to grow and represent one of the most serious national security challenges we must confront,” Manfra told reporters, adding that participants will respond to a simulated global threat to infrastructure over the course of the three-day exercise.

This week’s exercise includes participants from the transportation and “critical manufacturing” sectors, the latter which DHS recently warned Russian government hackers were targeting in a multi-stage attack campaign. Aviation giant Boeing was hit by malware last month in an attack that stirred fears that the potent WannaCry ransomware had struck again.

More than 1,000 people, including corporate executives, law enforcement personnel and intelligence and defense officials, are participating in this sixth iteration of the exercise known as Cyber Storm, which DHS touts as “the most extensive government-sponsored cybersecurity exercise of its kind.” While a group of participants gathered at Secret Service headquarters in Washington, D.C., many others joined the drill from their own offices across the country.

Manfra defended the fact that voting systems are not an explicit focus of this year’s exercise despite ongoing concerns over their cyber vulnerabilities. Hackers targeted U.S. voting systems in multiple states ahead of the 2016 presidential election, and DHS last year designated those systems as part of the critical infrastructure the department is mandated to protect.

“We want to ensure that ... different sectors have an opportunity to participate,” Manfra said, adding “we have concerns going on with critical manufacturing [and] industrial control systems.”

Multiple U.S. states, which oversee voting systems, are participating in the exercise, she said, adding that just because a sector isn’t singled out as a focus of the exercise doesn’t mean it isn’t tested.

The seven participating states are Colorado, Delaware, Iowa, Montana, Texas, Virginia and Washington.

The latest version of the congressionally-mandated DHS exercise includes a simulated social media platform that bombards participants with information, which could include reports of a new software vulnerability. Manfra said that some vulnerability researchers have in recent years posted their discoveries to social media rather than going through a disclosure process, presenting a new challenge to government analysts.

Phyllis Schneck, DHS’s former deputy undersecretary for cybersecurity and communications, told CyberScoop that the biennial exercise had evolved considerably since its 2006 inception to keep pace with the threat landscape.

“Cyber Storm has evolved to focus on exercising multi-sector response to severe cyber events, building the muscle memory for action as a team so everyone knows what to do when, not if, a cyber-adversary

appears,” said Schneck, now the managing director and global leader of cyber solutions at consultancy Promontory.

The Cyber Storm exercise takes place as sophisticated hackers continue to probe the soft underbelly of U.S. critical infrastructure. DHS last month alerted industry that Russian government hackers had been using spearphishing and watering-hole attacks to collect information on industrial control systems used in critical U.S. energy sectors.

The energy sector, led by regulator North American Electric Reliability Corp., has been carrying out its own regular cyber drills to prepare for sophisticated attacks. The most recent version of that exercise, known as GridEx, revealed a shortage of security clearances for utility employees to share classified information.

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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>04/11 UK to launch crackdown on dark web</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.computerweekly.com/news/252438765/UK-to-launch-crackdown-on-dark-web">https://www.computerweekly.com/news/252438765/UK-to-launch-crackdown-on-dark-web</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>Home secretary Amber Rudd is to announce funding to crackdown on criminals who exploit the dark web at the National Cyber Security Centre’s CyberUK 2018 conference in Manchester.</p> <p>On the first day of the conference, the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) and National Crime Agency (NCA) released a joint report showing that UK businesses are suffering more cyber attacks than ever before.</p> <p>The newly announced funding will see £9m allocated to enabling UK law enforcement to tackle those who use the anonymity of dark web that is not indexed by search engines for illegal activities such as the selling of firearms, drugs, malware and people.</p> <p>More than £5m will also be used to support the police to establish dedicated cyber crime units to investigate and pursue cyber criminals at a regional and local level.</p> <p>The announcement comes eight months after a report by think tank Reform called for an overhaul of UK policing, including recruiting volunteers from the private sector to fight cyber crime, a huge increase in digital budgets, and upskilling officers.</p> <p>Currently only 30% of local police forces have a cyber capability that reaches the minimum standard. In March, a Parliament Street report revealed that UK police forces had spent only £1,320,341 on cyber crime training courses in the past three years, with some spending much more on training than others.</p> <p>The funding is part of £50m of newly allocated money to ensure police and prosecutors have the capabilities they need to tackle cyber crime at a national, regional and local level during 2018/2019.</p> <p>The initiative is aimed at matching the fast-developing world of cyber with a fast-developing response that recognises that it is the responsibility of everyone in the UK to fight the evolving threat.</p> <p>Making the announcement in Manchester, the home secretary is expected to say that the dark web is a “dangerous place” where anonymity emboldens people to break the law in the “most horrifying” of ways.</p> <p>Describing the dark web as a “platform of dangerous crimes and horrific abuse” with a “sickening shopping list of services and products”, Rudd will say that the £9m in funding will enable UK police to tackle criminals who operate in this part of cyber space.</p> <p>A proportion of the £50m in new funding will also be used to develop a new national training programme</p>

	for police and the wider criminal justice system, sponsored by the National Police Chiefs Council.
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>04/11 Germany: Russia behind cyberattack</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.reuters.com/article/us-germany-security/german-spy-chief-high-likelihood-moscow-behind-hack-on-german-government-idUSKBN1HI19D">https://www.reuters.com/article/us-germany-security/german-spy-chief-high-likelihood-moscow-behind-hack-on-german-government-idUSKBN1HI19D</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>BERLIN (Reuters) - The head of Germany's domestic intelligence agency on Wednesday said there was a "high likelihood" that the Russian government was behind a cyber attack on German computer networks, although he conceded it was difficult to be 100-percent certain.</p> <p>Hans-Georg Maassen told reporters that German authorities carefully monitored the attack after it was discovered in December, and it had not caused any damage.</p> <p>He said the attack had been found to have a Russian origin, although it was not linked to APT28, the Russian hacking group that attacked the German lower house of parliament in 2015.</p> <p>Maassen declined comment when asked to confirm reports from German lawmakers and security sources that the recent cyber attack had been linked to another Russian hacking group known as Snake or Turla.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>04/10 DHS: social media simulator in exercise</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.axios.com/dhs-cyberattack-simulator-social-media-22d0e60c-bfcd-4938-b64f-464a0fd09ae5.html">https://www.axios.com/dhs-cyberattack-simulator-social-media-22d0e60c-bfcd-4938-b64f-464a0fd09ae5.html</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>For the first time, the Department of Homeland Security is including a social media simulator in its annual exercise that simulates how the United States and the international community respond to a global cyber attack, Jeanette Manfra, the head of cybersecurity at DHS, told Axios at the exercise's kickoff at U.S. Secret Service's headquarters this morning.</p> <p><b>How it works:</b> The social media simulator is intended to replicate how people respond to news of a cyber attack, including simulations of tweets and news articles online, Manfra said. She would not discuss whether the exercise simulates the way bots have been increasingly impacting the way news spreads on Twitter.</p> <p><b>The exercise:</b> It's been happening biannually since 2006 in an effort to understand how actors respond when critical infrastructure is attacked. This year the exercise includes DHS, law enforcement, and participants from the manufacturing, IT, and communications sectors, Manfra said during a press briefing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>This year</b>, there are more than 1,000 participants "playing" worldwide, including the International Watch and Warning Network, which is made up of 15 countries that have agreed to share cyber threat information in the case of an international cyber crisis.</li> <li>• <b>Manfra told Axios</b> that the states participating in the exercise include Colorado, Delaware, Iowa, Montana, Texas, Washington, and Virginia. In the larger briefing, Manfra did not tell reporters whether voting systems were involved in the simulation this year, and instead pointed to the individual states involved.</li> </ul>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>04/10 Rethinking the social network</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.usnews.com/news/the-report/articles/2018-04-10/young-people-are-turning-against-">https://www.usnews.com/news/the-report/articles/2018-04-10/young-people-are-turning-against-</a>

[facebook](#)

GIST

IS FACEBOOK LOSING ITS base? The social media giant is already facing a credibility crisis, with CEO Mark Zuckerberg (in a suit, uncharacteristically) testifying before Congress amid complaints that Facebook violated the privacy of its users and allowed the site to be used for fake news and Russian-bot disinformation.

But a new poll by Harvard University's Institute of Politics shows that the site is held in low regard by young people. The poll of 18-29-year-olds found that 27 percent of respondents trust Facebook to "do the right thing" all or most of the time. Twitter, President Donald Trump's communications vehicle of choice, clocked in with the same low trust level.

The poll, the IOP's 35th biennial national survey of young people, was conducted before the revelations that the London-based elections consultant Cambridge Analytica had harvested personal information of Facebook users in an alleged effort to influence U.S. elections and the British Brexit vote, said John Della Volpe, director of the poll.

Both Amazon and Google got higher marks for good behavior than the social media sites, with 45 percent counting on the online retailer to do the right thing all or most of the time, and 44 percent sharing that view about the Internet search engine.

"Amazon is where we buy things, and Google is where we find things," Della Volpe said. But Facebook, is being viewed with increasing skepticism by young people who worry that their personal information is being collected to sell them things, said Teddy Landis, a 20-year-old Harvard sophomore who is student chairman of the Harvard Public Opinion Project.

"This generation is becoming more in tune with privacy, not being as willing to give up their information" as they once were, said freshman Will Matheson, a member of the opinion project. "They connect that fear to Facebook."

Facebook began in the early 2000s at Harvard, where then-student Mark Zuckerberg started "Facemash" (often described as a Harvard "hot-or-not" site) and turned it into a multibillion-dollar site where "friends" could share news and photos, as well as personal profile information.

The site came to play an important role in campaigns and elections. Barack Obama's campaign, for example, found that getting endorsed and mentioned in Facebook messages was often more effective than paying for TV campaign ads, since voters were more likely to trust information from someone they knew than from a professionally produced campaign commercial.

A study by University of California San Diego researchers found that in 2010, Facebook users whose feeds carried a message stating "Today is Election Day" and a clickable "I voted" button were more likely to report having actually voted than people who did not get the messages on their Facebook pages.

Social media is still a popular way for young people to connect, according to the IOP's earlier polling. The spring 2017 survey, for example, showed that 81 percent of youth have a Facebook account – 56 percent are on Instagram, 53 percent are on Snapchat and 42 percent are on Twitter. But 54 percent thought more than a quarter of what is on Facebook is "fake news," the poll found.

The current survey did not include a question about whether Facebook is a reliable source of information, but Landis said he personally has steered away from the social media platform recently.

"I have grown uncomfortable with the amount of information Facebook has about me," he said.

Other institutions fared poorly with young people as well, though trust was higher as the entities became more local. Just 22 percent trust the president to do the right thing all or most of the time, with the federal government, at 21 percent, and Congress, at 18 percent, coming in even lower. However, 34 percent say they have faith in their state governments all or most of the time, and 38 percent say the same about their

local governments. College or university administrations – a target of ire and sit-ins by students of an earlier protest era – had the trust of 61 percent of respondents (the last category was asked only of students).

When it comes to law enforcement, the trend was similar: 42 percent trust the FBI to do the right thing all or most of the time; 35 percent felt that way about the U.S. Justice Department, and a majority – 52 percent – had faith in their local police departments.

"The more local government is, the more tangible it is," Della Volpe said, explaining the preference for closer-in institutions. But what's really driving the disparity, the Harvard students said, was a disgust with Washington and its political players. "You people are just upset with national institutions broadly," Matheson said.

The poll also found that young people are more inclined to vote this fall than they were in any midterm election in the poll's 18-year history: 37 percent of under-30s said they will "definitely" be voting in November, compared to 23 percent in 2014 and 31 percent in 2010 – the last wave election.

Young voters are a potentially powerful group – but only if they show up. Obama, for example, benefited greatly from youth voting, both in the primaries, where aggressive campaigning on college campuses helped him with the 2008 Iowa caucuses, as well as the general elections. Obama took two-thirds of the 18-29-year-old vote in 2008 and 60 percent in 2012, according to exit polls.

But getting voters to turn up at the polls for midterms is a struggle, especially when it comes to young voters. A study by the Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement found that just over a fifth, 21.5 percent, of 18-29-year-olds voted in the last midterms, in 2014. That compares to the 36.4 percent of eligible voters overall who cast ballots in 2014.

The IOP poll showed that 58 percent of youth favor Democratic control of Congress over Republican, at 36 percent. But neither party is above water when it comes to approval of their job performances. Democrats in Congress got a 41 percent approval rating from the under-30s, with Republicans earning the approval of just 24 percent.

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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>04/10 Cybercriminals could earn CEO-level pay</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.infosecurity-magazine.com/news/cybercriminals-could-earn-ceolevel/">https://www.infosecurity-magazine.com/news/cybercriminals-could-earn-ceolevel/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>High-earning cyber-criminals make as much as \$2m per year, almost as much as the average FTSE CEO, a new study from Bromium has claimed.</p> <p>The security vendor commissioned Mike McGuire, senior lecturer in criminology at Surrey University, to produce the report, which is based on first-hand interviews with convicted cyber-criminals, and data from international law enforcers, financial institutions and the Dark Web.</p> <p>The study, Into the Web of Profit, claimed that even “mid-level” hackers could earn as much as \$900,000 annually – more than double the US presidential salary.</p> <p>Those at the “entry-level” of their black hat trade can expect to make over \$40,000, more than a UK university graduate.</p> <p>The research highlights one of the problems facing the IT industry in recruiting those with the right skills – that there will be a significant minority potentially prepared to seek employment on the other side of the law.</p> <p>The issue is especially acute in the public sector and across UK law enforcement, where austerity cuts mean forces can’t offer competitive salaries.</p>



	<p>The starting salary for a National Crime Agency (NCA) trainee officer is just £23-£25,000, according to estimates.</p> <p>“Cybercrime is a lucrative business, with relatively low risks compared to other forms of crime. Cyber-criminals are rarely caught and convicted because they are virtually invisible. As criminals further monetize their business allowing anyone to buy pre-packaged malware or hire hackers on demand, the ability to catch the king-pins becomes even more challenging,” said Bromium CEO Gregory Webb.</p> <p>“The cybersecurity industry, business and law enforcement agencies need to come together to disrupt hackers and cut off their revenue streams. By focusing on new methods of cybersecurity that protect rather than detect, we believe we can make cybercrime a lot harder.”</p> <p>The report also detailed what cyber-criminals like to spend their ill-gotten gains on. Many (30%) look to invest in property, art or legitimate financial instruments, while others (20%) plough that money back into IT equipment.</p> <p>However, a sizeable number (20%) also spend their money on drugs, prostitutes and the like, according to the report.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>04/10 Organizations fail timely threat detection</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.infosecurity-magazine.com/news/organizations-failing-at-timely/">https://www.infosecurity-magazine.com/news/organizations-failing-at-timely/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>Detection and remediation capabilities still need work at most organizations: Less than half of all organizations in a benchmark survey from LogRhythm were able to detect a major cybersecurity incident within one hour. Even more concerning, more than two-thirds said that even if they detected a major incident, they would be unable to contain it within that same time frame.</p> <p>The study surveyed 751 IT decision makers from the US, UK and Asia-Pacific and found that there are many factors that enable a security team to quickly detect and respond to an incident, including technology, process, programs and people.</p> <p>When it comes to technology, a strong majority (nearly 80%) of IT executives said that a platform for security management, analysis and response is beneficial, though only about a third rate such a platform as “very” beneficial. This response may reinforce the notion that true security confidence cannot be created with technology alone.</p> <p>When asked to consider how their organization is operating from a threat lifecycle management (TLM) perspective – as an approach that includes discovery, qualification, neutralization and recovery from cyber-attacks – IT executives were not overly optimistic. About a third of all respondents reported that they need help at virtually all stages in the TLM workflow, especially detecting, investigating, neutralizing and recovering from cyber-threats.</p> <p>“Cyber-threats continue to grow in volume and intensity. Seemingly every month, another massive security breach dominates the headlines,” said Matt Winter, VP of marketing and business development at LogRhythm. “To combat these threats, organizations need to carefully plan their budgets and strategies while developing effective programs that tackle specific threats and keep them one step ahead of cyber-attackers.”</p> <p>The survey also uncovered that many companies are focused on growing their security maturity, and team size is an important indicator. On average, companies employ 12 cybersecurity professionals in their organization. However, more than half of the respondents said that they employ 10 or fewer.</p> <p>Special threat detection programs are another indicator of security maturity. This study found that most</p>

decision-makers – more than 70% of respondents – have programs in place to detect specific threats, such as ransomware, insider or employee threats, and denial of service (DoS) attacks. The vast majority of IT decision makers (95%) also use security software to prevent and react to threats. And more than a quarter deploy at least 10 security software solutions to manage security threats.

As a result of all of this, a majority of organizations are only moderately confident in their ability to protect their companies against hackers. When it comes to confidence levels, about half of security decision makers believe that a determined hacker can still breach their organization. In fact, over one-third reported that their company has experienced a breach in the past year –ranging from 29% in the United States to 39% in the Asia-Pacific region.

When specifically asked about level of confidence, these decision makers revealed that they have only moderately positive confidence in their cybersecurity measures and abilities, suggesting an attitude that is more hopeful than truly confident.

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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>04/10 Cryptomining in corporate networks spike</b>
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<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.infosecurity-magazine.com/news/cryptomining-spikes-500/">https://www.infosecurity-magazine.com/news/cryptomining-spikes-500/</a>
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<b>GIST</b>	<p>The volume of crypto-mining transactions has grown, spiking almost 500% on corporate networks.</p> <p>Cybersecurity firm Zscaler has blocked more than 2.5 billion crypto-mining attempts in the last six months. The spike, the firm said, is likely tied to the sharp increase in value of cryptocurrency (Bitcoin hit highs above \$19,000 in December) and the fact that legitimate sites are adopting crypto-mining as a source of revenue instead of online advertisements.</p> <p>Cybercriminals are of course also taking advantage of the trend by injecting JavaScript (JS) code into compromised legitimate sites to conduct crypto-mining activities unbeknownst to site owners and visitors. In some cases, malicious advertisements are being leveraged for browser-based crypto-mining activities.</p> <p>The web-based mining kit known as Coinhive dominates the crypto-miner market, with the fastest growth and with the vast majority of crypto-miners in the enterprise traffic seen on the Zscaler cloud. The embedding of Coinhive in websites has evolved over time, the firm said, with numerous compromised sites now using JavaScript obfuscation and final code masquerading as Google analytics JS code to viewers.</p> <p>The category of domains that were used most for browser-based mining activity include nudity/pornography and streaming media. The average browsing time for users on video-streaming sites tends to be higher, allowing miners to maximize their activity as users stay on these sites to view movies or play games. The professional services and marketing category sites ranked high as well, demonstrating the prevalence of mining activity on corporate networks.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>04/10 What social media, search engines know</b>
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<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.securityweek.com/what-social-media-platforms-and-search-engines-know-about-you">https://www.securityweek.com/what-social-media-platforms-and-search-engines-know-about-you</a>
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<b>GIST</b>	<p>The Facebook scandal involving the harvesting of data from tens of millions of users has raised a lot of questions about social media and search engines.</p> <p>As Facebook founder and CEO Mark Zuckerberg testifies before the US Congress this week on protecting user data, here is a primer on what they know about you:</p> <p><b>Social media</b></p> <p>Facebook, which has more than two billion users, has access to everything you do on the site: the photos</p>
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and videos you post, your comments, your 'likes,' anything you share or consult, the identity of your friends and any other users you interact with, your location and other information.

Ditto for Instagram and WhatsApp, which are owned by Facebook, and for Snapchat and Twitter. A user can control some sharing of their Facebook data with privacy settings and the ad preferences page.

- **What it sells:** Facebook insists it does not sell advertisers personally identifiable information or even aggregate data. What it provides an advertiser with is the ability to reach a specific demographic, which enhances the effectiveness of an ad campaign. Twitter, for its part, provides access to an internal search engine that sweeps up all messages on the site.

- **What it shares:** Most social media platforms are open to outside developers who create apps fed in varying degrees by using data from users of these networks. In the case of Facebook, the public profile -- the whole page for some people, or just the first and last name and photo for others -- does not require authorization from the user, but accessing the rest may require a separate OK from the user.

Once data is mined by outside apps, it is no longer in the grasp of Facebook and trying to get hold of it again is difficult.

"Once people had access to that data, Facebook has no way of knowing for sure what they did with that data," said Ryan Matzner, co-founder of mobile app designer Fueled. "It's like sending an email to somebody and then saying: 'What did they do with that email?' You don't know."

Only bank and payment details held by Facebook are off-limits.

### **Search engines**

- **What they collect:** Google, Yahoo and Bing gather all information involving searches including the websites that are accessed and the location of the user. This can be integrated with information from other services owned by the internet giants.

"You don't have to tell Google your age and your gender and all those things. They can determine all of that based on so many other factors," said Chirag Shah, a computer science professor at Rutgers University.

- **What they sell:** Like social networks, their revenue comes largely from advertising. They do not sell data, but rather access to a consumer with very specific characteristics.

This comes from compiling search engine data but also, in the case of Google, from searches and content viewed on its YouTube platform. Google used to also mine the content of Gmail before ending this practice in June.

- **What they share:** Like social media networks, search engines share data with developers and third-party app makers.

### **Are there limits?**

In the United States there are practically no laws against the use of data from social media or search engines.

But the Federal Trade Commission did sanction Facebook in 2011 for its handling of personal data. In Canada and Europe, there are some limits on the use of data, mainly involving health.

Facebook was fined 110 million euros (\$135.7 million) by the European Commission last year for sharing personal data with WhatsApp.

In an attempt to harmonize data privacy laws, the EU's [General Data Protection Regulation](#) is to go into force on May 25.

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**HEADLINE** 04/10 Report: ransomware running rampant

**SOURCE** <https://www.scmagazine.com/verizon-report-ransomware-runs-rampant-responsible-for-39-of-malware-caused-breaches/article/757535/>

**GIST** Ransomware was the most commonly detected malware in data breaches and related security incidents last year, climbing from fourth overall in 2016 and all the way from the 22nd spot five years ago, according to Verizon's just released 2018 Data Breach Investigations Report.

Based on its research data, Verizon recorded 53,308 security incidents in 65 countries during the period of Nov. 1, 2016 to Oct. 31, 2017 – over 11,000 more events than the previous annual period. Verizon also registered 2,216 data breaches over the past year's worth of data collection, compared to 1,935 the previous year.

Malware was involved in a far smaller share of breaches this time around, compared to the previous year – 30 percent versus 51 percent, respectively – but when malware was found, ransomware was determined to be the culprit a leading 39 percent of the time. What's worse, Verizon noted ransomware attacks increasingly targeted critical systems and data centers, rendering entire businesses inoperable while strengthening cybercriminals' leverage and ballooning their ransom demands.

“Ransomware remains a significant threat for companies of all sizes,” said Bryan Sartin, executive director, security professional services at Verizon, in a press release. “It is now the most prevalent form of malware, and its use has increased significantly over recent years. What is interesting to us is that businesses are still not investing in appropriate security strategies to combat ransomware, meaning they end up with no option but to pay the ransom – the cybercriminal is the only winner here!”

Itzik Mantin, head of data security research at Imperva, said in comments the proliferation of ransomware is "anything but surprising," considering that the ransomware economy is "going through industrialization, allowing attackers to [launch] campaigns from building blocks they purchase or obtain in dark net forums..."

Christian Vezina, CISO at VASCO Data Security, agreed that ransomware was an "important issue" in 2017, but "rogue cryptocurrency mining will probably surpass ransomware in terms of revenues for cybercriminals this year."

Mounir Hahad, head of Juniper Threat Labs at Juniper Networks, also believes ransomware could soon take a back seat, if only temporarily. "We are likely to see a see a reprieve before the next storm of ransomware attacks," said Hahad. "Some threat actors are dipping their toes into the cryptocurrency pond to see if they can make a decent return on what is perceived as a lesser crime, namely cryptocurrency mining. Other threat actors will probably get pulled into the market of hacking for political actors, be it nation states or groups with political interests. This will lead to an increase in attacks like DDoS or destructors disguised as ransomware, and the targeting [of] critical infrastructure."

Outside of ransomware, other tactics used to facilitate breaches were hacking ( the leading category, representing 48 percent of breaches), followed by errors (17%), social engineering attacks (17%), privilege misuse (12%) and physical actions (11%).

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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>04/10 Class action lawsuit targets Facebook</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.scmagazine.com/facebook-slapped-with-class-action-suit-over-privacy-data-gathering-infractions/article/757559/">https://www.scmagazine.com/facebook-slapped-with-class-action-suit-over-privacy-data-gathering-infractions/article/757559/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>Facebook “stood idly by” while Cambridge University professor Aleksandr Kogan raided user accounts through a quiz app and shared the information with data analytics firm Cambridge Analytica and “made only the weakest attempts to prevent further access to this data,” according to a class action lawsuit filed in a U.S. District Court in California.</p> <p>The complaint accuses the social media firm – whose CEO Mark Zuckerberg is testifying before Congress today about the Cambridge Analytica fiasco, the company's data collection and sharing practices and the steps it has taken to tighten privacy and data protection – of violating its own policies and privacy law.</p> <p>“Facebook has repeatedly failed to uphold its own privacy agreements and policies, and it's brazenly neglected the data security of the billions of those who use its social media service,” Steve Berman, managing partner of Hagens Berman law firm, which is representing plaintiffs in the suit, said in a release. “Instead of choosing to be vigilant, making appropriate investments in data security and stopping this massive harvesting of users' information by third parties, Facebook stood by as the private information of millions was funneled into the hands of bad actors.”</p> <p>Berman noted that “had a brave whistleblower not come forward with this information, tens of millions of Facebook users would have never known the truth.” The complaint noted that “the price of entry to Facebook's social network is personal information” and the suit is seeking what it maintains are the unjust gains gotten by the company at the expense of its users.</p> <p>“Facebook has made immense profits off of the data of our plaintiffs and the rest of the estimated 70 million U.S. Facebook users whose data was freely given to third parties without their knowledge or consent,” said Berman. “We believe they deserve payback. Facebook should not have been allowed to profit from this data, and it violated its own terms for profit.”</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>04/10 Pranksters deface YouTube videos</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.scmagazine.com/hackers-defaced-several-high-profile-videos-including-those-by-katy-perry-shakira-drake-selena-gomez-adele-and-taylor-swift/article/757527/">https://www.scmagazine.com/hackers-defaced-several-high-profile-videos-including-those-by-katy-perry-shakira-drake-selena-gomez-adele-and-taylor-swift/article/757527/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>A group of cyber pranksters defaced an array of some of the most popular YouTube music videos by changing titles and thumbnail images on the singer's VEVO accounts.</p> <p>Hackers calling themselves “Prosox” and “Kuroi'SH,” targeted high profile videos including those by Katy Perry, Shakira, Drake, Selena Gomez, Adele, Taylor Swift and the most-viewed YouTube video of all time, Luis Fonsi's “Despacito,” featuring Daddy Yankee, according to an April 10 ESET blog post.</p> <p>The pranksters changed the “Despacito” video's thumbnail to an image of masked robbers from TV heist drama “La Casa de Papel” (also known as “Money Heist”) and included a message underneath saying “Free Palestine” and used similar images and messaging for other videos.</p> <p>It is unclear whether or not the hackers found a vulnerability in the YouTube platform or why they only tampered with VEVO music videos, but one of the hackers said the defacement wasn't intended to be malicious.</p> <p>“It's just for fun I just use script ‘youtube-change-title-video’ and I write ‘hacked,’” one of the reported hackers tweeted from the ProsoxW3b Twitter account.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>04/10 Facebook offers 'data abuse bounty'</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://thehackernews.com/2018/04/facebook-data-abuse-bounty.html">https://thehackernews.com/2018/04/facebook-data-abuse-bounty.html</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>Facebook pays millions of dollars every year to researchers and bug hunters to stamp out security holes in its products and infrastructure, but following Cambridge Analytica scandal, the company today launched a bounty program to reward users for reporting "data abuse" on its platform.</p> <p>The move comes as Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg prepares to testify before Congress this week amid scrutiny over the data sharing controversy surrounding Cambridge Analytica, a political consultancy firm that obtained and misused data on potentially 87 million of its users.</p> <p>Through its new "Data Abuse Bounty" program, Facebook would ask users to help the social media giant find app developers misusing data, Facebook announced Tuesday.</p> <p>Similar to its existing bug bounty program, the Data Abuse Bounty program will reward a sum of money to anyone who reports valid events of data collection that violate Facebook's revamped data policies.</p> <p>"This program is complementary to our existing bug bounty program in that it 'follows the data' even if the root cause isn't a security flaw in Facebook's code," the company explains.</p> <p>"Bad actors can maliciously collect and abuse Facebook user data even when no security vulnerabilities exist. This program is intended to protect against that abuse."</p> <p>The impact of each report will determine the sum of money Facebook would pay. The "high-impact bug reports" could help users win up to \$40,000, though the company notes that there's no maximum payout, and you can even receive more than \$40,000 for big discoveries.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>04/10 Facebook: no need children privacy law</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.zdnet.com/article/at-hearing-zuckerberg-rejects-law-to-protect-the-privacy-of-children/">https://www.zdnet.com/article/at-hearing-zuckerberg-rejects-law-to-protect-the-privacy-of-children/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>Facebook chief executive Mark Zuckerberg said he would not support a law that would give children greater privacy protections on sites like Facebook.</p> <p>The social network's boss was testifying in a joint session of the Senate Judiciary and Commerce Committees over matters of data protection.</p> <p>Sen. Ed Markey, a Democrat for Massachusetts, asked if Zuckerberg would "support a law to ensure that kids under 16 have this privacy bill of rights?"</p> <p>Markey was proposing a so-called "bill of rights" for teenagers, which would in effect bridge the gap between Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA), which protects children under the age of 13, and additional measures that would help protect the privacy of American adults.</p> <p>But Zuckerberg would not support the proposed law.</p> <p>"I think it's an important principle," said the Facebook chief, and that it "deserves a lot of discussion." But when pressed, Zuckerberg said: "I don't know if we need a law."</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>04/10 Report: guiding ethical hackers</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.zdnet.com/article/as-legal-threats-rise-this-new-report-aims-to-guide-ethical-hackers/">https://www.zdnet.com/article/as-legal-threats-rise-this-new-report-aims-to-guide-ethical-hackers/</a>

<b>GIST</b>	<p>Security researchers, ethical hackers, and bug hunters spend their days trying to make the world safer and more secure. And yet the US legal system makes it almost impossible for them to do their jobs, thanks to flimsy interpretations of long, outdated laws.</p> <p>Security researchers have a target on their backs — and looming threats of legal action and lawsuits have many concerned.</p> <p>In the past year alone, there have been several lawsuits and legal actions against security researchers, who find and report software and hardware weaknesses in the hope that companies will fix them. That's led to a "chilling effect," whereby the good-guy hackers hesitate to report vulnerabilities and weaknesses to technology firms for fear of facing legal action.</p> <p>That's where a new study carried out by the Center for Democracy &amp; Technology, a Washington DC-based non-profit, comes in. Its authors, Joseph Lorenzo Hall and Stan Adams, set out to determine by popular agreement the limits that ethical hackers can reach.</p> <p>"The premise of the report is to get a sense of the forces that shape or chill the work of security researchers, hackers, and tinkerers, by asking them directly what kinds of considerations shape what they can and cannot do," said Lorenzo Hall in an email.</p> <p>The report admits that it's impossible to create a unified code of conduct that could easily apply to all the various activities undertaken by hackers and security researchers. Instead, the report detailed a "risk basis" to help security researchers determine the level of risk they may face for the activities they conduct.</p> <p>"Since security researchers tend to push into grey areas where the law is unclear, an understanding of the law's 'chilling effects' on security research has been a major concern of those who work in and with information security," said the report authors.</p> <p>The report dives into the laws that govern the security space, including the notorious Computer Fraud and Abuse Act (CFAA), widely seen as the foundation of US hacking laws.</p> <p>The problem is that they were written in the 1980s at a time where even the smartest minds couldn't have foreseen smartphones, cloud storage, and vast web-based services -- like Facebook or Google.</p> <p>The report found that half of those interviewed said the CFAA is a "primary source" of risk.</p> <p>The reality is that there is no specific line in the sand of what is "legal" and "not legal" in security research. Hackers are often subject to a sort-of Russian roulette -- nine out of 10 vulnerable companies could thank a researcher, but it only takes one disgruntled company to initiate frivolous and unnecessary criminal action.</p> <p>Alongside the study, more than 50 security researchers and journalists (disclosure: including this reporter) have signed an open letter to support legal and legitimate security research. The letter lands in the wake of recently settled and ongoing legal action against researchers and reporters.</p> <p>The letter said that lawsuits "not only endanger a free and open press," but deter researchers from reporting vulnerabilities and weaknesses "for fear of facing legal retribution."</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>04/10 Apologetic Zuckerberg offers mea culpa</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.cbsnews.com/news/apologetic-zuckerberg-offers-mea-culpa-on-first-day-of-hearings-on-facebook-data-scandal/">https://www.cbsnews.com/news/apologetic-zuckerberg-offers-mea-culpa-on-first-day-of-hearings-on-facebook-data-scandal/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	WASHINGTON -- Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg made his long-awaited appearance before Congress and apologized for the privacy scandal that has rocked the social media giant. Investors liked his testimony

-- Facebook's stock soared, making the billionaire even wealthier.

Zuckerberg was being questioned by more than 40 senators, some of whom don't buy his note of contrition.

The man in the middle of a firestorm over privacy offered a full mea culpa at a joint hearing of two Senate committees, CBS News' Nancy Cordes reports.

"We didn't take a broad enough view of our responsibility, and that was a big mistake, and it was my mistake and I'm sorry," Zuckerberg said before Congress.

Grilling him were dozens of skeptical senators, who said Facebook has a history of jeopardizing user data.

"We've seen the apology tours before," said Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Connecticut.

"After more than a decade of promises to do better, how is today's apology different?" said Sen. John Thune, R-South Dakota.

"So, we have made a lot of mistakes in running the company," Zuckerberg said. "I think it's pretty much impossible, I believe, to start a company in your dorm room and grow it to be the scale we're at now without making some mistakes."

The mistake that's engulfing him now is the harvesting of user information in 2015 by a third-party app posing as a personality quiz. The data was sold to Cambridge Analytica, a political consulting firm that worked for the Trump campaign.

"When you discovered that Cambridge Analytica had fraudulently obtained all this information, why didn't you inform those 87 million?" said Sen. Bill Nelson, D-Florida, referring to the number of users whose data could have been compromised.

"We did take action," Zuckerberg answered. "We took down the app, and we demanded that both the app developer and Cambridge Analytica delete and stop using any data that they had. They told us that they did this. In retrospect, it was clearly a mistake to believe them."

Some senators argued the problem is Facebook itself.

"Your business model is to maximize profit over privacy," Blumenthal said.

They said Facebook doesn't make it clear enough how that data is used and how to protect it.

"Is Facebook being safe?" said Sen. Debra Fischer, R-Nebraska.

"Senator, I think Facebook is safe. I use it and my family uses it," Zuckerberg answered. "I think everyone should have control over how data is used. Every time they share something they have control right there about who they share it with."

Zuckerberg's decision to share appeared to pay off for him and the company. After a month-long slump, Facebook stock jumped 4.5 percent Tuesday afternoon, driving his net worth up by nearly \$3 billion.

"Nothing in life is free," said Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah. He argued that data collection comes with benefits for users of Facebook and Google.

"These great websites that don't charge for access, they extract value in some other way and there is nothing wrong with that as long as they are upfront about what they are doing," Hatch said.

Zuckerberg revealed that some Facebook executives have been interviewed by special counsel Robert



Mueller, who is investigating Russian meddling on the site and elsewhere. This is the 33-year-old executive's first time testifying on Capitol Hill, and his second time will come Wednesday, when he goes before a House committee.

Wired editor-in-chief and CBS News contributor Nick Thompson said he felt Zuckerberg "did OK" and "answered the questions thoroughly and seemed confident."

One thing that stood out to Thompson was Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-South Carolina, question about if Facebook is a monopoly.

"That's the hardest question and Zuckerberg doesn't have an answer because they effectively do have a monopoly," Thompson said. "So Graham's follow-up -- how do we trust you self-regulate if you're a monopoly? -- that's one of the hardest questions."

Thompson said Congress will face a decision about regulation. Thompson predicted there "probably" will be regulation on ads and "maybe" on privacy, but it "could get very intense" if Congress deals with antitrust regulation.

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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>04/10 Reddit bans Russian troll accounts</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://abcnews.go.com/Technology/reddit-bans-944-accounts-suspected-links-russian-troll/story?id=54379601&amp;cid=clicksource_79_2_hero_headlines_bsq_hed">https://abcnews.go.com/Technology/reddit-bans-944-accounts-suspected-links-russian-troll/story?id=54379601&amp;cid=clicksource_79_2_hero_headlines_bsq_hed</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>Reddit has banned 944 accounts, suspected to be of Russian origin, for spreading propaganda and misinformation on its platform.</p> <p>In a blog post, the company announced Tuesday that these accounts have suspicious characteristics that suggest they originate from the Russian Internet Research Agency (IRA).</p> <p>The IRA is the Russian “troll farm” based in St. Petersburg that the FBI and the Robert Mueller investigation charges with spreading misinformation and propaganda aimed at influencing the 2016 U.S. presidential election.</p> <p>However, most of the banned accounts gained little traction on Reddit.</p> <p>Each Reddit user has a karma score that goes up and down based on how popular that user’s posts are on the platform. If a post is up-voted to the top of a Reddit page, the user's post will gain karma points. However, if fellow users downvote the post, it loses a karma point. Seventy percent (662) of the suspicious accounts had a zero karma score, meaning their posts would not have been seen by many Reddit users.</p> <p>Here's a breakdown of the accounts and their karma points on the platform:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-- 70 percent (662) had zero karma</li> <li>-- 1 percent (8) had negative karma</li> <li>-- 22 percent (203) had 1 to 999 karma</li> <li>-- 6 percent (58) had 1,000 to 9,999 karma</li> <li>-- 1 percent (13) had a karma score of 10,000+</li> </ul> <p>Reddit also points out that of the remaining 30 percent (282) -- the more active accounts of the bunch -- more than half of them (145) were banned prior to the 2016 U.S. presidential election.</p> <p>However, some of the accounts were posting actively -- as recently as April 9. In total, only seven highly influential accounts, with a karma score over 10,000, went undetected prior to Reddit’s recent investigation in Russian exploitation of the platform.</p>

	All 944 accounts have been blocked from posting or interacting but are still visible to allow investigators to evaluate the posts.
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>04/10 Facebook: arms race w/Russia</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-43719784">http://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-43719784</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg has told US Senators his company is in a constant battle with Russian operators seeking to exploit the social network.</p> <p>"This is an arms race. They're going to keep getting better," he said.</p> <p>Mr Zuckerberg was answering questions in the wake of the Cambridge Analytica data collection scandal.</p> <p>He also revealed Robert Mueller, the special counsel investigating alleged Russian meddling in the 2016 election, had interviewed Facebook staff.</p> <p>Mr Zuckerberg said he has not been among those interviewed by Mr Mueller's office. But he added: "Our work with the special counsel is confidential and I want to make sure that in an open session I'm not revealing something that's confidential".</p> <p>In February, Mr Mueller's office charged 13 Russians with interference in the 2016 election, along with three Russian companies.</p> <p>One was the Internet Research Agency, sometimes referred to as a "Russian troll farm", which the indictment said had a "strategic goal to sow discord in the US political system".</p> <p>Mr Zuckerberg said the company was now developing new tools to identify fake accounts.</p> <p>"There are people in Russia whose job it is to try to exploit our systems and other internet systems and other systems as well. We need to invest in getting better at this too."</p> <p>The Facebook CEO was appearing in front of a joint session of several US senate committees, after it was revealed in recent weeks that about 87 million people had their profile information accessed by marketing firm Cambridge Analytica.</p> <p>During the hearing, Mr Zuckerberg also said:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ "It's clear now that we didn't do enough to prevent these tools from being used for harm"</li> <li>▪ "In retrospect it was clearly a mistake" to believe Cambridge Analytica deleted data, without further examination</li> <li>▪ He does not "feel like" Facebook has a monopoly</li> <li>▪ That there would always be a free version of Facebook</li> <li>▪ Dealing with hate speech automatically has "a higher error rate than I am happy with"</li> <li>▪ He was personally concerned about the possibility of political bias at the company</li> </ul> <p>By the first break in proceedings, Facebook's share price had risen by almost 5%, as markets reacted favourably to Mr Zuckerberg's performance.</p> <p>What is the Cambridge Analytica scandal about?</p> <p>The company is best known for its association with Donald Trump's 2016 election campaign, and has claimed it played "an integral part" in Mr Trump's victory.</p> <p>But it says none of the data involved in the recent scandal was used to help the Trump campaign.</p>

	<p>The news that a personality quiz developed by an academic, Aleksandr Kogan, had collected data not just from the people who used it but also from their Facebook friends was revealed by newspaper investigations. Mr Kogan then sold the data to Cambridge Analytica.</p> <p>Both companies lay the blame on Mr Kogan. Facebook says that although users gave permission to Mr Kogan's app to collect their information, selling it on was against the terms of service.</p> <p>Cambridge Analytica, meanwhile, claims it did not know the information had been obtained improperly. During Mr Zuckerberg's appearance, the firm tweeted it was "advising" news media - through its lawyers - about coverage.</p> <p>Both companies also say they moved to have the data deleted once they learned of the problem in 2015.</p> <p>Hours ahead of the congressional hearing, Facebook also revealed that private messages from some 1,500 users were included in the data collection.</p>
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## Terror Conditions

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HEADLINE	04/10 Terror threat snapshot
SOURCE	<a href="https://homeland.house.gov/press/mccaull-releases-april-terror-threat-snapshot-2/">https://homeland.house.gov/press/mccaull-releases-april-terror-threat-snapshot-2/</a>
GIST	<p>Washington, D.C. – House Homeland Security Committee <b>Chairman Michael McCaul</b> (R-TX) today released April's <i><b>Terror Threat Snapshot</b></i>, a monthly assessment of the Committee's continuing effort to highlight the growing threat America, the West, and the world face from ISIS and other Islamist terrorists.</p> <p><b>Key Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As the Iraqi government continues to regain control of territory, the focus shifts from defeating ISIS on the field of battle to processing captured fighters. Currently over 19,000 individuals with ISIS or terror-related connections are being held. The government has sentenced over 3,000 of them to death. This includes not only enemy combatants, but also foreign wives of terrorists, which are estimated to number around 560.</li> <li>March 1, 2018: The U.S. Department of State has added seven organizations and two individuals with ties to ISIS to the Specially Designated Global Terrorists (SDGT) list and as Foreign Terrorist Organizations (FTO). The groups are, ISIS West Africa, ISIS Philippines, ISIS Bangladesh, ISIS Somalia, Jund al-Khilafah-Tunisia, ISIS Egypt, and Maute Group. The individuals are, Mahad Moalim, the ISIS-Somalia deputy leader and Abu Musab al-Barnawi, the ISIS-West Africa leader. The SDGT designation prohibits U.S. citizens from engaging in transactions or providing assistance to these groups and individuals.</li> <li>Filipino authorities have confirmed that 23 armed groups have consolidated under one banner, calling themselves ISIS Philippines. This news comes five months after the Filipino military ended the Marawi Siege in October 2017, where they defeated the Maute Group, an ISIS affiliate.</li> <li>March 30, 2018: Noor Salman, 31, widow of Omar Mateen who in 2016 attacked Pulse nightclub on behalf of ISIS, was acquitted on charges of lying to the FBI and assisting Mateen in the attack. Her defense claimed that she was easily manipulated, and had a low IQ. They also made the case that she could not have helped Mateen plan the attack, as it was a last minute decision to target Pulse nightclub.</li> </ul>
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HEADLINE	04/11 UK prisons: 700 on extremism list
SOURCE	<a href="http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/700-inmates-in-uk-on-prison-extremism-list-118041100772_1.html">http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/700-inmates-in-uk-on-prison-extremism-list-118041100772_1.html</a>
GIST	Around 700 inmates lodged in the UK's jails pose a risk due to their extremist views, the UK government

said today as it announced the opening of a second high-security unit dubbed "jihadi jails" in northern England.

The Ministry of Justice also noted a 75 per cent increase in prisoners convicted of terrorism-related offences in Britain in the last three years.

The new high-security separation centre opens at HMP Full Sutton in Yorkshire as part of measures to curtail the influence of the most "disruptive" and "subversive" inmates, with a third such facility set to be in operation by the end of this year.

The first separation centre opened at HMP Frankland near Durham in north-east England in July 2017.

"As a result of the government's unprecedented action to protect the public from extremists, we have seen a 75 per cent rise in terrorism-related prisoners over the last three years. That means we need to do more than ever before to confront and counter the threat, including the spread of all forms of poisonous ideology within prisons and we are meeting that challenge," said UK Justice Secretary David Gauke.

"With thousands of prison staff now trained to deal with extremism, an enhanced intelligence capability and separation centres for the most subversive prisoners, we are well equipped to deal with this threat," he added.

The minister said a new prisons intelligence unit has also been established and thousands of prison staff have received specialist training to spot signs of radicalisation, with every new prison officer enrolled on the programme.

The intelligence unit is aimed at boosting the ability of prison officers to target those who present the greatest extremist threat as well as tackle the threat from foreign fighters returning "hardened and dangerous" from war zones like Syria and Iraq.

As part of a series of initiatives, 100 counter-terrorism specialists have been appointed and over 13,000 frontline staff have been trained to ensure they can identify, report and tackle extremist behaviour in all its forms.

Its new prison separation centre will allow more offenders to be separated from the mainstream prisoner population, providing a crucial provision in tackling extremism, the ministry said.

"Offenders are placed in the centre if they are involved in planning terrorism or are considered to pose a risk to national security. Those seeking to influence others to commit terrorist crimes, or whose extremist views are undermining good order and security in prison, can also be placed there," it added.

A joint prison service and UK Home Office Extremism Unit has also been operational since April last year to tackle the threat of all forms of extremism in prisons, including Islamist as well as far-right.

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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>04/10 Groups sue over terrorism report</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://thehill.com/regulation/382516-groups-sue-trump-administration-over-terrorism-report">http://thehill.com/regulation/382516-groups-sue-trump-administration-over-terrorism-report</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>A civil rights organization and a watchdog group are suing the Trump administration for allegedly issuing a misleading report on terrorism the president ordered as part of his second travel ban.</p> <p>In the 26-page complaint filed in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California, Muslim Advocates and Democracy Forward Foundation allege the Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) violated the Information Quality Act in reporting that three out of four individuals convicted of international terrorism and terrorism-related offenses between Sept. 11, 2001, and Dec. 31, 2016, were foreign-born.</p>

The law requires information disseminated to the public by federal agencies, including by DHS and DOJ, be of requisite quality, objectivity, utility and integrity.

But the groups argue the information in the report is biased, misleading and incomplete.

“The government’s own studies show that native born citizens commit significant numbers of terrorist attacks in the United States, and indeed are responsible for the overwhelming majority of terrorism fatalities since 2002,” the groups said in the complaint. “An April 2017 Government Accountability Office report concluded that ‘of the 85 violent extremist incidents that resulted in death since September 12, 2001, far right wing violent extremist groups were responsible for 62 (73 percent) while radical Islamist violent extremists were responsible for 23 (27 percent).’”

But the groups said the report excludes all terrorism-related offenses that occurred in the United States that were planned and executed by individuals without international connections.

The groups argue that the DOJ’s terrorism report has been used to justify President Trump’s travel ban on immigrants from six majority-Muslim countries and perpetuate the ongoing stigmatization of immigrants and Muslims by the administration.

“The Trump administration’s relentless persecution of immigrants, minorities, and American Muslims has taken many outlandish, unconstitutional, and unlawful forms over the past year and a half,” Johnathan Smith, Muslim Advocates’s legal director, said in a statement. “This so-called report is blatantly false, purposefully misleading, and it’s illegal. The government has an obligation to be truthful and transparent, and we plan to hold this administration to that standard.”

The groups noted that the Daily Beast reported that the DHS did not perform the analysis nor did DHS analysts contribute to the DOJ report.

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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>04/10 ISIS vows attack Russia World Cup</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.dailystar.co.uk/news/world-news/694964/isis-threat-world-cup-2018-revenge-attack-putin-terror-news">https://www.dailystar.co.uk/news/world-news/694964/isis-threat-world-cup-2018-revenge-attack-putin-terror-news</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>ISIS has warned Vladimir Putin he will “pay the price for killing Muslims” in a terrifying new propaganda poster threatening the 2018 World Cup in Russia.</p> <p>In the chilling image a superimposed ISIS militant weilding a Kalashnikov stands in front of a stadium packed with football fans.</p> <p>In the background, the Russian President is pictured in the crosshairs below a series of mocked-up explosions.</p> <p>The sinister threat, overlaid on the image, reads: “Russia 2018. Putin you disbeliever. You will pay the price for killing Muslims.”</p> <p>Russia is thought to be vulnerable to ISIS terror attacks given its military operations against the jihadist group in Syria, according to security analysts.</p> <p>Millions of football fans across the globe will travel to Russia and tune in to watch the 2018 World Cup, held in June and July.</p> <p>Matthew Henman, head of Jane’s Terrorism and Insurgency Centre (JTIC) at the London-based IHS Markit, said the tournament could be the perfect opportunity for ISIS to take revenge against Russia.</p>

	<p>“A successful attack [in Russia] would provide a tremendous propaganda boost for the ISIS and its fighters and supporters, underlining the ongoing international threat posed by the group despite its territorial defeat,” he said in a report.</p> <p>“While security will be extremely high across the course of the tournament, low-capability attacks by lone actors with no evident markers of radicalisation remain extremely difficult to identify preemptively and there remains a substantial risk of an attack successfully being conducted.”</p> <p>The participation of countries that have launched attacks against ISIS, such as Iran and Saudi Arabia, could be another motivation for the group to carry out terror.</p> <p>Russian security services are on high alert for a potential attack on the tournament, either on stadiums or gatherings of fans.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>04/11 London prepared for terrorism?</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.thelondoneconomic.com/news/politics/public-safety-and-terrorism-is-london-prepared/11/04/">https://www.thelondoneconomic.com/news/politics/public-safety-and-terrorism-is-london-prepared/11/04/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>The threat of another terrorist attack in London is very real. In March and June last year, Islamic extremists snuck under the counter-terrorism radar to commit two deadly terror attacks. They ended London’s status as having escaped the recent Islamic terrorist focus on attacks in Europe. Today the UK’s capital remains a prominent target for terror. The <a href="#">terror threat level as assessed by MI5</a> is severe.</p> <p>So the question on everyone’s minds – is London prepared for further potential terrorist attacks?</p> <p><b>The recent ISIS terrorism timeline in London</b></p> <p><u>Westminster Bridge, 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2017</u>: a lone terrorist drives a hired car onto the pavement over Westminster Bridge before crashing into railings at the Palace of Westminster. Four people were mowed down and killed, and dozens of others were injured. The attacker then went on to stab Pc Keith, taking the death toll to five. The attacker was shot dead by armed police.</p> <p><u>London Bridge and Borough Market, 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2017</u>: eight people were killed when three men drove a van into pedestrians on London bridge and then stabbed people in nearby Borough Market. Two people lost their lives in the van attack, and six were stabbed to death. The terrorists were shot dead by police.</p> <p><u>Finsbury Park, 19<sup>th</sup> June 2017</u>: a man drove a van into a group of pedestrians outside London’s Finsbury Park Mosque, killing one man and injuring eleven other people. The terrorist, Darren Osborne, will spend at least 43 years behind bars after being jailed for murder.</p> <p><u>Parsons Green Tube, 15<sup>th</sup> September 2017</u>: more than 25 people to be treated for flash burns, following the partial detonation of a bomb on a busy morning commuter train at Parsons Green Tube station. The bomb, which included hydrogen peroxide, sulphuric acid and broken glass, knives and screws in a bucket, had been placed in a Lidl’s carrier bag and covered with a pair of trousers. While it’s initiating charge detonated, the main charge failed to explode. The culprit, an 18-year-old Iraqi orphan, has been charged with attempted murder.</p> <p>Even before the rise of ISIS, London has been a prime target for Islamist terrorism. Fuselier, Lee Rigby, was murdered outside Woolwich barracks in 2013. Before that, 52 victims lost their lives in the 7/7 bombings of 2005.</p> <p><b>Terrorist threat stays at severe</b></p>

In a rare public speech following the terrorist atrocities of Westminster, Manchester and London Bridge in 2017, Andrew Parker, the director general of MI5, said the UK was seeing “[a dramatic upshift in the threat from Islamist terrorism](#).” In a worrying and unusually frank statement, the chief of MI5 added, “It’s at the highest tempo I have seen in my 34-year career. Today there is more terrorist activity, coming at us more quickly, and it can be harder to detect.”

### **Thwarted terrorist plots and increased arrests**

MI5 have stopped far more terror plots than those that caused mass casualties in 2017. The head of MI5 reported to specialist security journalists that more than 20 plots had been thwarted in the last 4 years. To deal with the increased threat the MI5 agency is expanding from 4,000 to 5,000 staff.

The Times recently reported that following the attacks in London and Manchester, the [number of arrests for crimes linked to terrorism has risen](#) from 259 to 400 between 2016 and 2017. It is the highest number of terrorist-related arrests since records began in 2001.

### **Public safety infrastructure**

Planners and officials involved in counter terrorism have been working hard to make London’s infrastructure more difficult for terrorists. Counter measures include hostile [vehicle mitigation, barriers, bollards and gates](#). Crowded places, events, public transport and iconic locations are amongst those places that are most likely to be a potential target for terrorists.

Anti-terrorist designs are being built into the fabric of London. The Arsenal Football Stadium in North London is just one example. There, huge concrete letters spelling out the club’s name have been erected as a prominent part of the aesthetic. The counter-terrorism idea behind them in preventing a vehicle entering a highly pedestrianised area is clear.

### **Police funding**

Police funding in the capital is a concern. The Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, fears government [cuts to the Metropolitan Police’s grant funding is dangerous](#). Khan argues he has been left with no choice, but to increase council tax to the new maximum allowed to protect frontline policing and keep Londoners safe.

### **Staying safe in London: what to look out for**

With the threat of terrorism in London at severe, the public must remain on high alert. A lot of work goes into organising a terrorist attack, and much of the preparation is done in view of the public. Being vigilant, and knowing [the signs and behaviours of terrorists](#) is one way the public can look out for and report suspicious activity.

The Metropolitan Police are asking the public to look out for suspicious activity around lock-ups, garages and sheds, and keep an eye on the unusual purchase of chemicals, or protective equipment. The public are also being asked to be vigilant about suspicious transactions in the banking sector, out-of-the-ordinary vehicle hire, and report those who have several mobile phones for no apparent reason.

Online activity is prevalent amongst terrorist organisations, so the public are also being asked to [report any online behaviour](#) that could be of a terrorist or violent extremist nature.

### **So, is London prepared?**

In a special report by the Financial Times on [London’s preparedness for terrorist attacks](#), Jon Coaffee, director of the Resilient Cities Laboratory, a research group at the University of Warwick, offered reassurance, “London is probably top of the international pile in terms of preparedness. If you want to see where the latest innovations in counter-terrorism security are, London is the place to go.”

One of the biggest challenges in recent years in terms of tackling extremist terrorist plots comes from rooting out terrorist content online. Much work is being done to develop technology that will help tackle

this problem. The Home Office recently revealed a new [artificial intelligence \(AI\) programme to tackle ISIS online propaganda](#).

London's history of terrorist attacks by the IRA has contributed to the counter-terrorism approach we are seeing today. London boasts the most capable counter-terrorism forces in the world in a system that has been decades in the making.

CONTEST is the name of the government's counter-terrorism strategy. It includes the controversial 'Prevent' safeguarding programme, which aims to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. [Prevent has been criticised](#) by leaders in the Muslim community as alienating the very people it is meant to reach. However, government officials defend the programme saying it had helped stop 150 people from leaving Britain to fight in Syria last year.

London is prepared for organised terrorism, but lone wolf terrorists are a new breed that are incredibly difficult for intelligence forces to detect. Londoners though are resilient. Terror attacks are designed to create panic and a sense of fear. British values of equality and freedom will win the battle.

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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>04/11 Spain: Barcelona attack plotters jailed</b>
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<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://elpais.com/elpais/2018/04/11/inenglish/1523432389_300417.html">https://elpais.com/elpais/2018/04/11/inenglish/1523432389_300417.html</a>
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<b>GIST</b>	Ten members of a jihadist cell who were planning attacks in Barcelona have been sentenced to between eight and 12 years in prison by Spain's High Court, the Audiencia Nacional.
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The terrorist cell, which was broken up in 2015 by the Catalan police force, had been planning attacks against landmark sites in the city. Its members also wanted to kidnap someone, dress them in an orange jumpsuit, and execute them in front of a camera, the court found in a ruling released on Tuesday.

The court's criminal division has sentenced three individuals to 12 years in prison for leading the terrorist association, while seven others have received eight-year sentences for participating in the group's activities. The men, aged 22 through 48, did not have prior criminal records.

The cell, which called itself "Islamic Brotherhood, group for the preaching of jihad," began taking shape in 2014 at the mosque in Terrassa, in Barcelona province. After a period of training, the defendants created a terrorist cell "with the sole aim of observing and serving the precepts ordered by Daesh (Islamic State)," said the ruling.

According to the court, the group had been planning attacks "against institutions such as the police, banks and Jewish interests in Spain, or to join Daesh." One of the members traveled to Syria in April 2014 and died in Iraq in May 2015. Three more cell members followed in his footsteps but were arrested on the border between Bulgaria and Turkey.

Following these three arrests, group leader Antonio Sáez, who was working at a barbershop in Barberá del Vallés, suggested perpetrating attacks on Spanish soil. Court records document a meeting that was held in February 2015, when Sáez put forward the idea of attacking the regional parliament.

The police raid, dubbed Operation Charon, broke up the cell after a 13-month-long investigation with help from an officer who infiltrated the group. When Sáez made his suggestion, this undercover officer alerted his superiors about the risk of imminent attacks. Most of the cell members were arrested in April, just days after they were seen taking pictures of landmark sites across the city as part of their plan.

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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>04/11 Iraq: ISIS citadel bomb plot foiled</b>
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SOURCE	<a href="https://www.iraqinews.com/iraq-war/iraq-foils-islamic-state-plot-to-detonate-ancient-citadel-in-nineveh/">https://www.iraqinews.com/iraq-war/iraq-foils-islamic-state-plot-to-detonate-ancient-citadel-in-nineveh/</a>
GIST	<p>Baghdad (Iraqinews.com) – Iraqi security forces foiled on Wednesday a plot by Islamic State (IS) militants to detonate an ancient citadel in Tal Afar district in Nineveh, a security official was quoted as saying.</p> <p>“A force from the Nineveh Operation Command found four barrels filled with the highly explosive C4 material, 10 explosive belts and 100 mortar shells placed under Tal Afar Citadel in Nineveh,” Yehia Rasool, a spokesman for the Security Media Center, told Alforat News.</p> <p>“Three other explosive barrels, two rockets and 11 landmines were also found on site,” Rasool said, adding that the explosives were planned to be used by IS militants for detonating the ancient citadel.</p> <p>Tal Afar Citadel is believed to be built by the Ottoman Empire, although it contains remains dating back to the Assyrian period.</p> <p>Following the 2003 invasion of Iraq, the citadel housed the mayoral, municipal and police headquarters of Tal Afar. It was used as a base by American forces in the Battle of Tal Afar in 2005.</p> <p>After falling to the militant Islamic State group in June 2014, the citadel was used as a prison for women and girls who were to be forcibly married to ISIL members.</p> <p>In December 2014, the IS group blew up the city’s northern and western walls, causing extensive damage. The militants also excavated some of the ruins within the citadel, probably to look for antiquities which they could sell. UNESCO Director-General Irina Bokova</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>04/11 Philippine forces kill ISIS militants</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.reuters.com/article/us-philippines-militants/philippine-air-and-ground-assault-kills-12-islamist-militants-in-south-idUSKBN1HI18L">https://www.reuters.com/article/us-philippines-militants/philippine-air-and-ground-assault-kills-12-islamist-militants-in-south-idUSKBN1HI18L</a>
GIST	<p>MANILA (Reuters) - Philippine troops killed about a dozen members of a pro-Islamic State group in air and ground assaults this week on the southern island of Mindanao, the army said on Wednesday, in what it called preemptive moves to thwart militant attacks on cities.</p> <p>Helicopters fired rockets as army units moved to seize two camps of Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) rebels in marshlands in central Mindanao island in the south, said spokesman Lieutenant-Colonel Gerry Besana.</p> <p>“This morning, two MG520 attack helicopters conducted air strikes to disrupt the BIFF’s plan to stage attacks,” Besana said.</p> <p>The military wanted to send a message to militants that they should surrender, “or fight and be killed”, he said.</p> <p>About a dozen guerrillas were killed in the assault that started on Monday, said Besana, citing intelligence reports and accounts from civilians who had fled the fighting.</p> <p>The military has shifted its combat operations from Marawi, a battered lakeside town in Mindanao embroiled in a five-month conflict last year, to the island’s marshes where other pro-Islamic State militants operate.</p> <p>Besana said the military had seized control of two rebel enclaves where guns and improvised explosive devices were being assembled. About 20 rifles and 100 kg of gun parts and bomb-making materials were recovered, he said.</p>

	More than 40 members of the BIFF, led by three radical Muslim clerics, have been killed since last month, when soldiers backed by helicopters and armored vehicles launched combat operations, Besana added.
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>04/10 Travel ban updated; Chad lifted</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2018/apr/10/trump-updates-travel-ban-lifts-restrictions-chad/">https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2018/apr/10/trump-updates-travel-ban-lifts-restrictions-chad/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>President Trump removed Chad from his “extreme vetting” travel ban policy Tuesday, saying the country had made enough strides in cooperating on sharing data and boosting security that its citizens can again be admitted to the U.S.</p> <p>Iran, Libya, North Korea, Somalia, Syria, Venezuela and Yemen remain on the list — though Mr. Trump said Libya is also making strides toward better cooperation.</p> <p>Mr. Trump said they considered adding another country, which he didn’t name, to the list, but said for now the nation doesn’t rise to the level of danger that would earn it a place on the ban.</p> <p>Chad is a majority-Muslim country — one of six that had been on the current banned list.</p> <p>The president said the country seemed eager to meet the heightened security standards the U.S. has laid out.</p> <p>“Specifically, Chad has improved its identity-management practices by taking concrete action to enhance travel document security for its nationals, including taking steps to issue more secure passports and sharing updated passport exemplars to help detect fraud. The Government of Chad also improved handling of lost and stolen passports, the sharing of which helps the United States and other nations prevent the fraudulent use of such documents,” the president said in a lengthy explanation of his decision-making.</p> <p>Scratching Chad from the ban could bolster Mr. Trump’s argument that the ban isn’t anti-Muslim and is instead based on security decisions.</p> <p>The Supreme Court is slated to hear arguments on the travel ban later this month.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>04/11 Report: Houthi drone strike at oil facility</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://www.foxnews.com/world/2018/04/11/houthi-rebels-launch-drone-strike-on-saudi-owned-oil-facility-report.html">http://www.foxnews.com/world/2018/04/11/houthi-rebels-launch-drone-strike-on-saudi-owned-oil-facility-report.html</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>Yemen’s armed Houthi movement launched a drone strike on a Saudi owned oil facility in Southern Saudi Arabia, Reuters reported Wednesday, citing al-Masirah, the Houthi-founded TV station.</p> <p>The facility reportedly belonged to the oil giant Saudi Aramco. Saudi officials have not yet commented on the report.</p> <p>“The air force announced the execution of air strikes with the Qasif 1 aircraft on Aramco in Jizan (province),” al-Masirah said on its official Twitter account, according to Reuters.</p> <p>The conflict between Saudi Arabia and Yemen, now in its third year, began in March 2015 when a Saudi-led coalition intervened on behalf of its southern neighbor to support the fragile government of President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi.</p> <p>The Houthis, who have been leading an insurgency against the Yemini government since 2004, took over</p>

the capital Sana'a in 2014, The Wall Street Journal reported. Saudi Arabia has accused Iran of funding and arming the rebel movement, a charge Iran has denied.

According to a U.N. report, more than 9,245 people have been killed in Yemen since March 2015, more than half of which were civilians.

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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>04/10 Officials: Russia jamming US drones</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.nbcnews.com/news/military/russia-has-figured-out-how-jam-u-s-drones-syria-n863931">https://www.nbcnews.com/news/military/russia-has-figured-out-how-jam-u-s-drones-syria-n863931</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>WASHINGTON — The Russian military has been jamming some U.S. military drones operating in the skies over Syria, seriously affecting American military operations, according to four U.S. officials.</p> <p>The Russians began jamming some smaller U.S. drones several weeks ago, the officials said, after a series of suspected chemical weapons attacks on civilians in rebel-held eastern Ghouta. The Russian military was concerned the U.S. military would retaliate for the attacks and began jamming the GPS systems of drones operating in the area, the officials explained.</p> <p>Sen. Ben Sasse, R-Neb., reacted to the news of Russian scrambling Tuesday by saying "Russia wants to undermine our interests at every turn."</p> <p>"It is insane to think that Russia is anything but an adversary," said Sasse.</p> <p>Jamming, which means blocking or scrambling a drone's reception of a signal from a GPS satellite, can be uncomplicated, according to Dr. Todd Humphreys, the director of the Radionavigation Laboratory at the University of Texas at Austin.</p> <p>Humphreys, an expert on the spoofing and jamming of GPS, warns this could have a significant impact on U.S. drones, causing them to malfunction or even crash. "At the very least it could cause some serious confusion" for the drone operator on the ground if the drone reports an incorrect position or is lost, he said.</p> <p>U.S. analysts first caught the Russian military jamming drones in eastern Ukraine four years ago, after the invasion of Crimea, according to Humphreys. He said the jammers were initially detected as faint signals from space, bouncing off the earth's surface. The jammers "had a pretty significant impact" on the United Nations surveillance drones that were attempting to monitor the area, grounding the fleet for days and halting intelligence gathering from the air.</p> <p>The Defense Department will not say whether the jamming is causing drones to crash, citing operational security. "The U.S. military maintains sufficient countermeasures and protections to ensure the safety of our manned and unmanned aircraft, our forces and the missions they support," said Pentagon spokesman Eric Pahon.</p> <p>But one official confirmed the tactic is having an operational impact on U.S. military operations in Syria.</p> <p>The officials said the equipment being used was developed by the Russian military and is very sophisticated, proving effective even against some encrypted signals and anti-jamming receivers. The drones impacted so far are smaller surveillance aircraft, as opposed to the larger Predators and Reapers that often operate in combat environments and can be armed.</p> <p>Dr. Humphreys says that though the attacks occur in cyberspace, the results are still serious.</p> <p>"They are a little less hostile looking than a kinetic bullet but sometimes the effect can be just as damaging," he said. "It's like shooting at them with radio waves instead of bullets."</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>04/10 Pentagon mum on deployed troops</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.cbsnews.com/news/pentagon-fails-to-disclose-troop-numbers-in-syria-iraq-afghanistan/">https://www.cbsnews.com/news/pentagon-fails-to-disclose-troop-numbers-in-syria-iraq-afghanistan/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>The Pentagon has quietly eliminated troop statistics for Iraq, Afghanistan and Syria from its website, according to the Military Times. The Department of Defense's quarterly troop statistics, released in December, now has blank spaces for those Middle Eastern countries.</p> <p>The Military Times in December reported that the now-missing Defense Manpower Data Center data showed the U.S. had 26,000 troops total in Iraq, Afghanistan and Syria — more than 15,000 troops in Afghanistan, more than 1,700 in Syria, and nearly 9,000 in Iraq.</p> <p>Now, Iraq, Syria and Afghanistan have an asterisk by their names, denoting, "With ongoing operations any questions concerning DoD personnel strength numbers are deferred to OSD Public Affairs/Joint Chiefs of Staff." The statistics on those countries are now also missing from the September 2017 report.</p> <p>The Defense Manpower Data Center has yet to release its most recent quarterly report, which is late.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>04/09 TSA screening snacks?</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://denver.cbslocal.com/2018/04/09/screening-snacks-may-be-part-of-stricter-airport-security/">http://denver.cbslocal.com/2018/04/09/screening-snacks-may-be-part-of-stricter-airport-security/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>DENVER (CBS4) – Be prepared to pull out your pretzels or show your sandwich when you go through security at Denver International Airport.</p> <p>These days, snacks and other items may be part of screening at airports across the country.</p> <p>There are no changes to what you're allowed to carry on, but the screening at security has become stricter.</p> <p>It used to be just laptops had to be in a separate bin and then x-rayed. But recently, the Transportation Security Administration required screening for all electronics larger than a cell phone.</p> <p>There has also been a focus on other items, including food.</p> <p>"I think that screening snacks seems a little pointless," said one traveler at DIA.</p> <p>But in Colorado and across the country, TSA officers may suggest passengers remove select items, such as snacks, from their carry-on bags.</p> <p>"I don't really know what they would be looking for," said a woman heading for the security checkpoint. "You're just going to be putting a lot more in bins and causing more traffic. I think it would be a lot slower."</p> <p>But according to TSA, de-cluttering carry-on bags could facilitate the screening process and help obtain clearer x-ray images.</p> <p>TSA makes it clear there is no policy requiring travelers to remove food, but officers at any airport can make the request. TSA says the goal is to screen passengers as quickly and efficiently as possible.</p> <p>The stronger security measures do not apply to passengers enrolled in TSA PreCheck who are using TSA PreCheck lanes.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>04/11 Phoenix: 4<sup>th</sup> earliest 100deg. day</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://apnews.com/ac512a1dbd9c461f8c77302e5557b64c/Phoenix-has-first-100-degree-day-of-year;-4th-earliest-ever">https://apnews.com/ac512a1dbd9c461f8c77302e5557b64c/Phoenix-has-first-100-degree-day-of-year;-4th-earliest-ever</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>PHOENIX (AP) — Phoenix has had its first 100-degree day of the year.</p> <p>National Weather Service meteorologists say Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport reached the triple-digit mark Tuesday due to a strong area of high pressure over the region.</p> <p>The 100-degree high also tied a record for April 10 that was set in 1989 and it's the fourth-earliest 100-degree day Phoenix has ever seen.</p> <p>The city did not get its first 100-degree day last year until May 3.</p> <p>Meteorologists say Phoenix's average high for April 10 is 84 degrees.</p> <p>The earliest Phoenix reached 100 degrees was on March 26, 1988, and the latest was on June 18, 1913.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>04/10 Report: strawberries are dirtiest fruit</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://time.com/5234787/dirty-dozen-pesticides/?xid=homepage">http://time.com/5234787/dirty-dozen-pesticides/?xid=homepage</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>In the latest report about pesticide residues, the Environmental Working Group says that 70% of conventionally grown fruits and vegetables contain up to 230 different pesticides or their breakdown products.</p> <p>The analysis, based on produce samples tested by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, found that strawberries and spinach contained the highest amounts of pesticide residues. One sample of strawberries, for example, tested positive for 20 different pesticides, and spinach contained nearly twice the pesticide residue by weight than any other fruit or vegetable.</p> <p>The two types of produce topped the EWG ranking of the 12 fruits and vegetables with the highest concentrations of pesticides—the so-called “Dirty Dozen.” After strawberries and spinach come nectarines, apples, grapes, peaches, cherries, pears, tomatoes, celery, potatoes and sweet bell peppers. More than 98% of peaches, cherries and apples contained at least one pesticide.</p> <p>This year's list nearly mirrors the one from last year, suggesting that little has changed in how these crops are grown. (The analysis applied only to produce that wasn't grown organically.)</p> <p>How dangerous is the exposure to the chemicals? Since federal laws in 1996 mandated that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) study and regulate pesticide use for its potential to harm human health, many toxic chemicals have been removed from crop growing. But studies continue to find potential effects of exposure to the pesticides still in use. A recent study, for instance, indicated a possible link between exposure to pesticides in produce and lower fertility.</p> <p>More studies are needed to solidify the relationship between current pesticide exposures from produce and long-term health effects. In the meantime, researchers say that organic produce generally contains fewer pesticide residues, and people concerned about their exposure can also focus on fruits and vegetables that tend to contain fewer pesticides. Here is the EWG's list of the fruits and vegetables lowest in pesticide residue—the so-called Clean 15:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Avocados</li><li>Sweet corn</li><li>Pineapples</li><li>Cabbage</li></ul>

	<p>Onions  Frozen sweet peas  Papayas  Asparagus  Mangoes  Eggplants  Honeydews  Kiwis  Cantaloupes  Cauliflower  Broccoli</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>04/10 FEMA faulted for failed contracts</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2018/apr/10/fema-faulted-for-failed-contracts-to-deliver-hurri/">https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2018/apr/10/fema-faulted-for-failed-contracts-to-deliver-hurri/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>WASHINGTON (AP) — The Federal Emergency Management Agency awarded contracts for hurricane supplies without adequately researching whether winning bidders could deliver what they promised, according to a new investigation by Democrats on a Senate oversight committee.</p> <p>The investigation followed disclosures by The Associated Press in November that a newly created Florida company with an unproven record had won more than \$30 million in FEMA contracts to provide 500,000 tarps and 60,000 rolls of plastic sheeting for repairs after Hurricane Maria damaged tens of thousands of homes in Puerto Rico. That vendor, Bronze Star LLC of St. Cloud, Florida, never delivered those urgently needed supplies.</p> <p>The report from Democrats on the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs described failures by the Trump administration that prevented timely delivery of tarps and sheeting to hurricane victims after the summer’s storms. It focused on the Bronze Star contract and another awarded to Global Computers and Networks LLC of Fort Washington, Pennsylvania.</p> <p>Bronze Star was formed less than two months before bidding on FEMA’s tarp and sheeting contracts. Global Computers registered as a federal government contractor in September, about one month before it won its FEMA contract.</p> <p>FEMA, an agency under the Homeland Security Department, had awarded Global Computers a \$33.9 million contract to provide 500,000 tarps but canceled the deal about five weeks later because of the company’s failure to provide any tarps. FEMA also terminated Bronze Star’s contracts without paying any money after about four weeks.</p> <p>The report said FEMA officials were required to determine that a bidding company was capable of fulfilling a contract, and FEMA was permitted under federal rules to rank a proposal from a company with demonstrated successful past performance higher than one with no experience offering a lower price.</p> <p>“Once again we’ve seen massive contracts awarded to individuals and companies that would seem to have no capacity to deliver,” Sen. Claire McCaskill, D-Mo., said in a statement. She called the contracts “a failure to safeguard tax dollars and a failure to deliver desperately needed goods and services.”</p> <p>The Homeland Security Department’s inspector general is still investigating the contracts.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>04/10 Lakewood police investigate bldg. fires</b>
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<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://www.thenewstribune.com/latest-news/article208476329.html">http://www.thenewstribune.com/latest-news/article208476329.html</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>Three abandoned buildings — all within walking distance of each other — went up in flames over the weekend in Lakewood.</p> <p>West Pierce Fire &amp; Rescue and Lakewood Police are investigating the trio of fires in the Tillicum and Woodbrook neighborhoods.</p> <p>The first fire came Saturday evening at a home in the 7100 block of 146th Street Southwest. The house was fully involved in flames when crews arrived.</p> <p>Then late Sunday night fire broke out in another house in the 8200 block of Maple Street in Tillicum. That blaze was contained to the basement.</p> <p>Less than 30 minutes later, a fire call came in at a nearby unoccupied apartment complex in the 8300 block of Berkeley Avenue. The previously boarded-up building had a fire in the middle of the building, West Pierce said.</p> <p>No one was hurt in any of the fires.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>04/10 Snowpack above average into April</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://www.king5.com/article/tech/science/environment/washington-snowpack-above-average-heading-into-april/281-536750989">http://www.king5.com/article/tech/science/environment/washington-snowpack-above-average-heading-into-april/281-536750989</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>Washington state is heading into spring with above normal snowpack, according to federal data released Monday.</p> <p>Snowpack is on average at 113 percent, or 13 percent above normal, across Washington state, according to the Natural Resources Conservation Service's National Water and Climate Center in Portland, Ore. The snow pack ranges from 155 percent to just below 80 percent in the lowest areas.</p> <p>A map shows the snowpack in the Central Puget Sound area, which is just east of Everett and Seattle, is 119 percent of normal. South Puget Sound, which is east of Tacoma, is 101 percent of normal.</p> <p>The above average snowpack is good for power, fresh water, and agriculture, and it could help delay fire season.</p> <p>A wildfire outlook released last week by the National Interagency Fire Center showed a quiet spring and early summer in Eastern Washington with a sharp uptick for wildfire potential in July.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>04/10 Seattle smallest rent hike since 2011</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.seattletimes.com/business/real-estate/smallest-springtime-rent-increase-of-the-decade-for-seattle-area-as-new-apartments-flood-the-market/">https://www.seattletimes.com/business/real-estate/smallest-springtime-rent-increase-of-the-decade-for-seattle-area-as-new-apartments-flood-the-market/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>The slowdown in Seattle-area rent increases that began late last year has continued into the first part of 2018, as the crush of new apartments opening across the region catches up with demand in the fast-growing region.</p> <p>When the last quarterly landlord survey was released, in January, it showed average rents across the region had dropped nearly \$50 from the prior quarter — the first significant rent decrease of the decade.</p> <p>Now, the newest survey is out and it shows rents have started to tick up again as part of a seasonal pattern that happens in the springtime virtually every year. But the average rent across King and Snohomish</p>

counties went up just 1 percent — or \$17 — compared to the prior quarter, the smallest springtime increase of the decade. And rents remain below the record highs reached last summer and fall.

It's a significant turnaround from a year ago, when Seattle-area rents were rising about eight times faster than the national average. Now Seattle rent increases are only slightly bigger than the rest of the country.

In the city of Seattle, only one neighborhood — First Hill — saw rents grow at least 1.5 percent from a quarter ago. Rents actually dropped a bit in Belltown, Fremont/Wallingford and North Seattle, according to the data released by Apartment Insights/RealData, which surveys landlords across the region.

In the region's suburbs, rents also dipped slightly in some parts of the Eastside — in Kirkland, Mercer Island/South Bellevue and the Woodinville area — as well as in sections of South King County, in Federal Way, Tukwila and Des Moines.

Compared to a year ago, rents regionwide were still up 4.4 percent, but that was the smallest annual increase since 2011.

For many renters, the changes have come far too late. Rents across the region have soared 59 percent since 2011, adding an extra \$620 to the average renter's monthly bill. The average rent for all unit types across both counties is \$1,660, and it's closer to \$1,880 in Seattle — among the most expensive in the country.

But the recent cooldown has now extended long enough to be indicative of a longer-term trend.

Analysts have pointed to a wave of new apartments opening since 2014; a record number of new units opened last year in Seattle, and even more are expected this year.

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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>04/10 Dubai to test digital license plates</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.upi.com/Top_News/World-News/2018/04/10/Dubai-to-become-first-city-to-test-digital-license-plates/6551523402454/?utm_source=fp&amp;utm_campaign=lh&amp;utm_medium=4">https://www.upi.com/Top_News/World-News/2018/04/10/Dubai-to-become-first-city-to-test-digital-license-plates/6551523402454/?utm_source=fp&amp;utm_campaign=lh&amp;utm_medium=4</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>April 10 (UPI) -- Dubai plans to test digital license plates that will alert police and ambulance centers of road emergencies, officials said Monday.</p> <p>The United Arab Emirates city will be the first in the world to test the technology when it holds a trial of the Roads and Transport Authority's Tag2Connect platform beginning next month.</p> <p>The system features digital screens that act as "smart plates" equipped with GPS, transmitters and a microprocessor chip.</p> <p>Sultan Abdullah al-Marzouqi, head of the RTA's Vehicle Licensing Department, said the plates will contact police and ambulance services if the vehicle is involved in a collision and allows real-time communication with other drivers about traffic and accidents.</p> <p>The smart plates will also be linked to a drivers' traffic file and user account's allowing them to pay fines and parking fees or renew registration plates automatically.</p> <p>Drivers will also be able to change their plates using the RTA's app or website and the plates will be able to display an alert if the vehicle or plate is stolen.</p> <p>"The smart plate is like a device that is connected to the system. It will be compatible with the different mobile platforms and drivers will be able to conduct any transaction using the plate number, without having to visit the customer care center," al-Marzouqi said.</p> <p>Al-Mazouqi added the trial of the system will be conducted until the end of this year to determine the</p>



	logistics and identify any glitches.
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>04/11 India upholds 'love jihad' marriage</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.cnn.com/2018/04/11/asia/india-love-jihad-intl/index.html">https://www.cnn.com/2018/04/11/asia/india-love-jihad-intl/index.html</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>New Delhi (CNN)India's highest court has moved to strike down a ruling from a lower court that prevented a Hindu woman who had converted to Islam from living with her Muslim husband, in a landmark decision that upholds the right of inter-religious marriage.</p> <p>The case had gained notoriety in India owing to allegations from the woman's family that she had been brainwashed by her husband as part of a broader Muslim plot, dubbed by right-wing Hindu nationalists as "love jihad."</p> <p>Throughout the lengthy two-year court battle, 26-year-old Hadiya, who goes by one name only, consistently maintained that she acted on her own free will, despite claims from her father, Asokan K.M, that she was forced to convert to Islam by her husband.</p> <p>"This was completely blown out of proportion," said Haris Beeran, the lawyer for the woman at the center of the case. "There was no element of 'love jihad' in this."</p> <p>The Supreme Court's ruling, which was announced Monday, brings to an end her family's persistent attempts to nullify the marriage, with the three-judge panel stating that "the court has no right to annul marriage between consenting adults."</p> <p>Referring directly to Hadiya's battle with her parents, which began in the southern state of Kerala, the judges ruled that the wishes of her family "cannot be allowed to curtail her fundamental rights," adding that the freedom to choose a spouse and convert to another religion was both a constitutional and a human right.</p> <p>"Intimacies of marriage, including the choices which individuals make on whether or not to marry and on whom to marry, lie outside the control of the state. Courts as upholders of constitutional freedoms must safeguard these freedoms," said the ruling.</p> <p>Radical nationalism on the rise Hinduism is India's dominant religion, according to census data, with 828 million followers or 80.5% of the country's 1.3 billion population. Muslims make up 13% and Christians 2.3%.</p> <p>Although interfaith marriages have long faced opposition within India, the phenomenon of "love jihad" has only recently gained popular currency, with advocates alleging that Muslim men are engaged in a politically motivated conspiracy to take over the country by converting Hindu women to Islam.</p> <p>The popularizing of the term's usage, which dates back as far as the 1920s, has been linked to a broader rise in right-wing Hindu nationalism in the wake of the 2014 general election, which saw Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party sweep to power with an overwhelming majority.</p> <p>According to a study sponsored by the US Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) released last year, hate crimes against Muslims, Dalits, and other marginalized groups have escalated since the election, with the report noting that India's "pluralistic tradition faces serious challenges in a number of its states."</p> <p>The latest court ruling is unlikely to end debate around the issue of "love jihad," however. Speaking to CNN in the wake of the verdict Wednesday, Rakesh Sinha, honorary director of the India Policy Foundation, a think tank affiliated with the right-wing Hindu organization Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), said that although the Supreme Court had overturned the previous judgment, "it doesn't mean that</p>

	'love jihad' is an imaginary thing."  "There are certain organizations which are radicalizing youth and using love and conspiratorial marriage as a tool to attract Hindu girls," Sinha added. "Their objective is to create disharmony and imbalance in society."
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>04/10 Billings MT deals w/2 police shootings</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.cbsnews.com/news/billings-montana-sees-2nd-fatal-police-shooting-in-24-hours/">https://www.cbsnews.com/news/billings-montana-sees-2nd-fatal-police-shooting-in-24-hours/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>BILLINGS, Mont. - A police officer shot and killed a man who was waving a pellet gun and threatening patrons inside a casino early Tuesday - the second fatal shooting by officers in Montana's largest city in less than 24 hours.</p> <p>The two deaths mark the latest in a string of suspects killed by law enforcement in recent years as Billings struggles to contain a surge in violence and property crimes. Authorities say the lawbreaking is largely driven by illegal drugs coming into the city of 110,000 people.</p> <p>An Associated Press review has found that 12 people were shot and killed by law enforcement in Billings since May 2012. In most cases, the victims were determined or suspected to be using methamphetamine prior to confrontations with police, according to toxicology reports and interviews with law enforcement officials.</p> <p>(Billings Police Chief Rich) St. John in comments to reporters defended his officers' handling of this week's police shootings.</p> <p>In both cases, the victims acted erratically and did not respond to clear commands to drop their weapons, he said.</p> <p>"You do not use less lethal options in a lethal scenario," St. John said.</p> <p>The investigations of the shootings will be reviewed by the state Department of Justice's criminal division, under an agreement reached last fall between the state and Billings police.</p> <p>"Everyone agrees it's good to have an independent set of eyes on this," Sell said.</p> <p>Each shooting also will be reviewed by a jury during a coroner's inquest.</p> <p>Inquests are public proceedings required under Montana law when someone is killed by or dies in the custody of authorities.</p> <p>A citizen jury will decide whether the officers acted appropriately, with the jury's recommendations submitted to a county prosecutor for a final decision on whether criminal charges are warranted.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>04/10 Health: not all states created equal</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://abcnews.go.com/Health/health-states-created-equal-report-finds/story?id=54369296">http://abcnews.go.com/Health/health-states-created-equal-report-finds/story?id=54369296</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>Instead of thinking of the number of deaths illness causes -- think of the number of years illness steals from those who die.</p> <p>For every 100,000 people living in New Mexico in 2016, 1,466 years of life were lost to heart disease. Although heart disease is the No. 1 killer in America, New Mexico is actually below the national average in deaths from heart disease. So why does New Mexico's life expectancy rank No. 38 among U.S. states? Again, picture 100,000 New Mexicans. They lost 852 years to the consequences of drug abuse. Nine</p>

hundred and three years to self-harm. And 328 years of life to liver disease.

These findings, reported in a state-by-state analysis of the annual Global Disease Burden Survey published Tuesday, can teach us something important: In terms of health, it's location, location, location; all states are not created equal.

### **Where do we live the longest? The shortest?**

States with long life expectancy are Hawaii, California, Connecticut, Minnesota, New York, Massachusetts, Colorado, New Jersey and Washington. Those with the highest burden of premature death are Mississippi, West Virginia, Alabama, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Kentucky.

Hawaii now has the highest life expectancy at birth: an impressive 81.3 years. If Hawaii were a country, it would rank No. 20 in the world. On the other hand, lowest-ranking Mississippi's life expectancy, 74.7 years, would land the state squarely at No. 76, tied with Kuwait. While some have made major strides in extending their citizens' lives, others have not -- Washington, D.C., achieved a 42 percent improvement in years of life lost to disease and disability, while Oklahoma saw a measly 6.3 percent rise.

Even more striking, 21 states actually saw higher rates of death among working-age adults in 2016 than they did in 1990. The major cause for this shift? Drug and alcohol abuse, liver disease, and self-harm. These so-called diseases of despair, related to addiction, mental illness and low socioeconomic status, are on the rise, killing people at younger ages than heart disease did. While disease trends differ by state, the dramatic turn of events in these states represent a nationwide problem -- and serve as a warning to the rest of the nation.

### **Trends in mortality nationwide**

The good news? Overall death rates in the U.S. declined between 1990 and 2016.

The bad news? Average U.S. life expectancy at birth, which had been increasing since 1993, decreased in 2015 -- and again in 2016.

Our advances in treatment for heart disease, cancer and survival of preterm infants are counterbalanced by the next generation of preventable deadly diseases: drug abuse, self-harm, liver failure and chronic kidney disease. The rise of chronic kidney disease can be attributed largely to increasing prevalence of diabetes, which is related to obesity. The others? Those diseases of despair, rooted in addiction and mental illness.

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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>04/10 Illinois: synthetic pot w/rat poison</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://abcnews.go.com/US/dead-100-severe-bleeding-synthetic-pot-illinois-health/story?">http://abcnews.go.com/US/dead-100-severe-bleeding-synthetic-pot-illinois-health/story?</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>A third person who experienced severe bleeding after using synthetic marijuana has died in Illinois, health officials confirmed.</p> <p>There are now 107 people in central Illinois and the Chicago area who experienced severe bleeding after using the synthetic pot, often called spice, K2 or fake weed, according to the Illinois Department of Public Health.</p> <p>"Each day we've seen the number of cases rise," said director of the IDPH Nirav D. Shah, M.D., J.D. "Synthetic cannabinoids are unsafe. They are not regulated and people don't know what chemicals may be in them, like rat poison. While efforts are underway to get the contaminated drugs out of circulation, it's possible they could re-emerge. We urge people not to use synthetic cannabinoids now or ever."</p> <p>This death comes after three Chicago convenience store clerks were charged earlier this the month for allegedly selling the synthetic cannabinoids laced with the known rodent poison, according to police.</p>

	<p>People who reported illness after taking the drugs said they coughed up blood, had blood in their urine, severe bloody noses, bleeding gums or internal bleeding, according to IDPH.</p> <p>The department said that "numerous have tested positive for brodifacoum, a lethal anticoagulant often used in rat poison."</p> <p>The people who died were all men, two in their 20s and one in his 40s. One death occurred in the Chicago area, while two were in central Illinois.</p>
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## Crime, Criminals

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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>04/11 Report: anti-Semitism rises; attacks drop</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://www.sacbee.com/news/nation-world/article208548634.html">http://www.sacbee.com/news/nation-world/article208548634.html</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>TEL AVIV, ISRAEL - Violent attacks on Jews worldwide dropped in 2017 despite a rise in other forms of anti-Semitism, researchers reported Wednesday, in a year characterized by normalization and mainstreaming of anti-Semitism not seen in Europe since World War II.</p> <p>Researchers at Tel Aviv University said assaults specifically targeting Jews fell 9 percent last year. They recorded 327 cases compared to 361 in 2016, which had already been the lowest number in a decade.</p> <p>But they noted attacks were far more brazen. Most dramatic were a pair of cases in France, where a Jewish woman was thrown to her death out of her apartment window and a Holocaust survivor was stabbed and burned to death in her Paris home.</p> <p>Threats, harassment and insults have also driven thousands of French Jews to relocate.</p> <p>"Neither the public nor the private space is perceived as safe for Jews," said Moshe Kantor, president of the European Jewish Congress, an umbrella group representing Jewish communities across the continent. "The general feeling shared by Jews, as individuals and as a community, is that anti-Semitism has entered a new phase, and is widespread in most parts of the world."</p> <p>Tel Aviv University's Kantor Center for the Study of Contemporary European Jewry releases the report every year on the eve of Israel's Holocaust memorial day, which begins Wednesday at sundown.</p> <p>Increased security measures are credited with reducing violence, but it may be masking a trend of anti-Semitism becoming more mainstream and acceptable, particularly in European politics. The report described a toxic triangle made up of the rise of the extreme right, radical Islamism and a heated anti-Zionist discourse on the left accompanied by anti-Semitic expressions.</p> <p>"The religious dimension of classic, traditional anti-Semitism has returned, and the term 'Jew' has become an insult," Kantor said.</p> <p>He noted that the majority of anti-Semitic incidents still went unreported, either out of fear of retribution or a lack of interest on the part of local authorities.</p> <p>Despite the overall drop, anti-Semitism rose in many places globally. In Germany, home to the world's fastest growing Jewish community, there was a rise in anti-Semitic acts from 644 in 2016 to 707 in 2017. Among these were 24 violent cases in 2017, compared to 15 the year before.</p> <p>Kantor also said that the ascendancy of British Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn led him to believe that "the banality and normalization of Jew-hatred has reached the highest levels."</p>

Critics say Corbyn, a longtime critic of Israel, has long allowed anti-Jewish prejudice to go unchecked. Corbyn's supporters have been accused of sharing Holocaust denial and international Jewish banking conspiracies on social media. On Tuesday, Israel's Labor Party suspended its ties with Corbyn over his party's expressions of anti-Semitism.

The year was also marked by the deadly white supremacist rally in Charlottesville, Virginia — where demonstrators used the Heil Hitler salute, donned swastikas and chanted slogans such as "Jews will not replace us." Far-right parties gained strength following elections in Germany and Austria. U.S. President Donald Trump's December recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel also set off demonstrations that were used as a pretext to attack Jews with anti-Semitic slogans, including calls for murder.

The report cited an audit of the Anti-Defamation League that found anti-Semitic incidents in the United States rose 57 percent in 2017 — the largest single-year increase on record and the second highest number reported since the ADL started tracking such data in 1979. The sharp rise was due in part to a significant increase in incidents in schools and on college campuses, which nearly doubled for the second year in a row.

The rising threat appears to be drawing growing interest.

Israel recently hosted a global forum to address the various ways of combatting anti-Semitism that drew experts from around the world. Israel's Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial says there has been wide participation in its recently launched online course on the origins of anti-Semitism.

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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>04/10 Claim: Tex. massage parlors near schools</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.dallasnews.com/news/education/2018/04/10/analysis-finds-55-massage-parlors-within-1000-feet-schools-dallas-county">https://www.dallasnews.com/news/education/2018/04/10/analysis-finds-55-massage-parlors-within-1000-feet-schools-dallas-county</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>Massage parlors offering customers sex aren't just hidden away in the seedy parts of Texas cities. They can be found in middle-class neighborhoods just down the street from public schools, too.</p> <p>That's according to a new analysis by the nonprofit Children At Risk, which identified 689 suspected illegal businesses, 97 of them in Dallas County. And 55 of these parlors are within 1,000 feet of Texas public schools.</p> <p>"We want people to be shocked at how close this is to them and how close it is to their children," said Robert Sanborn, president and CEO of Children At Risk, a children's advocacy group. "People think that there are massage parlors in bad parts of town and that there's illegal sex trafficking in bad parts of town, but what we want people to see is that these are in nice neighborhoods."</p> <p>According to the analysis released Tuesday, large clusters of spas or massage parlors were listed on a website as being in suburban areas including Richardson, Plano and Arlington.</p> <p>Businesses calling themselves massage parlors or reflexology businesses are close to Prairie Creek Elementary in Richardson ISD; Austin Elementary in Coppell ISD; and Tom W. Field Elementary in Dallas ISD, according to the group's analysis.</p> <p>The Houston-based advocacy group mapped the businesses across the state using listings from the website Rubmaps.com, which includes sexually explicit reviews and graphic details of sex acts that are offered at some businesses. And a sampling of many found that they didn't have a state license to offer massage services.</p> <p>Children At Risk officials say undercover police often raid such establishments. But it's usually the women — who are often Asian or Latina — who ended up getting arrested and not the men running the illicit businesses.</p>

"These girls are victims, a lot of them are essentially hostages," said James "Jamey" Caruthers, an attorney for Children At Risk. "They are in debt bondage or are afraid. There are language barriers or cultural barriers, so they don't understand the American system of justice. They will never testify against the owners."

But Texas already has laws on the books that go after operators.

The state passed a law last year allowing the Texas attorney general to use deceptive trade practices regulations to go after businesses marketing themselves as massage establishments when they don't have a state license for such services.

State law allows the AG's office to not only shut down the businesses but to assess financial penalties as well. But the law is so new, no cases are known.

Children at Risk credited the AG's office for its aggressive efforts in the area. Just two years ago, the office created the Human Trafficking and Transnational Organized Crime Unit that works on criminal prosecution.

A University of Texas study released in January estimated that the state had about 300,000 victims of human trafficking. Nearly 80,000 were minors who were victims of sex trafficking.

Children At Risk officials have worked with the state to develop training for teachers to help identify kids who might be victims, but noted that such training is not mandatory. They said more needs to be done to address the culture that props up such dangerous businesses.

"We wouldn't have trafficking if we didn't have men who wanted to buy young women," Sanborn said. "We need to take the market away and end the demand. That's what's happening here with all these massage parlors."

The group's analysis comes just after federal officials shut down the classified website Backpage.com and charged seven people associated with the site with human trafficking and money laundering.

Last month, Congress passed federal legislation that allows victims of sex trafficking to sue websites for facilitating in their abuse. Craigslist closed its personal ads listings a few days later.

But Sanborn said the law that shut down Backpage won't be much help in addressing Rubmaps, which is based in Cyprus. Officials representing the site could not be reached for comment, but there is a tool for reporting suspected human trafficking on its site.

"In the event we become aware of any incident of trafficking, we take swift internal action and cooperate enthusiastically with state and federal law enforcement officials assigned to combating this vile abuse of human rights," says a statement on Rubmaps' site.

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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>04/10 Spain: crypto-money laundering ring bust</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://cointelegraph.com/news/spanish-authorities-arrest-11-in-crypto-money-laundering-ring">https://cointelegraph.com/news/spanish-authorities-arrest-11-in-crypto-money-laundering-ring</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>Operation Tulipan Blanca (White Tulip), coordinated by Europol and conducted by the Spanish Guardia Civil, has resulted in the arrest of 11 individuals for laundering more than EUR 8 mln via cryptocurrencies, according to a Europol press release April 9.</p> <p>According to Europol, the investigation was centered around a crime ring which launders money from narcotics sales using credit cards and cryptocurrencies.</p> <p>Launderers would pick up the illicit funds in cash, after which they would deposit them in small amounts</p>

into hundreds of third bank accounts. Since the cash was already circulating in the financial system, the ring just needed to transfer the illicit funds back to the drug dealers in Colombia. The criminals would then acquire credit cards linked with the accounts, and travel to Colombia where they would make withdrawals.

Once the criminals realized that cash withdrawals and bank operations were easy to track, they used cryptocurrencies instead, mainly Bitcoin. The suspects converted illicit funds to Bitcoin through an exchange, which they then changed to Colombian pesos and deposited into Colombian bank accounts the same day.

Through collaboration with Finnish authorities, police were able to establish that the exchange being used by the criminal ring was located in Finland, and collect the necessary information to track the culprits.

137 individuals are still being investigated by the Guardia Civil. The investigation shows that the suspects deposited over EUR 8 mln into 174 different bank accounts. Europol says it has organized special training “to assist law enforcement officers in identifying the use of cryptocurrencies by organized crime networks.”

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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>04/10 Baltimore PD excessive force in shooting</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://apnews.com/53b30b4b004d410b80850b6b9c1e0c03/Report:-Baltimore-police-used-excessive-force-in-shooting">https://apnews.com/53b30b4b004d410b80850b6b9c1e0c03/Report:-Baltimore-police-used-excessive-force-in-shooting</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>BALTIMORE (AP) — An independent city agency has found that four Baltimore police officers used excessive force in the 2015 shooting of a suspect.</p> <p>Keith Davis Jr.’s attorneys, Latoya Francis-Williams and Natalie Finegar, presented the findings of the city’s Civilian Review Board at a news conference Tuesday, The Baltimore Sun reports . The board recommended two officers be terminated and two others receive a 30-day suspension.</p> <p>A police spokesman told The Sun that all officers involved in Davis’ arrest remain employed with the department. A spokeswoman for the state’s attorney’s office said the board’s findings on the officers’ actions do not affect the criminal trial against Davis, 26.</p> <p>The four officers were not named in The Sun’s report.</p> <p>Davis’ attorneys said police unjustly shot him, and his murder charges in the death of 22-year-old Kevin Jones, a Pimlico Race Course security guard, should be dismissed. Davis is scheduled to be tried a third time in the case with his next court date scheduled for June 8.</p> <p>Davis is currently serving a five-year prison sentence for being a felon in possession of a firearm, the only charge among 15 counts a jury found him guilty of in 2016. Davis was accused of pulling a gun on the driver of a hack, or unlicensed cab, before police chased and cornered him inside a garage. He was shot several times and police recovered a handgun from the scene. Davis was charged in Jones’ death after ballistics linked the recovered gun to the killing.</p> <p>The board’s report also raised doubt about the officers’ credibility. It said the city’s crime lab determined the gun was never fired at the officers and found “inconsistent testimonies” between the officers as to whether Davis had a gun.</p> <p>Davis has maintained his innocence, and said the murder weapon was planted on him after he was shot by police just hours following Jones’ slaying.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>04/10 Brazil: gunmen attack prison; 20 killed</b>
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SOURCE	<a href="https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/world/20-killed-during-attempted-prison-break-in-northern-brazil/ar-AAvJirx?li=BBnb7Kz&amp;ocid=HPCDHP">https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/world/20-killed-during-attempted-prison-break-in-northern-brazil/ar-AAvJirx?li=BBnb7Kz&amp;ocid=HPCDHP</a>
GIST	<p>SAO PAULO — Gunmen attacked a prison in northern Brazil trying to stage a mass escape of inmates Tuesday, setting off a gunbattle with police that killed 20 people and injured at least four, authorities said.</p> <p>Public security officials in Para state identified 19 of the dead as prisoners or their supporters. A guard at the Santa Izabel penitentiary in the metro area of the state capital of Belem also died.</p> <p>Officials were doing a head count inside the prison to determine whether any inmates escaped.</p> <p>In a statement, police investigator Rodrigo Leao said two assault weapons, three pistols and two other guns were seized from a group that tried to break into the prison to facilitate a breakout by inmates.</p> <p>The attempted breakout began when explosives were used against a prison wall, according to a statement from the state's public security secretariat. Police and guards then exchanged gunfire with the armed men trying to help inmates escape and with inmates themselves who were armed, it said.</p> <p>It wasn't immediately clear how many of the dead were inmates and how many were gunmen trying to help them escape.</p> <p>Latin America's largest nation has more than 726,000 prisoners, one of the largest inmate populations in the world. Many of its prisons have terrible conditions, and gang leaders often run drug businesses from behind bars.</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>04/10 Death sentence challenge on racial bias</b>
SOURCE	<a href="http://www.thenewstribune.com/news/local/crime/article208476729.html#storylink=mainstage">http://www.thenewstribune.com/news/local/crime/article208476729.html#storylink=mainstage</a>
GIST	<p>A bipartisan effort to repeal the death penalty fell short in the Washington Legislature this year, but a separate effort to overturn the state's capital punishment statute through the courts is ongoing.</p> <p>The constitutional challenge to capital punishment in Washington involves the case of Allen Eugene Gregory, 45, who was sentenced to die for the 1996 rape and murder of Geneine Harshfield in Tacoma. Gregory is one of three African-American men currently on Washington's death row.</p> <p>Citing a 2014 report by researchers at the University of Washington, Gregory's attorneys argue that black defendants in Washington are "more than four times as likely to be sentenced to death as other defendants." The researchers analyzed trial reports from more than 300 aggravated murder cases in Washington since 1981. They concluded that while race did not appear to influence whether prosecutors sought the death penalty, it was a factor in whether juries imposed a death sentence — even after taking into account factors like the number of victims and the defendant's prior criminal history. The study did not find that jurors intentionally discriminated against black defendants but most likely acted from unconscious bias.</p> <p>Based on the findings, Gregory's lawyers have asked the Washington Supreme Court to overturn his sentence and find the state's death-penalty scheme unconstitutional.</p> <p>"We don't know what Allen Gregory's jury was thinking," said Lila Silverstein of the Washington Appellate Project, one of Gregory's attorneys, in an interview. "But what we do know based on this study is that had Allen Gregory not been black, his chances of being sentenced to death would have been notably lower."</p> <p>The Pierce County Prosecutor's Office, which hired its own researcher, counters that the racial-disparity study is fatally flawed and should not be considered by the Supreme Court when it makes its decision on Gregory's appeal. Specifically, prosecutors challenge the UW researchers' reliance on trial reports in</p>



aggravated-murder cases to conclude that racial disparities exist in how the death penalty is applied.

"The trial reports were not designed as a source for statistical analysis," the prosecution wrote in a January filing with the Supreme Court. "[A] study that limits its information to material contained within the trial reports is unlikely to produce reliable results."

The validity of the study by the UW researchers has been vigorously debated for nearly two years during what lawyers call "unprecedented" proceedings before a commissioner for the Supreme Court. Last November, that commissioner issued a 97-page report. While the report didn't offer a conclusion, it did lay out in technical detail the differences of opinion between the UW researchers and the researcher hired by Pierce County.

That report is now in the hands of the justices, but it could be several months before they return a decision in this case.

According to the Death Penalty Information Center, capital punishment has been abolished or overturned in 19 states.

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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>04/10 Staying power private prisons in states</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.nytimes.com/2018/04/10/us/private-prisons-escapes-riots.html?hp&amp;action=click&amp;pgtype=Homepage&amp;clickSource=story-heading&amp;module=first-column-region&amp;region=top-news&amp;WT.nav=top-news">https://www.nytimes.com/2018/04/10/us/private-prisons-escapes-riots.html?hp&amp;action=click&amp;pgtype=Homepage&amp;clickSource=story-heading&amp;module=first-column-region&amp;region=top-news&amp;WT.nav=top-news</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>In Arizona in 2015, a riot broke out in a private prison where previously three inmates had escaped and murdered a vacationing couple.</p> <p>After order was restored, the state revoked the contract of Management &amp; Training Corporation and hired another private prison firm, the GEO Group.</p> <p>Three years earlier, the GEO Group had surrendered its contract to run a Mississippi prison after a federal judge ruled that the inmates had not been protected from gang violence. The replacement: Management &amp; Training Corporation.</p> <p>The staying power of the two companies shows how private prisons maintain their hold on the nation's criminal justice system despite large-scale failures. The field is dominated by a handful of companies who have swallowed the competition and entrenched their positions through aggressive lawyering, intricate financial arrangements and in some cases, according to lawsuits by the Mississippi attorney general, bribery and kickbacks.</p> <p>Though a federal review found private prisons are more dangerous than government-run prisons for both guards and inmates, the Trump administration indicated earlier this year that it will expand their use.</p> <p>Private prison companies can be found at every level of government, housing 9 percent of the nation's prisoners. They emerged in the 1980s, when the number of inmates was quickly outstripping capacity, and they have an outsize influence in certain states, including Arizona, Florida, Hawaii, Mississippi and New Mexico.</p> <p>Despite hundreds of lawsuits, findings that private prisons save taxpayers little to no money, and evidence of repeated constitutional violations, the number of privately housed inmates has risen faster since 2000 than the overall number of prisoners. In 2016, the number rose by about 1.5 percent, according to Justice Department figures.</p> <p>Last week, Frank Shaw, a warden for Management &amp; Training, or MTC, at the East Mississippi Correctional Facility, was called to testify in a federal trial claiming that the prison routinely failed to</p>

shield inmates from beatings and left them so desperate for medical attention that they lit fires in their cells. Mr. Shaw had also been the warden in Arizona during the riot.

The trial concluded on Monday; the judge has yet to issue a decision.

Even states that have sworn off private prisons, or tried to cut back on their use, have found it difficult to extricate themselves. After the prisoners escaped in Arizona, the state tried to reduce the number of inmates held in that prison. But MTC claimed the state was violating its contract, which guaranteed a certain number of beds would be filled. Arizona had to pay the company \$3 million. MTC still operates a facility in the state.

States that use private prisons can find themselves limited to a few big players. The largest are GEO Group, based in Florida; CoreCivic (formerly Corrections Corporation of America), based in Tennessee; and MTC, based in Utah. Two of the past four directors of the Federal Bureau of Prisons were later hired by CoreCivic.

George Zoley, chief executive of GEO Group, made \$9.6 million in 2017 — almost double his 2016 earnings, according to S.E.C. filings. Damon T. Hininger, CoreCivic's chief executive, earned \$2.3 million in total compensation in 2017, according to the records.

GEO Group and CoreCivic, which are publicly traded, had revenues last year of \$2.3 billion and \$1.8 billion. Much less is known about MTC, which is privately held. A company spokesman declined to answer a number of emailed questions about its operations and revenues, but said the company was dedicated to helping “at-risk individuals” gain the tools for success.

The companies employ a variety of strategies, including hiring former corrections officials in high-level positions and giving what are sometimes enormous campaign contributions. GEO Group and CoreCivic gave close to half a million dollars to support Mr. Trump's candidacy and inauguration. After he was elected, their stock prices soared.

Industry officials say they provide cost-effective ways to house inmates, and that they continue to expand into rehabilitation programs as more states seek alternatives to prison. CoreCivic says about 10,000 people in its facilities have obtained high school equivalency diplomas in the past five years, reflecting the company's efforts to improve the ability of inmates to re-enter society.

But some lawmakers say the claims of cost savings and other benefits do not check out. “There is no convincing argument of why we should have private prisons,” said Mike Fasano, a former Republican state senator from Pasco County, Fla., who voted against a 2012 measure to privatize much of Florida's prison system.

GEO Group, which did not respond to a request for comment, gave more than \$1 million to state candidates and parties in Florida in the two years leading up to the vote, according to data from the National Institute on Money in State Politics. But the proposal was narrowly defeated, Mr. Fasano said, over fears about jeopardizing public safety and hurting public corrections workers, as well as concerns that the promised cost savings would not materialize.

In Mississippi, the state's three private prisons were once operated by GEO Group and are now run by MTC.

A fourth, Walnut Grove, was closed in 2016, four years after a federal judge wrote that the prison “paints a picture of such horror as should be unrealized anywhere in the civilized world,” and placed the prison under federal oversight.

But the state is still paying for it. In the 1990s, Mississippi issued bonds to pay for prison construction, including some facilities intended to be privately run. It still owes \$91 million for Walnut Grove, according to state documents.

In a related case, both companies are being sued by the state attorney general for racketeering in connection with a corruption scandal that led to the conviction of Christopher Epps, a former state corrections director. In 2017, he was sentenced to nearly 20 years in prison after receiving some \$1.4 million in bribes and kickbacks from companies vying for state prison contracts.

Cecil McCrory, a former state legislator, was also convicted in the scandal. He did consulting work for both GEO Group and MTC, which paid him \$12,000 a month, according to the indictment.

Both companies have denied wrongdoing in the case.

The state declined to settle a separate lawsuit filed on behalf of inmates at the East Mississippi facility by the American Civil Liberties Union and the Southern Poverty Law Center. For the past two months, the resulting trial has presented evidence of rampant violence and chronic neglect amid shortages of guards and medical staff. Although four out of five inmates there are mentally ill, East Mississippi has not had a psychiatrist on its staff since November.

Inmates have testified that rival gangs were the prison's de facto rulers, even deciding which cells new inmates were allowed to occupy. Last year, an inmate with a mobile phone — available on the prison's black market for \$800 — filmed himself beating another inmate and posted the video on Facebook. MTC gives guards less pay and training than government correction officers receive.

Still, Pelicia E. Hall, the state prison commissioner, testified that she had no plans to cut ties to MTC.

Some states have found themselves with few alternatives when they have tried to curb their use of private prisons.

Hawaii, which sends a quarter of its prisoners to a private prison in Eloy, Ariz., sought to bring them home after the murder of two Hawaiian inmates and allegations of abuse in 2010. One inmate had been stabbed 140 times.

Neil Abercrombie, a Democrat who was governor of Hawaii at the time, declared that the policy of sending prisoners away “costs money, it costs lives, it costs communities.” But Hawaii's largest prison is filled to capacity, so the state has continued to send inmates to Arizona.

Mike Brickner, senior policy director for the American Civil Liberties Union of Ohio, said the prospects for a privatization plan in his state dimmed after the state sold a prison to a private company and assaults on prison staff and other inmates rose sharply. The frequency of assaults declined in subsequent years.

Much of the industry's power, critics say, is linked to campaign donations. GEO Group and CoreCivic have given nearly \$9 million over the past fifteen years to state candidates and parties across the United States, with the overwhelming majority to Republicans, according to the National Institute on Money in State Politics.

The two companies have also spent between \$3 million and \$4 million annually on lobbying, according to data from the institute and from the nonprofit Center for Responsive Politics.

Steve Owen, a CoreCivic spokesman, said the magnitude of lobbying and campaign contributions was not unusual for an industry of its size.

The industry also promises savings. But such claims have been disputed, partly because many contracts allow the private prisons to cherry-pick the healthiest inmates while leaving those who need more care to publicly run facilities, making private prisons appear to be cheaper to run, critics say.

The Justice Department's inspector general concluded in 2016 that it could not accurately compare costs, partly because of “the different nature of the inmate populations and programs offered in those facilities.”

	The department ordered a phasing-out of private facilities that year, saying they “compare poorly” with government prisons and citing a lack of substantial cost savings. One month after Mr. Trump’s inauguration, the department rescinded the decision.
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>04/10 Man w/axes threatens to kill police</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.kiro7.com/news/north-sound-news/man-armed-with-3-axes-threatens-to-kill-officers-goes-on-destructive-rampage/730246688">https://www.kiro7.com/news/north-sound-news/man-armed-with-3-axes-threatens-to-kill-officers-goes-on-destructive-rampage/730246688</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>EDMONDS, Wash. - A man armed with three axes and a knife destroyed a motel room, threatened to kill police officers and others and caused a standoff with police Tuesday, according to Edmonds police.</p> <p>Police were called to a motel in the 23900 block of Highway 99 in Edmonds Tuesday morning by motel guests who said a man there was threatening to kill people.</p> <p>At some point, the man had broken into a motel room, where he retreated when officers arrived.</p> <p>Police said the man ripped out the hot water tank and stove and threw them out of the room, along with chairs and other items.</p> <p>As officers were trying to get the man to surrender, he threw tools at officers and made threats to kill them.</p> <p>Police said that during the standoff, the man began stripping off layers of clothing.</p> <p>After about two hours, the 35-year-old Everett man was taken into custody and transported to a hospital.</p> <p>He could face charges of felony harassment, first-degree burglary, assaulting a police officer and felony property damage.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>04/11 Seattle Central District shooting: 4 arrests</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.kiro7.com/news/local/4-suspects-captured-after-shots-fired-in-rainier-valley/730382296">https://www.kiro7.com/news/local/4-suspects-captured-after-shots-fired-in-rainier-valley/730382296</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>SEATTLE - Seattle police are investigating a dramatic sequence of events that started with gunshots in one Seattle neighborhood and lead to a chase and crash in another that ended when police took four people into custody.</p> <p>Seattle police said no one was injured by the gunfire, but the shots were fired near 27th Avenue and East Union Street in the Central District at about 2:15 p.m. The shooting lead to a pursuit and crash on Renton Avenue South and Cloverdale Street.</p> <p>Seattle police say the events that lead to the crash started earlier Tuesday with a report of shots fired near 27th Ave and East Union Street around 2:15 PM.</p> <p>At about 3:15 p.m., police said officers spotted the vehicle driving on Rainier Ave South near South Charlestown. Officers tried to stop it, but the car got away leading to the chase and crash outside Andy Almanzor's door.</p> <p>Authorities said the suspects fled on foot. Police fanned out across the area near Renton Avenue South and Cloverdale Street. Three males and a female were caught and a gun was recovered from the suspect vehicle.</p> <p>The King County Sheriff's Office helped find one suspect behind a house on Renton Avenue and another</p>

	<p>in a shed off of 42nd Avenue.</p> <p>Two others were caught by patrol officers on the ground. It's not clear yet who or what precisely was targeted in the shooting in the Central District.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>04/10 SCSO cold case: couple killed in Seattle</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://q13fox.com/2015/06/26/murder-mystery-canadian-couple-visiting-seattle-killed-families-offering-huge-reward-to-solve-case/">http://q13fox.com/2015/06/26/murder-mystery-canadian-couple-visiting-seattle-killed-families-offering-huge-reward-to-solve-case/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>EVERETT, Wash. — The Snohomish County Sheriff’s Office scheduled a news conference for Wednesday to provide new suspect information in a cold case murder from more than 30 years ago.</p> <p>“Back on November 18th, 1987, Jay Cook and Tanya Van Cuylenborg left British Columbia on Vancouver Island and came across on the Coho ferry to Port Angeles headed to Seattle,” said Snohomish County Detective Jim Scharf.</p> <p>Tanya, 17, and Jay, 20, were running an errand for his father. The couple vanished after getting off the ferry in Seattle.</p> <p>“They obviously were abducted in downtown Seattle and King County,” said Scharf.</p> <p>Their bodies were found a few days later in two different counties.</p> <p>“Jay’s body was found below High Bridge, which was on the Crescent Lake Road. Tanya was taken up to Skagit County, south of Alger, and she was shot and raped and left by the side of the Parson’s Creek Road,” recalls Scharf.</p> <p>Their van was found in Bellingham near a Greyhound bus station several days later.</p> <p>Skagit County Detective Ben Hagglund says, “The van was out and about for a full week between the time it was last seen on the ferry and with the time it was recovered in Bellingham and that’s a lot of exposure for who’s responsible for this crime.”</p> <p>Items were stolen from the van including a Minolta camera. In 1990, the lens was tracked to a pawn shop in Portland, but police are still looking for the camera itself and a couple of other items. “There’s a green backpack the person might have had, a black jacket, and a Minolta camera. We even have serial numbers for the camera if we can locate it,” says Det. Scharf.</p> <p>For the past three decades friends and family of Tanya and Jay have been raising money to help find their killer. Now, the reward is \$25,000 Canadian dollars. “Since it’s been 27 years we don’t know if the person that did this is alive or not, but even if they’re not we feel that somebody out there has information that can help us resolve it by identifying that person because we do have DNA evidence that will be a positive match,” Scharf explains.</p> <p>Investigators are more hopeful than ever that this cold-blooded killer will be caught. Hagglund adds, “This is a difficult case to be sure with international lines and interstate lines and multiple counties, but we believe it’s solvable with help from the public, with advances in technology and with continued efforts by law enforcement.”</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>04/11 Police kill knife-wielder in Calif. mall</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="http://www.foxnews.com/us/2018/04/11/knife-wielding-suspect-killed-by-police-in-southern-">http://www.foxnews.com/us/2018/04/11/knife-wielding-suspect-killed-by-police-in-southern-</a>

	<a href="#">california-mall-authorities-say.html</a>
GIST	<p>Police shot and killed a suspect who was wielding a knife at a South Los Angeles shopping mall Tuesday evening, authorities said.</p> <p>Footage from the Baldwin Hills Crenshaw Plaza, around 7.5 miles southwest of downtown Los Angeles, indicates at least four shots were fired.</p> <p>The mall was locked down for several hours after police responded to the scene, Fox 11 Los Angeles reported. Witnesses told the station the suspect had been threatening shoppers with the knife, and one witness said the suspect did not comply when officers told him to drop the weapon.</p> <p>Officers first responded to the scene around 5:40 p.m., a Los Angeles Police Department official told KTLA-TV.</p> <p>Police fired at the suspect shortly after arriving at the scene, the report said. His body reportedly remained inside the plaza late Tuesday night.</p> <p>LAPD reportedly confirmed that a knife was recovered from the scene.</p> <p>The name of the suspect and further details were not immediately available.</p> <p>The suspect was the eighth person shot by on-duty LAPD police this year, and sixth to be killed, the Los Angeles Times reported.</p> <p>No officers were injured Tuesday, the Times reported.</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>04/10 Myanmar soldiers jailed in Rohingya killing</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.reuters.com/article/us-myanmar-rohingya-military/seven-myanmar-soldiers-sentenced-to-10-years-for-rohingya-massacre-idUSKBN1HH2ZS">https://www.reuters.com/article/us-myanmar-rohingya-military/seven-myanmar-soldiers-sentenced-to-10-years-for-rohingya-massacre-idUSKBN1HH2ZS</a>
GIST	<p>YANGON (Reuters) - Seven Myanmar soldiers have been sentenced to “10 years in prison with hard labor in a remote area” for participating in a massacre of 10 Rohingya Muslim men in a village in northwestern Rakhine state last September, the army said on Tuesday.</p> <p>The military said in a statement published on Commander-in-Chief Min Aung Hlaing’s office Facebook page that seven soldiers have had “action taken against them” for “contributing and participating in murder”.</p> <p>The massacre was being investigated by two Reuters journalists - Wa Lone, 31, and Kyaw Soe Oo, 28 - who were subsequently arrested in December and are still behind bars facing charges of violating the country’s Official Secrets Act.</p> <p>The authorities told Reuters in February the military opened an internal investigation independently and that it is unrelated to the Reuters reporters who are accused of obtaining unrelated secret government papers.</p> <p>The Rohingya men from the northern Rakhine village of Inn Din were buried in a mass grave in early September after being hacked to death or shot by Buddhist neighbors and soldiers. Reuters published its story on the murder in February.</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>04/10 French activists attack police in camp</b>
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SOURCE	<a href="http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/french-activists-clash-police-protest-camp-54357272?">http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/french-activists-clash-police-protest-camp-54357272?</a>
GIST	<p>French activists fired a flare at a police helicopter and clashed with riot officers Tuesday in western France as authorities cleared out a protest camp erected nearly a decade ago to block construction of an airport.</p> <p>Eleven police officers were injured and 16 squats were dismantled on the second day of the government's evacuation operation at the site of Notre-Dame-des-Landes, said the head of the regional administration, Nicole Klein.</p> <p>The clashes come at a time of simmering public protest in France, including nationwide train strikes, an Air France workers' strike and blockades by students at public universities.</p> <p>Authorities said about 350 people are resisting the authorities' evacuation operation at Notre-Dame-des-Landes.</p> <p>The national gendarme service said an investigation is underway into the flare launched at the helicopter flying over the area Tuesday.</p> <p>Activists also clashed with riot police when the evacuation began Monday, and one officer was hospitalized after being hit in the eye with a flare.</p> <p>French President Emmanuel Macron's government in January abandoned plans for the airport, near the city of Nantes, after 50 years of debate, and gave squatters until spring to clear out. The government requisitioned the land from farmers for the airport, but is now offering to return the land to those who want it.</p> <p>Proponents had argued the region needed a larger airport to boost its economic prospects. Opponents said a new airport was unnecessary and a symbol of exploitative globalization.</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>04/10 Austin bombing suspect 'callous'</b>
SOURCE	<a href="http://abcnews.go.com/US/austin-bombing-suspect-child-safety-sign-conceal-explosives/story?id=54358011">http://abcnews.go.com/US/austin-bombing-suspect-child-safety-sign-conceal-explosives/story?id=54358011</a>
GIST	<p>Investigators still do not know the motive behind a deadly serial bombing spree that terrorized residents in Austin, Texas, but new documents indicate the suspect was so calculating and callous he used a "Drive Like Your Kids Live Here" sign to conceal one of his explosives.</p> <p>Mark Anthony Conditt, 23, blew himself up with one of his homemade, shrapnel-loaded bombs on March 20 as a SWAT team moved in to arrest him.</p> <p>"The investigation continues. We're looking at his intent, his motivations," John Bash, the U.S. attorney for the Western District of Texas, said at a news conference Monday evening. "There are no further suspects at this time and we do not have any reason to believe there's a further destructive device out there."</p> <p>A federal judge in Texas unsealed on Monday an eight-page affidavit prosecutors filed in support of an arrest warrant for Conditt, an unemployed college dropout, just hours before he killed himself in his vehicle in an Austin suburb.</p> <p>The heavily redacted affidavit shows that Conditt built seven explosive devices, using many of the same parts he purchased at hardware stores.</p>
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