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HEADLINE	05/11 Drones seen as major sports threat
SOURCE	http://www.chicagotribune.com/sports/breaking/ct-spt-drones-theats-to-sports-stadiums-20180511-story.html
GIST	<p>On the Sunday after Thanksgiving, Sacramento resident Tracy Mapes drove to Santa Clara, flew a drone over Levi's Stadium and dropped a payload of leaflets espousing his conspiracy theories over the San Francisco 49ers-Seattle Seahawks game.</p> <p>He then headed across the Bay to the Oakland Raiders game intent on doing the same.</p> <p>A year ago this month, a San Diego bartender crashed his drone into a fan at the Padres' Petco Park.</p> <p>While Mapes was later arrested and the bartender was tracked down and fined, team security and local police were unable to stop the flights — whether with high-tech jammers or other means — for fear of violating federal law.</p> <p>"Federal law prohibits local law enforcement from disarming or disabling drones, even if they are in restricted airspace," said National Football League Senior Vice President Jocelyn Moore. "This loophole in federal law puts the safety and security of millions of sports fans and eventgoers at risk."</p> <p>The same prohibitions on intercepting communications or disabling aircraft also apply to the FBI, Department of Homeland Security and most other federal agencies.</p> <p>The Trump administration on Wednesday tapped 10 pilot projects, from mosquito control in Florida to food delivery in California, that it hopes will offer lessons for how to sharply expand drone use nationwide. But major league teams are increasingly anxious about the more than one million drones government officials estimate are already in use. They are asking Congress to give local law enforcement permission to seize or reroute drones flying over stadiums. And they are trying to get in a position to protect themselves.</p> <p>The families that own the New York Mets have invested in a Silicon Valley firm, Airspace, that uses artificial-intelligence driven drones that can find and capture other drones. Farzam Kamel, a partner at Sterling VC, an investment arm of the Wilpon and Katz families, said they are working to address the "very rare but devastating threat that can come."</p> <p>"Knock on wood that hasn't really happened in our market or in the U.S. But it would be foolish to think it won't or it can't," Kamel said.</p>

Citi Field, home of the Mets, is a good place to demonstrate the technology, Kamel said, given the complex environment and numerous variables at play. It's near LaGuardia airport, so team officials must work closely with the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, along with the Federal Aviation Administration. The New York Police Department also is very focused on the issue, given the city's high profile, he said.

"So do we wait until something devastating happens before we get realistic about it? Or are we practical and plan accordingly now, so that we can avoid that outcome?" Kamel asked. "Or when something does happen, if it's at a venue that's not deploying a solution that can deal with that threat, at least there's a viable solution out there that can be rapidly deployed across venues when it's needed."

The Padres asked engineers from Airspace to recreate the bartender's ill-fated flight over their stadium. Executives say they were able to detect the approaching drone from afar and nab the intruder midair with a Kevlar net.

"Our kids are going to be in those stadiums," Airspace chief executive Jaz Banga said.

Team officials are impatient, saying the problem has been clear for years.

"There's technology out there that we can use, and we do use," said Cathy L. Lanier, the NFL's senior vice president of security, including tools to detect when drones are flying nearby. "But the technology we really need is not yet legal to use."

The Department of Defense was freed over the past two years, in certain cases, from prohibitions against intercepting electronic communications and "sabotaging" aircraft, in order to address drone threats.

The Trump administration has proposed giving the departments of Homeland Security and Justice similar powers.

But Lanier, the former D.C. police chief, said that proposal "doesn't help us, because I don't think I'm going to get a Secret Service or DHS agent to 256 games a year" to defend NFL venues against drones. The FAA imposes temporary flight restrictions near stadiums during games, but they are routinely ignored.

Said Lanier: "80,000 people in a stadium is a critical thing to protect." The incident at the 49ers game was just the latest reminder. "There are a lot of other things that could have been delivered that way that could have been a lot worse."

Still, allowing widespread use of counter-drone technologies is fraught with unresolved issues and, some say, comes with its own set of dangers.

Last year, the Trump administration sought counter-drone powers for numerous federal agencies, but the request was rejected based on bipartisan concerns in Congress that it was too broad.

Some legal scholars say allowing government agencies to intercept communications related to drones could have implications for civil liberties.

The FAA fiercely guards its control of U.S. airspace and officials there say such consistency contributes to the nation's stellar safety record. Allowing aircraft — in this case drones — to be interfered with in ever more places raises safety issues, some aviation experts said.

There also are concerns that stray signals from anti-drone defenses, depending on how they're used, could interfere with cellphones or radios, possibly affecting heart monitors or airplane navigation equipment.

Still, given the threats, a number of private firms are taking legal risks, calculating that the consequences

of breaking the law would be less severe than being attacked.

Some stadiums are "playing very close to the line, maybe over it" by deploying technologies that can interfere with an operator's ability to control their drone, according to an administration official who was not authorized to speak publicly.

FBI director Christopher A. Wray, testifying before a senate panel in September, noted terrorists' use of drones overseas and said "I think the expectation is it's coming here imminently."

Lanier, who had to balance competing interests as a big city police chief, says there is understandable debate about allowing counter-drone measures that are effective but don't cause wider disruptions. "But we have to get it together sooner or later," she said.

"Drones aren't even new. The new technology now is autonomous vehicles. We're already behind the curve by a couple generations," Lanier said.

The Dallas Cowboys' and Texas Rangers' stadiums, as well as those at the Universities of Nebraska, Missouri, Texas and Kentucky have all had unwelcome visits from drones, according to FAA records obtained under a public records request. One operator flew his drone "in close proximity" to four parachutists landing at the University of Kentucky. He later lost control and crashed the device inside the stadium; he was fined \$2,200.

One problem, authorities say, is they can't tell friend from foe.

The FAA is pushing for a requirement that all drones have the electronic equivalent of a license plate, to allow for remote identification and tracking. That would require changing an existing ban on new FAA regulations on the more than one million drones deemed "recreational."

The House passed a bill last month outlawing guns on drones, though some in Congress questioned whether that too would be undermined by existing law.

Mapes posted videos showing test runs of his leaflet drops in the days before he headed for the 49ers game. "I had bombed the Sacramento Area, Capitol TV Stations for 1 month prior to the 2 NFL games in November," he wrote in an exchange of messages with The Washington Post.

His fliers were emblazoned with a stark red "X," an American flag, and his name. He warned that "Prostitutes and Felons have been Infiltrated into America's Newsrooms and Local Municipal Politics," as well as the Oval Office.

"These leaflets were passed out in quite a scary way for us," Santa Clara police Capt. Wahid Kazem said. "We're not only worried about what is coming down from the sky from this thing. We're worried about how people are reacting to that in the seats."

Even spooking a tiny fraction of the crowd could lead to tragedy, he said.

Mapes drove off toward the Oakland Coliseum, where he hoped for a repeat performance. The NFL went on alert, warning other teams still to play that day.

Authorities found Mapes near the coliseum, and he was later charged with a misdemeanor. Federal officials opened an investigation, which continues.

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HEADLINE 05/14 Puerto Rico nervous w/hurricane season

SOURCE <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/05/14/us/puerto-rico-hurricane-season.html>

LAS PIEDRAS, P.R. — Next week, nearly eight months after Hurricane Maria tore across Puerto Rico and ravaged its frail power grid, the Army Corps of Engineers, which was charged with restoring the island's electricity, will hand off its mission and depart. Thousands of Puerto Ricans will still be in the dark.

Two weeks later, a new hurricane season will begin. And Puerto Ricans, who are struggling to recover from Maria, fear they will not be ready.

“What if another one comes? We're very worried,” Migdalia Díaz, 64, said from her home in Las Piedras, a town of about 38,000 in eastern Puerto Rico where about a quarter of residents are still without power.

A blue tarp covers her leaky roof. Ms. Díaz lives with her son, Kevin Cabrera, 22, who has Down syndrome and is sensitive to the heat. She has been relying on two generators, a solar-powered battery charger and a hot plate. Once the Corps of Engineers leaves, restoring power will be up to the local power agency, and many residents are skeptical.

“Emotionally, we are not well. I've spent the seven months since the hurricane taking sleeping pills,” Ms. Díaz said. “We look like we're from that show ‘The Walking Dead.’”

The crucial question is whether Puerto Rico's power grid can withstand even a minor storm. The answer is probably not: A fallen tree recently knocked out power to the San Juan metropolitan area. A week later, an excavator got too close to a high-voltage line, and the entire island was plunged into darkness.

The local utility, the Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority, is “not ready for a new hurricane season,” Representative Jenniffer González-Colón, the commonwealth's nonvoting member of Congress, told a local radio station.

Officials insist they are better positioned to respond to a hurricane — if nothing else, because the memory of Maria is still fresh.

“We do learn,” said Mike Byrne, who oversees the Federal Emergency Management Agency's relief work in Puerto Rico. “We take our lumps, and we learn from them.”

There is reason for skepticism: Local emergency managers are still meeting with key members of the private sector, like fuel distributors, to hash out hurricane plans. The worst of the Atlantic hurricane season does not usually hit the Caribbean until August and September; officials insist they will finish their preparations by then.

For the first time, Puerto Rican residents will be asked to be prepared to fend for themselves for 10 days after a storm, up from three. Even that might not be enough, officials acknowledge; meals are still being delivered to residents of remote mountain towns.

Puerto Rico does have more emergency supplies on hand than it did before Maria, which hit just two weeks after Hurricane Irma. Though Irma only brushed Puerto Rico, it ripped through the United States Virgin Islands — prompting FEMA officials to send the bulk of the hurricane relief supplies in the agency's Puerto Rico warehouse to the island's stricken neighbors.

“So when Maria hit Puerto Rico, tarps and plastic sheeting, we had none,” said Reinaldo Colón, supervisor of FEMA's distribution center for the Caribbean, a large warehouse on the outskirts of San Juan. Forty-eight generators had been shipped to St. Thomas, leaving 25 available.

Now, the warehouse, rehabbed after taking on water during Maria, is brimming with boxes encased in plastic. Shelves are stocked with 100,000 tarps, according to FEMA, more than the 13,000 available at the start of the 2017 hurricane season. There are 3.6 million meals ready to eat, compared to 500,000 last year; 5.4 million liters of water compared to 800,000; nearly twice as many blankets — 10,000, compared to 6,000 — and 130 high-capacity generators.

FEMA has also rented four warehouses on the island and plans to keep 67 recovery centers open throughout hurricane season. More than 2,800 FEMA employees remain in Puerto Rico, ready to help if another disaster strikes.

“Because the infrastructure is so fragile, we’re being overly cautious,” Mr. Byrne said.

Another exercise, in mid-June, will simulate a full-scale disaster: Federal and local teams will practice setting up an emergency operations center at the San Juan convention center. Crews will load supplies from the FEMA warehouse onto trucks and deliver them to municipalities.

Typically, at the end of dry runs, the supplies return to the warehouse. This time, FEMA will leave some commodities with local mayors, to provide a modicum of early support, Mr. Byrne said.

By the end of May, Puerto Rico plans to equip all hospitals, urgent care centers, fire stations and police stations with radio systems, Mr. Acevedo said. By June or July, all municipalities should have satellite phones. A communications blackout after Maria delayed aid because officials did not know the extent of the devastation.

About 15 percent of private telecommunications providers continue to operate on generators, said Sandra Torres, president of Puerto Rico’s telecommunications regulator. But, she added, more fiber-optic cable has been installed underground since Maria — including, for the first time, near Puerto Rico’s hard-hit central mountain town of Utuado — and providers have invested in more generators to keep cellphone towers running.

Storm debris is still being hauled away from 26 municipalities, but should be completed by mid-June, FEMA officials said. Local officials are also receiving training to better handle emergencies.

Still, the governor acknowledged that saving money to pay for a catastrophe remains a challenge for his strapped government, whose bankrupt finances have been overseen by a federal control board since 2016.

Manuel Reyes Alfonso, executive vice president of MIDA, the island’s food industry association, said wholesale and retail businesses continued to experience delays in receiving cargo. “We are not where we’d like to be, or where we should be,” he said.

He worries about a trucker shortage and about slow fuel delivery for generators. Puerto Rico had fuel after Maria, but no easy way to get it to people, leading to endless lines at gas stations and a black market for diesel sales. FEMA had to bring in a fuel barge for its operations.

Food could also be scarce again, Mr. Reyes said, because Puerto Rico continues to impose a tax on inventories. Eliminating the tax could increase food stores to an average of 37 days from 26, according to a survey that the food association conducted of its members in February. A legislative effort to do away with the tax has stalled, Mr. Reyes said, in part because lawmakers have yet to figure out how to make up for the lost revenue.

Rodrigo Masses, president of the Puerto Rico Manufacturers Association, said he had advised businesses to double their fuel storage capacity, keep their generators in shape and designate an emergency contact off the island to relay information in the event cellphone service fails again.

“We’re still not out of the crisis. If we’re hit by another hurricane like this one, we’re going to lose power again. We’re going to lose connectivity again,” he warned. “But the private sector is going to be much better prepared.”

Once the Corps of Engineers departs, the Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority, known as Prepa, will be tasked with completing unfinished repairs to the power grid. At a hearing this week of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources in Washington, lawmakers sounded skeptical that Prepa,

which has come under fierce scrutiny over its early response to the storm, is up to the job. Representative González-Colón has asked FEMA to extend the Corps' stay.

“We sure want to know that you really are ready,” Senator Lisa Murkowski of Alaska told Prepa’s new chief, Walter Higgins, at the hearing.

“We feel that we are ready,” Mr. Higgins said. But, he added, “I don’t doubt that we will have some growing pains.”

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HEADLINE	05/13 Calif. stark divisions over immigration law
SOURCE	https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/national/wp/2018/05/13/feature/californias-defiance-of-immigration-law-creates-stark-divides/?noredirect=on&utm_term=.fe50bbcb0821
GIST	<p>For nearly two decades, Alameda County sheriff’s Sgt. Don Laventure has kept inmate records at what was once one of the nation’s largest jails, a campus of low cement buildings set among seasonally green hills. He knows his work.</p> <p>Yet since January, a flowchart drawn in green highlighter has hung over the window above his desk at Santa Rita Jail. It is a cheat sheet for how to follow the rules imposed by California’s “sanctuary state” law, which provides broad legal protection from federal deportation to the state’s estimated 2.5 million undocumented immigrants.</p> <p>The chart is a collection of arrows, some pointing sideways, some down, some toward U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement — and even more pointing away from it.</p> <p>“We need to let everyone who sits in here know how this works,” Laventure said, “because not everybody knows what’s going on.”</p> <p>California’s new sanctuary-state law has made Laventure’s job more complex, but for many public-safety officials in the state, their frustration is about more than the cumbersome rules. The law, they say, is putting people at risk.</p> <p>Growing opposition to the law is challenging California’s identity as the heart of liberal resistance to the Trump administration. Protests from conservative residents and politicians are emerging in courthouses and council meetings from here in the Bay Area to San Diego County.</p> <p>Known officially as the California Values Act, the law prohibits nearly all communication between local law enforcement officials and federal immigration agents. At Santa Rita Jail, which takes in between 400 and 500 people a day, 35 inmates have been met by ICE agents so far this year — a number that the jail’s commander believes should be far higher.</p> <p>“We constantly have to second-guess ourselves,” said Capt. Derrick Hesselein, commander of the jail.</p> <p>There are exceptions to the law for when ICE requests information about undocumented inmates with serious criminal pasts. But those legal thresholds are high, which the measure’s supporters say are necessary to prevent undocumented immigrants who do not pose a public-safety threat from being swept up in deportations.</p> <p>In recent weeks, more than a dozen small cities and three counties in California have joined the Trump administration’s lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of the sanctuary-state law. There is a sense among conservatives facing a difficult midterm election season that California has become “a rogue state,” in the words of a San Diego County supervisor who voted to join the federal lawsuit last month.</p> <p>“Bringing up immigration is a way of mobilizing moderate, traditional Republicans here without bringing</p>

up Trump, who is not particularly popular,” said Louis DeSipio, a political-science professor at the University of California at Irvine. “At the grass-roots level, there may be opposition to this law and fear. But at the elite level, the elected political level, there is a strategic aspect to introducing immigration into the conversation now.”

Two counties — liberal Alameda in the north and traditionally conservative San Diego in the south — highlight California’s internal divide over the law. And there are vastly different priorities within local law enforcement agencies: While line officers want ICE to keep its distance as they try to build trust within undocumented communities, corrections officers want a closer relationship with federal immigration agencies.

“You’re seeing that this pendulum in California went so far in one direction,” Hesselein said. “Now you are really starting to see that pendulum swing back, and we need to be somewhere in the middle because people are scared.”

California has been breaking away from the federal government’s immigration policy for years.

The legislature passed the Trust Act five years ago to prohibit state and local agencies from complying with ICE immigration “holds,” notices to detain undocumented immigrants in local jails after they are eligible for release.

Then last year, after President Trump’s victory on a promise to build a wall along the southern border and step up deportations, the legislature voted to make California the nation’s first sanctuary state.

At the bill’s signing last fall, state Sen. Kevin de León (D-Los Angeles), who sponsored the legislation and is running for the U.S. Senate this year, said, “California’s local law enforcement cannot be commandeered and used by the Trump administration to tear families apart, undermine our safety and wreak havoc on our economy.”

But a recent survey conducted by the Haas Institute for a Fair and Inclusive Society at the University of California at Berkeley found that the state’s conflicting views on the issue endure: Nearly 2 in 3 respondents supported the principles of the sanctuary-state law, agreeing that local school, law enforcement and medical officials should limit contact with federal authorities. But 59 percent of all respondents also advocated an increase in deportations.

Under the law, county corrections officers can fulfill an ICE request for an undocumented inmate’s release date for two reasons: If the inmate has been convicted in the past 15 years of one of 31 serious crimes, or if probable cause has been found to support a pending charge for one of those crimes.

David Marin, director of the ICE field office in Los Angeles, said county corrections officers often err on the side of caution and deny ICE requests if there is uncertainty around the inmate’s legal status. Getting it wrong could mean a civil suit.

ICE agents, whom the law prohibits from having office space in county jails, may send corrections officers requests to speak to specific undocumented inmates. Once a request is received, corrections officers must deliver it to the inmate, who has a right to decline to speak to the ICE agent. Marin said inmates decline interviews “at least 95 percent of the time.”

“I know California politicians say they want to protect everyone with this law,” Marin said. “But what they are really doing is protecting the criminal alien.”

The civil rights concern driving many advocates of the law is whether, given the high number of documented and undocumented immigrants brought into the criminal justice system, those here illegally are being channeled toward ICE as a result of biased policing.

“There’s a connection — how do they get to jail here in the first place?” said Jon Rodney, spokesman for

the California Immigrant Policy Center. “Race and class have a lot to do with who ends up there.”

Alameda County borders the eastern shore of San Francisco Bay and stretches into rural valleys farther east. Now a majority-minority county, the population runs from mostly African American and white in and around Oakland to increasingly Latino outside the southern city limits.

In February, the Democratic mayor of Oakland, Libby Schaaf, announced publicly that ICE intended to conduct a series of immigration raids in the county. Celebrated locally, the announcement drew a sharp rebuke from the U.S. Justice Department, which threatened an investigation. Trump called the warning “a disgrace.”

ICE raids severely complicate the work of Alameda County sheriff’s deputies in places such as Ashland and Cherryland, adjacent neighborhoods south of Oakland where the majority of residents are undocumented.

Once supported economically by jobs in a now-shuttered Hunt’s cannery and a Pepsi bottling plant, the community has faded, first with the crack epidemic and then gang violence. The Little League teams and soccer clubs that sheriff’s Capt. Martin Neideffer recalls from his boyhood vanished with the jobs.

Now the crime rate is three times that of surrounding neighborhoods. An estimated 8,000 residents of the two neighborhoods, affecting nearly half of the households, have been in the criminal justice system. An estimated 60 percent of students in the school district, San Lorenzo Unified, come from Spanish-speaking homes.

But there is an obvious pride of place here with the small, red-tile roof homes neatly kept, their front lawns trimmed like golf greens.

“This is an aspirational neighborhood,” Neideffer said, “a place always trying to look up.”

In recent years, Neideffer has run a community-building initiative for the Sheriff’s Office in neighborhoods marked by a deep mistrust of authority.

The office has raised millions of dollars to establish clinical outreach programs, create soccer leagues and boxing tournaments, and build outdoor markets. There are Zumba classes, sponsored by the Sheriff’s Office, and a Spanish Academy, where deputies explain the dispatch and crime-reporting process.

Three of the office’s Explorers, members of a youth training program, are “dreamers” — undocumented immigrants who were brought to the country as children.

The goal is to create trust within the community so its members, particularly its most vulnerable, will report crime.

The chilling effect of the debate around the law has been noted on the ground. Deputies have seen a decline in attendance at the weekly community events they sponsor, and an analysis of crime reports in Ashland and Cherryland shows that the pace lags behind last year’s.

“The election of 2016 made all the difference in the world,” Neideffer said. “It has created a backlash and instability that has made the job that much harder.”

Los Alamitos is a city of 11,000 people, just an off-ramp amid the landscape of highways, power stanchions, strip malls and Denny’s restaurants just south of the Los Angeles County line. It is an unlikely cradle for a rebellion over immigration.

There is no jail here. The tiny police department does not enforce immigration policy. Yet on March 19, the City Council declared its intention to not follow the sanctuary-state law.

Other cities and the Orange County Board of Supervisors followed in the same spirit soon after by joining the Trump lawsuit. So too did San Diego County, the political home of former governor Pete Wilson (R), who in 1994 rode his endorsement of Proposition 187 to reelection.

By a wide margin, state voters approved the proposition, which denied undocumented immigrants access to most government services, including all but emergency public health care. The measure, which emerged from Orange County, passed with the endorsement of high-level Republican candidates, who benefited from supporting an initiative later found to be broadly unconstitutional.

Only two Republicans have won statewide races in California since Proposition 187 passed — an era in which Latinos have formed an increasing share of the electorate.

The political fight over the sanctuary-state law is playing out now across at least four congressional districts that Democrats have a chance to flip in Orange County, which favored a Democratic presidential candidate two years ago for the first time since the Great Depression.

On a recent evening, in a small courtyard of the small Los Alamitos City Hall, the debate over the law unfolded in a kind of election-year caricature. The council was set to pass an ordinance confirming that it would no longer abide by the California Values Act. Demonstrators gathered hours before.

The law's supporters were equally vocal and more numerous. "De-colonize Orange County," one sign read. "Refugees In, Racists Out," read another. A cumbia band played, as the two sides yelled at and filmed each other.

Inside the hearing room, after hours of testimony, the council passed the ordinance despite objections from one member who said it was only a symbolic move that opens the city to litigation. Within 48 hours, a group of city residents filed suit, claiming the measure is illegal.

So far this year, Orange County corrections officers have complied with 181 ICE requests for information on the release dates of undocumented inmates. Undersheriff Don Barnes said 244 other requests did not meet the law's criteria — even though, he said, some of those inmates are facing what he considers serious charges or were previously convicted of one.

"In California now, cooperation, not illegal immigration, is the sin," said Orange County Supervisor Shawn Nelson, who introduced the measure to join the federal lawsuit against the state. "And we cannot accept that."

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HEADLINE	05/13 Farmers across High Plains face drought
SOURCE	https://www.wsj.com/articles/farmers-across-high-plains-brace-for-hard-times-as-drought-bears-down-1526209201
GIST	<p>LAMESA, Texas—This time of year, Shawn Holladay is usually sitting atop a tractor, laying cotton seeds into rows of red soil on his farm here on the High Plains.</p> <p>But less than 2 inches of rain has fallen across much of West Texas since last October, compared with an average of about 10 inches over the same period last year. With his fields bone dry, Mr. Holladay and many other farmers in the Texas Cotton Belt have held off putting seeds in all but small patches of irrigated ground out of fear they will simply dry up.</p> <p>"The way it's going right now, the chances are slim to none we will have a crop," the 49-year-old Mr. Holladay said as he inspected his fields earlier this month.</p> <p>After three fairly wet years, a drought ranging from "severe" to "exceptional" has descended on the southern Great Plains of Colorado, Kansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas, according to the U.S.</p>

Drought Monitor at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Home to one of the nation's most fertile farming areas—crop production in the Texas region alone generates about \$12 billion in economic activity—observers say the drought could punish the agricultural sector, affecting everything from cotton to cattle to farming-equipment sales.

“It’s going to be in the billions in terms of crop loss,” said Darren Hudson, director of the International Center for Agricultural Competitiveness at Texas Tech University in Lubbock.

A semiarid region, the southern Plains region has seen drought conditions for much of the last decade, but the severity of this latest dry spell is of particular concern. For many farmers here, the sudden falloff in precipitation is reminiscent of the devastating drought of 2011 when Texas agriculture lost \$7.6 billion, the worst losses on record in the state.

The drought is part of a larger dry spell gripping the Southwest, which has sparked wildfires in Oklahoma and led to the deaths of more than 100 wild horses in early May on the Navajo Nation in Arizona.

Already, the Plains drought has dealt a blow to two other major pillars of the region’s ag economy: winter wheat and cattle. An estimated 60% of the 4.7 million acres of winter wheat in Texas as of May 7 was considered “poor to very poor,” according to Texas Wheat Producers, a trade group, meaning the crops are likely unusable. Kansas, the top winter-wheat-producing state, is expected to have its smallest crop in almost 30 years.

The economic ripples in Ochiltree County, Texas, where farm fields drift into the horizon and the occasional grain elevator shoots up from the soil, is typical of what is happening across the southern Plains, said Scott Strawn, a Texas A&M agriculture extension agent. He estimated this county in the far northeastern corner of the Texas Panhandle this year could lose half of a wheat crop that is normally valued at as much as \$20 million.

“Look how bad this is—no roots,” Mr. Strawn said, easily pulling a shriveled stalk of wheat out of dried ground on a farm outside Perryton, Texas.

Local ranchers have begun selling cows, which have grazed down what little grass is left. Reece E. Taylor said he may have to sell many of his 100 cows because they have already grazed down the wheat crop he had used for forage on his 1,600-acre farm near Perryton.

Ranchers in places like Hereford, Texas and Beaver, Okla. are already selling their herds to feedlots, girding for the drought.

Mr. Taylor’s side business—using his combine harvester on other farmers’ wheat—will likely dry up this year, costing him about \$30,000 in income, or roughly the amount of lease payments he still owes on the combine.

“You don’t spend no money,” said Mr. Taylor, 55 years old. “That’s all you can do.”

That kind of pullback has already reduced sales at Green Country Equipment, a seller of tractors, planters and other farm equipment in Perryton. Sales representative Jason Frantz said sales are down 20% this year compared with the same time in 2017.

With only a few weeks left in what is normally a rainy time, Mr. Frantz said the growing season for summer crops including corn, sorghum grain and alfalfa could also be imperiled. Those crops add another \$50 million annually to the county’s economic output, according to Mr. Strawn.

“If our moisture is still down for the rest of the year, it will be very scary for sure,” Mr. Frantz said.

Farmers worry it is already too late. David Peckenpaugh, 64, used a 6-foot probe on a recent day to test the wetness of a field near Perryton he was readying for a corn crop. It was stopped at 2½ feet by a wall of

	<p>dried soil underneath, even though he had been irrigating. “We will be lucky to break even this year,” he said.</p> <p>Three hundred miles south in Lamesa, Mr. Holladay, the cotton farmer, tried to savor little victories like the recent light drizzle that helped him keep dust down on the fields of his 10,000-acre farm. He still hoped for heavier rains.</p> <p>“I figure we’ll survive it,” Mr. Holladay said. “But it won’t be easy.”</p>
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HEADLINE	05/13 Tulalip Tribes sales tax lawsuit trial
SOURCE	http://mynorthwest.com/986987/tulalip-tribes-sales-tax-lawsuit-heads-to-trial/
GIST	<p>EVERETT, Wash. (AP) — A trial over who gets to collect millions of dollars in sales tax generated by businesses on part of the Tulalip Indian Reservation in Washington state starts this week in federal court.</p> <p>The Daily Herald in Everett reports the Tulalip Tribes sued the state of Washington and Snohomish County to stop them from collecting the tax generated by businesses in Quil Ceda Village. Tribal leaders contend federal law pre-empts the state and county governments from collecting the tax, and that they aren’t entitled to the revenue anyway because the tribes are providing the required infrastructure and government services for the village.</p> <p>Attorneys for the state and county, meanwhile, contend that they only require non-tribal businesses to collect the tax on sales to non-Indians, which is allowed under federal law. They also say the state and county do provide millions of dollars in services to the village and its businesses.</p> <p>U.S. District Judge Barbara Rothstein will preside over the trial, which is expected to start on Monday and last until the end of May.</p>
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HEADLINE	05/13 State’s largest farmworker rental complex
SOURCE	http://mynorthwest.com/987086/states-largest-farmworker-rental-complex-opening-in-yakima/
GIST	<p>YAKIMA, Wash. (AP) — Washington state’s largest single farmworker rental complex will soon open in Yakima.</p> <p>The Yakima Herald-Republic reports that Valicoff Fruit will begin housing guest workers in a former 800-bed hotel next month.</p> <p>The project has caught the attention of Wafila, a labor recruiting firm formerly known as Washington Farm Labor Association, which has agreed to help manage the operation scheduled to open June 1.</p> <p>The former FairBridge Inn and Suites was recently purchased by Valicoff Fruit with the intent to house seasonal workers.</p> <p>The project will help ease the financial burden of growers unable to tap guest worker programs such as H-2A because they lack housing. Growers have estimated the cost of building farmworker housing at \$15,000 per bed.</p>
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HEADLINE	05/13 Oregon pot growers diversify w/hemp
SOURCE	http://mynorthwest.com/987140/marijuana-growers-diversify-with-hemp-amid-cbd-boom/

SPRINGFIELD, Ore. (AP) — A glut of legal marijuana has driven Oregon pot prices to rock-bottom levels, prompting some nervous growers to start pivoting to another type of cannabis to make ends meet — one that doesn't come with a high.

Applications for state licenses to grow hemp — marijuana's non-intoxicating cousin — have increased more than twentyfold since 2015, and Oregon now ranks No. 2 behind Colorado among the 19 states with active hemp cultivation. The rapidly evolving market comes amid skyrocketing demand for a hemp-derived extract called cannabidiol, or CBD, seen by many as a health aid.

In its purified distilled form, CBD oil commands thousands of dollars per kilogram, and farmers can make more than \$100,000 an acre growing hemp plants to produce it. That distillate can also be converted into a crystallized form or powder.

“Word on the street is everybody thinks hemp's the new gold rush,” said Jerrad McCord, who grows marijuana in southern Oregon and just added 12 acres of hemp. “This is a business. You've got to adapt, and you've got to be a problem-solver.”

It's a problem few predicted when Oregon voters opened the door to legal marijuana four years ago.

The state's climate is perfect for growing marijuana, and growers produced bumper crops. Under state law, none of it can leave Oregon. That, coupled with a decision to not cap the number of licenses for growers, has created a surplus.

Oregon's inventory of marijuana is staggering for a state its size. There are nearly 1 million pounds (450,000 kilograms) of usable flower in the system, and an additional 350,000 pounds (159,000 kilograms) of marijuana extracts, edibles and tinctures.

The Oregon Liquor Control Commission, which regulates the industry, says some of the inventory of flower goes into extracts, oils and tinctures — which have increased in popularity — but the agency can't say how much. A comprehensive market study is underway.

Yet the retail price for a gram of pot has fallen about 50 percent since 2015, from \$14 to \$7, according to a report by the Oregon Office of Economic Analysis. Growers and retailers alike have felt the sting.

“Now we're starting to look at drastic means, like destroying product. At some point, there's no more storage for it,” said Trey Willison, who switched his operation from marijuana to hemp this season. “Whoever would have thought we'd get to the point of destroying pounds of marijuana?”

That stark prospect is driving more of Oregon's marijuana entrepreneurs toward hemp, a crop that already has a foothold in states like Colorado and Kentucky and a lot of buzz in the cannabis industry. In Oregon, the number of hemp licenses increased from 12 in 2015 to 353 as of last week, and the state now ranks No. 2 nationally in licensed acreage.

Colorado, which is No. 1 in hemp production, and Washington were the first states to broadly legalize marijuana. Both have seen price drops for marijuana but not as significant as Oregon.

Like marijuana, the hemp plant is a cannabis plant, but it contains less than 0.3 percent of THC, the compound that gives pot its high. Growing industrial hemp is legal under federal law, and the plant can be sold for use in things like fabric, food, seed and building materials.

But the increasing focus in Oregon is the gold-colored CBD oil that has soared in popularity among cannabis connoisseurs and is rapidly going mainstream. At least 50 percent of hemp nationwide is being grown for CBD extraction, and Oregon is riding the crest of that wave, said Eric Steenstra, president of Vote Hemp, a nonpartisan organization that advocates for pro-hemp legislation.

“There are a lot of growers who already have experience growing cannabis, and when you're growing for

	<p>CBD, there are a lot of the same techniques that you use for growing marijuana,” he said. “Oregon is definitely a hotbed of activity around this.”</p> <p>CBD is popping up in everything from cosmetics to chocolate bars to bottled water to pet treats. One Los Angeles bar sells drinks containing the oil, massage therapists use creams containing CBD, and juice bars offer the stuff in smoothies. Dozens of online sites sell endless iterations of CBD oils, tinctures, capsules, transdermal patches, infused chocolates and creams with no oversight.</p> <p>Proponents say CBD offers a plethora of health benefits, from relieving pain to taming anxiety. Scientists caution, however, that there have been very few comprehensive clinical studies of how CBD affects humans — mostly because the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration still considers cannabidiol a Schedule 1 drug, and the government requires special dispensation to study it.</p> <p>Pre-clinical studies have shown promise for treatment of chronic pain, neuro-inflammation, anxiety, addiction and anti-psychotic effects in animals, mostly rodents, said Ziva Cooper, an associate professor of clinical neurobiology at Columbia University who focuses her research on the therapeutic potential of cannabis and cannabinoids.</p> <p>The Federal Drug Administration next month could approve the first drug derived from CBD. It’s used to treat forms of epilepsy.</p>
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HEADLINE	05/13 New record: Seattle hits 85deg.
SOURCE	https://www.king5.com/article/weather/new-record-seattle-hits-85-degrees/281-551768214
GIST	<p>It's not summer yet, but nobody told Mother Nature.</p> <p>Seattle broke a high-temperature record Sunday, hitting 85 degrees at Sea-Tac by 5:46 p.m. It beat the record by one degree.</p> <p>The sunny weather and high temperatures all day long sent many people outside for Mother's Day. The last Mother's Day to hit 80 degrees was 16 years ago - back in 2002.</p> <p>Sunday also marked the hottest day in 2018, so far.</p>
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HEADLINE	05/13 Firefighters head to eastern Washington
SOURCE	https://www.king5.com/article/news/dnr-sending-firefighters-to-flooded-eastern-wash-counties/281-551727574
GIST	<p>SPOKANE, Wash. — Washington Governor Jay Inslee proclaimed a state of emergency for multiple eastern Washington counties impacted by flooding.</p> <p>Currently, there is flooding in Ferry, Okanogan and Pend Oreille counties. The governor’s proclamation covers those counties, plus 17 others that face the threat of flooding over the next week.</p> <p>These are the counties covered in Inslee’s state of emergency: Adams, Asotin, Benton, Chelan, Columbia, Douglas, Ferry, Franklin, Garfield, Grant, Kittitas, Klickitat, Lincoln, Okanogan, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens, Yakima, Walla Walla and Whitman counties.</p> <p>"Flooding caused by recent rains and snow melt has fouled water and sewage treatment facilities, threatened state highways and local roads, and caused some people to leave their homes," Inslee said in a release. "Continued higher temperatures are predicted to increase snow melt and cause additional flooding as rivers and streams continue to rise to record or near record levels."</p>

If deemed necessary, the proclamation allows the governor to activate resources of the Washington National Guard.

Following the proclamation, The Washington Department of Natural Resources is assuming control of flood response and is sending 100 DNR firefighters to help divert water flow and place sandbags.

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HEADLINE	05/13 'Smart' meters: convenient or invasive?
SOURCE	https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/smart-meters-in-washington-state-convenience-or-potential-invasion-of-privacy/
GIST	<p>YAKIMA — Every six hours, James Dean’s office gets a report on how much water Yakima residents and businesses are using.</p> <p>As Yakima’s utility-services manager, Dean gets the data from thousands of “smart” water meters that transmit readings to a central computer where utility workers can monitor usage for billing as well as spotting leaks in the system.</p> <p>“The only meters we have to go out and read are the ones we have issues with,” Dean said of the system the city has been using since 2013.</p> <p>State utility regulators are pushing other utilities, including electricity providers, to adopt this kind of automated meter technology. But the American Civil Liberties Union and others warn it potentially threatens privacy and could possibly pose health risks because of the radio signals used to transmit the information.</p> <p>Utilities say the privacy concerns are unwarranted, but the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission says customers can choose not to have the advanced meters hooked up to their homes or businesses.</p> <p>Federal legislation in recent years has authorized improvements to the nation’s electrical-power system, including encouraging utility companies to install advanced metering technology.</p> <p>In addition to allowing consumption to be measured remotely, the meters allow power to be remotely switched on or off, said Tom Gauntt, spokesman for Pacific Power.</p> <p>Pacific Power is installing fully advanced meters in Oregon and California, but hasn’t not done so yet in Washington. Instead, in Washington many of its meters only transmit data to a truck-mounted receiver, allowing a meter reader to drive through a neighborhood to get data rather than have to read each individual meter.</p> <p>The more sophisticated meters have the advantage of allowing the utility to more accurately map power outages, Gauntt said.</p> <p>ACLU cautions Seattle The meters have their critics. In 2017, the ACLU of Washington urged the Seattle City Council to consider requiring privacy protections before allowing the devices to be installed.</p> <p>The meters, the ACLU argued, collect data in such ways that can reveal whether someone is home, and to some extent what they are doing in their home based on energy usage. And that data can be sold for marketing purposes, the ACLU and others warned.</p> <p>“The potential surveillance capabilities ... make clear and binding guidelines essential,” ACLU Technology and Liberty Project Director Shankar Narayan wrote to the Seattle council. “In considering</p>

what safeguards might be appropriate, the City Council must consider the outer envelope of this (or any other) technology's capabilities and ensure third-party verification of those capabilities, rather than rely on the assurances of the very vendors that stand to benefit from potential sales of Seattleites' data."

Narayan said in a phone interview Friday that the ability to analyze data from the meter has improved to the point where it can not only show what appliance is operating, but, in the case of a TV, what movie is being watched.

Other anti-smart-meter groups claim the devices pose health risks because the wireless technology used to transmit data creates radio waves that may cause cancer or other illnesses.

Pacific Power says the data the meters transmit is protected and that the radio transmitters generate less electromagnetic radiation than a cellphone.

While the utility commission recognized the benefits of modernizing the grids, it said customers should have the option of not having smart meters if they have concerns about it. It also recommended that any fees associated with opting out of a smart-meter be directly related to the costs, such as having someone read the meter on a regular basis, and not be used as a way to force customers to accept the new meters.

Dean said the meters record only how much water flows through it on an hourly basis. He said the reading, while more frequent, does not collect any more data than a meter reader walking on the property would collect from a meter.

Yakima water users can log in and see their water usage, allowing them to double-check their bills or alert them to plumbing problems if there's an unexplained spike in usage, Dean said.

He said the city has not had any requests from people to opt out of the advanced meters, nor does the city provide that option.

Gauntt said Pacific Power is seeing about less than 1 percent of its Oregon customers asking to remain with older meters rather than go with advanced technology.

Gauntt said Pacific Power does not have any plans now to upgrade its meters in Washington state.

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HEADLINE	05/13 Missing sailor found dead in Olympics
SOURCE	https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/crime/body-of-nimitz-sailor-recovered-from-olympic-national-forest/
GIST	<p>BREMERTON (AP) — A sailor from the USS Nimitz who went missing after leaving for a day hike in the Olympic National Forest has been found dead after a weeklong search.</p> <p>The Kitsap Sun reports Nuclear Electrician's Mate Second Class Jeremiah Adams was reported missing May 7 when he didn't show up for work. The 24-year-old was last heard from on May 4, before he left for a day hike.</p> <p>Authorities believe Adams was following a primitive trail when he fell over the edge.</p> <p>Clallam County Chief Criminal Deputy Brian King said Adams' body was found 300 feet (91 meters) below the trail in a ravine after a group of hikers reported glimpsing something that looked like clothing on Saturday.</p> <p>Authorities believe Adams died as a result of the fall. No foul play is suspected.</p>
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HEADLINE	05/13 Gas prices nearing 'pain point'
SOURCE	https://www.cbsnews.com/news/gas-prices-rise-nationwide-aaa-latest-2018-05-13/
GIST	<p>SECAUCUS, N.J. -- You may have noticed, gas prices are on the rise and hitting levels not seen in more than three years. Gas prices nationwide are up a nickel in just the last week. That's 20 cents in the last month, according to AAA.</p> <p>Drivers fueling up in New Jersey are paying just under \$3 for a gallon of regular unleaded.</p> <p>"It was \$54.16 for 18 gallons, and I just paid \$40 for 13 gallons," Damian Woo told CBS News.</p> <p>In California and Hawaii, gas prices are approaching \$3.70 a gallon, nearly a dollar higher than the national average.</p> <p>"There are 10 states that are at \$3 a gallon or above," AAA's Robert Sinclair said</p> <p>"We're seeing extremely high demand for gasoline," Sinclair said. "With the economy moving along as strongly as it is, there's a lot more work, and with work, comes a lot more transportation."</p> <p>Sinclair says the steady climb is also due to a diminishing supply of crude oil.</p> <p>"The price of gasoline is going up and we're now at what is considered the pain point for many drivers," Sinclair said.</p> <p>Now is the busiest driving season and until September, one analyst said, Americans will pay an extra \$200 dollars on gas compared to last year. But prices at the pump are still well-below the all-time high of \$4.11 a gallon in 2008.</p>
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HEADLINE	05/14 Israel fires on Palestinian protesters
SOURCE	https://www.reuters.com/article/us-israel-usa-protests-palestinians/israeli-gunfire-wounds-at-least-28-palestinians-as-gaza-border-protests-build-idUSKCN1IF0M8
GIST	<p>GAZA BORDER (Reuters) - Israeli gunfire wounded at least 28 Palestinians along the Gaza border on Monday, medics said, and protesters streamed to the frontier for the climax of a six-week demonstration as the United States prepared to open its embassy in Jerusalem.</p> <p>Protests were expected to escalate during the day, the 70th anniversary of Israel's founding, as loudspeakers on Gaza mosques urged Palestinians to join the so-called "Great March of Return".</p> <p>Israeli troops have killed 45 Palestinians since the demonstrations began on March 30, according to Palestinian health officials, while no Israeli casualties have been reported.</p> <p>The death toll has drawn international criticism, but the United States, which has drawn Arab anger by relocating its embassy to Jerusalem from Tel Aviv, has echoed Israel in accusing Gaza's ruling Hamas movement of instigating violence.</p>
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HEADLINE	05/10 Data: gaps in asylum approval rates
SOURCE	https://www.nbcbayarea.com/investigations/Data-Points-to-Wide-Gap-in-Asylum-Approval-Rates-at-Nations-Immigration-Courts-482182911.html?D
GIST	Years of data from immigration courts around the United States and compiled by the Transactional

Records Access Clearinghouse (TRAC) at Syracuse University show that whether or not a person seeking asylum is granted that request depends more on where they live and appear before an immigration court judge than it does on the facts of the case.

The NBC Bay Area Investigative Unit closely tracked the asylum results at every U.S. immigration court over the past three years and found a wide variation in the number of asylum approvals depending upon the court; in some instances the rate varies as much as 75 percentage points.

From 2016 through the first part of 2018, immigration courts in Los Angeles and San Francisco consistently ranked in the nation's top 15 courts when it comes to the number of asylum requests granted. Phoenix, Philadelphia, San Antonio, New York and Boston were also in the top 15 each year. Court data show each of those courts grants asylum requests more than 50 percent of the time.

On the opposite end of the spectrum, U.S. immigration courts that are vastly less likely to approve asylum petitions include Atlanta, Lumpkin, Georgia, Charlotte, Dallas and Houston. In some of those courts, asylum is granted around 20 percent of the time. In other jurisdictions, like the court in Lumpkin, judges grant asylum only 10 percent of the time.

This disparity has led many observers—from academic researchers, to judges, to the very lawyers appearing before the immigration court judges—to worry that political beliefs could be getting in the way of justice in America's immigration courts.

“There's something going on that is very, very troubling,” said Karen Musalo, director at the Center for Gender and Refugee Studies at the UC Hastings School of Law in San Francisco. Musalo spent years studying these inconsistencies in asylum outcomes.

“I think there are a number of factors that contribute to these disparities. They have to do with both the selection process for the individual judges and what their backgrounds are and whether or not they're qualified (to serve as judges),” Musalo said.

“It has to do with a politicization of the selection process. It has to do with a lack of independence of these immigration judges,” she added.

U.S. Immigration Court judges are not part of the independent judiciary but, rather, are appointed and work for the Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR), which is an arm of the U.S. Department of Justice.

Congress's own Government Accountability Office twice issued reports—in 2008 and 2016—that point out a “signification variation” in asylum cases. In its reports, the GAO called on Congress to fix the problem.

But so far, nothing has happened.

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HEADLINE	05/14 Black PD chiefs grapple with 'crisis'
SOURCE	https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/black-police-chiefs-grapple-officers-treatment-young-black-men-n873561
GIST	<p>When Daniel Hahn became Sacramento's police chief last August — the first African-American to hold the job — his top priority was to restore faith in a department that had come under fire for police shootings and use of excessive force against black men.</p> <p>The mayor welcomed Hahn — who grew up in a mostly black Sacramento neighborhood, and spent his career working to improve the black community's trust in the police — as “a new beginning” for Sacramento.</p>

Less than eight months later, the city erupted, adding even more urgency to the challenges Hahn faced.

On March 28, two officers — one black, one white — shot to death a young black man in his grandmother's backyard in the mistaken belief that he was armed. The killing of Stephon Clark ignited weeks of protests, turning the city into the latest national symbol of police brutality. The demonstrations are ongoing, with protesters demanding that the officers who shot Clark be charged with murder.

“It was another piece of evidence that our relationship with the community was not where it needed to be,” Hahn said in a recent interview.

As high-profile police shootings continue to shake the country, Hahn, 49, is among a growing number of black police leaders who are grappling with a crisis in their officers' treatment of young men of color.

These police chiefs face high expectations, from their cities at large but particularly from minority residents within, as they work to attract a more diverse team of officers, curb deadly confrontations with the public they serve, and rebuild relationships with black, Hispanic and other minority neighborhoods.

In interviews with NBC News, several black police executives spoke about their personal and professional experience in confronting the problem of police disproportionately targeting minority communities, an issue with deep institutional roots.

“Diversity is important and valuable, but it can't be separated from the police culture, from the way we view what our job is, the way we view the community and the way we are viewed by the community,” Hahn said. “It's a complicated problem that takes a nuanced solution.”

CONFRONTING A 'DARK HISTORY'

In recent weeks, the police chiefs in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and Philadelphia — all black and reform-minded, all appointed in the past three years — have faced pressure to answer for their officers' actions.

On April 13, Cambridge officers tackled, punched and arrested a 21-year-old black Harvard student who police say had been acting erratically and resisted attempts to restrain him. In Philadelphia, two black men waiting at a Starbucks to meet a white man were arrested for trespassing.

Video of both confrontations was captured by bystanders and went viral online, prompting outrage around the country. These protests have little to do with the race of the cities' police chiefs, or the race of the officers involved, activists say. The real problem is the systemic police practices that lead to the “harassment and intimidation” of minority communities, said Tanya Faison of Black Lives Matter Sacramento. She wants to see more community oversight of policing, including civilian oversight boards with power to fire officers who act inappropriately.

Cambridge Police Commissioner Branville Bard Jr., who arrived on the job last summer, supported the officers — two white, one Hispanic — saying they were justified in using force to subdue the student.

But Bard, 47, said in a recent interview that he recognized why the incident was being portrayed as part of a “dark history” of police targeting minorities. “Especially in light of what's going on around the country with videos of unarmed minorities being taken down, sometimes without cause or with outright abuses of authority,” he said, “it's easy to see it as one in a long line of abuses.”

Philadelphia Police Commissioner Richard Ross also defended his officers, saying those involved in the Starbucks arrests “did absolutely nothing wrong.”

But after facing a torrent of criticism on social media, he later apologized to the two men who were arrested, and for his choice of words immediately after the incident, saying he had inflamed the situation.

Ross, 54, who became commissioner in 2016, stressed in a Facebook video after the incident that his

officers were trained to prevent biased behavior and learn the history of “atrocities committed by policing around the world.” He also promised to examine the Starbucks case to see “what we can do better.”

Ross declined to be interviewed for this article.

AN ‘INSTITUTIONALIZED’ PROBLEM

American police departments have been struggling for decades with allegations of racism and issues of brutality and trust — and with becoming more diverse. But protests in 2014 after two black men, Eric Garner in New York and Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri, died in confrontations with white officers, and riots a year later after another black man, Freddie Gray, died of wounds suffered in the custody of Baltimore police, touched off a renewed sense of urgency.

In 2015, President Barack Obama’s Task Force on 21st Century Policing issued a list of recommendations, including expanding diversity among the ranks, letting outside agencies investigate officer use-of-force cases, embracing community partnerships and collecting better data on the types of suspects who are stopped and arrested.

Researchers also began looking anew into the link between diversity and the use of force, with mixed results: Some found that having significantly more black officers could ease tensions between police and black communities, while others found that increasing the number of black officers may drive down police killings of black people, but only when black representation on the force reached a “sufficiently high” critical mass of 35 percent or more. Nationally, the most recently available government report from 2013 found that local police departments were 12 percent black and 73 percent white.

What diversity alone does not solve are the biases many officers bring to their work — perceptions of black men as more threatening, for example — which are heightened by a police culture that emphasizes strength and power. That drives racially disparate arrests and the use of force, researchers say.

For example: The more an officer feels threatened, whether the officer is in legitimate danger or not, the more likely that officer is to use force on a suspect, particularly if an encounter occurs as part of a “zero-tolerance” approach to crime and disorder.

You have to increase the costs for bad behavior, including use of excessive force.

You have to increase the costs for bad behavior, including use of excessive force.

“It’s institutionalized,” said Nelson Lim, a RAND sociologist who studies recruitment and diversity. “You can swap out the people but the system itself is set up that way.”

Bard, the Cambridge chief, agreed.

“Even if we recruit a diverse population of officers, it’s still incumbent on us to train them to be the types of officers we want them to be,” he said.

That means training and elevating the types of officers Bard describes as “the social service promoters” as opposed to “the crime enforcers.”

Better training was among the changes Cambridge initiated nearly a decade ago after the national uproar over the arrest of Harvard Professor Henry Louis Gates Jr. in 2009 outside his own home on suspicion he was breaking in. The police department now trains officers to de-escalate tense situations, and embraces what’s called “procedural justice,” which involves managing rather than controlling situations, treating people with dignity and respect, and giving citizens a voice during encounters.

Bard, who holds a doctorate in public administration and has written about eliminating racial profiling, said that police culture has to change to send a message to officers that departments “won’t tolerate the slightest amount of abuse” of civilians.

“And then you have to increase the costs for bad behavior, including use of excessive force,” he said.

DIVERSITY’S LIMITS

Critics say change within departments across the country has been too slow, despite all the focus on high-profile accusations of police violence.

Benjamin Crump, who represented the family of Michael Brown and who now represents Stephon Clark’s family in Sacramento, said he has found poor training to be at the root of many cases of police abuse. Crump and other activists want to see more departments address “implicit bias” — the subtle or unconscious discrimination that can taint officers’ interactions with young black men.

Crump is also concerned about an ingrained police culture in which officers “shoot first and ask questions later” — including black officers who use deadly force on black suspects, he said.

Just because you’re a certain race or have a certain experience doesn’t automatically mean you have the character to be a good police officer.

He cited Cameron Brewer, a black sheriff’s deputy in Harris County, Texas, who was fired in April after fatally shooting an unarmed black man, Danny Ray Thomas, in Houston (Crump is also representing the Thomas family).

Crump also pointed to the Freddie Gray case in Baltimore, in which six officers, three of them black, were charged in his death, but all were eventually cleared.

African-American police chiefs told NBC News that their personal experiences helped them understand the need to earn trust from the public. But they also cautioned against giving race too much weight.

“I don’t see any correlation between the race of these chiefs and these recent incidents,” said Vera Bumpers, the chief of Houston’s transit police and first vice president of the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives. “We all wear uniforms.” She warned against drawing quick conclusions about encounters captured on video.

Gina Hawkins, the police chief in Fayetteville, North Carolina, said her ability to empathize as an officer stems from her struggles growing up black and Hispanic, including encountering discrimination. And while that alone doesn’t mean she’s going to solve her department’s problems, she does see it as her purpose.

“It’s an extreme honor and opportunity, and I know the weight that comes with it,” Hawkins said of the expectations she feels as an African-American police chief. “I know people are always watching.”

Hahn said he was troubled by the notion, expressed in many black neighborhoods, that “when you’re blue you’re not black anymore.” That “erases” his upbringing and identity, he said, and undermines the goals of increased diversity.

At the same time, he sees diversity “for diversity’s sake” as worthless.

“There are bad black officers, bad gay officers, bad female officers,” Hahn said. “Just because you’re a certain race or have a certain experience doesn’t automatically mean you have the character to be a good police officer.”

AN UNCLEAR PATH

America, Bumpers said, still doesn’t understand a fundamental question about its police: Why, and how often, officers use force. She repeated a call, often heard during the Obama administration, for a central national database that keeps track of incidents of police use of force by the race of officers and suspects and other demographic indicators. “We don’t know the totality of the situation,” Bumpers said.

The Justice Department says it is reviewing the proposal for such a national data collection system, even as it has backed away from Obama-era efforts to investigate and sue police departments for violating minorities' civil rights.

Vanita Gupta, who ran the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division under Obama and oversaw a post-Ferguson report on police diversity, said more research is also needed to understand the impact of diversity on police culture. "But I'm not sure there remains a commitment to do that kind of research in this Justice Department," said Gupta, who now heads The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, a coalition of civil rights groups.

Gupta also led with the Obama administration's efforts to investigate and reform police departments. She negotiated dozens of court-enforced "consent decrees" with local departments aimed at improving how cops dealt with citizens, including use of force, stops and searches and discriminatory enforcement. The Trump administration has said local departments should control their own affairs.

With efforts stalled at the federal level, overhauling police practices remains, in many ways, a local issue.

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HEADLINE	05/14 Palestinians prepare for major march
SOURCE	https://www.nbcnews.com/news/world/palestinians-prepare-major-move-gaza-israel-fence-n873706
GIST	<p>GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip — It started not with a bullet or a bomb, but with a hashtag.</p> <p>"What if 200,000 demonstrators came out in a peaceful march and broke into the barbed wire east of Gaza," wrote Ahmed Abu Artema in a Facebook post on Jan. 7.</p> <p>"What can a heavily-armed occupation do to those peaceful human waves?" the 32-year-old Palestinian journalist asked.</p> <p>Artema ended the post with #GreatMarchofReturn — a slogan that quickly went viral and then, two months later, blossomed into reality.</p> <p>On Monday and Tuesday, Artema's audacious "Great March of Return" will face what could be its most formidable and perhaps final test: an attempt by hundreds of thousands of protesters to breach the razor wire fence between the Gaza Strip and Israel.</p> <p>Regardless of how Israel reacts to the planned waves of demonstrators, the protest movement spawned from Artema's Facebook post has defied much of the conventional wisdom about Gazan resistance to Israel's more than decade-long blockade. It has remained relatively peaceful, largely free from domination by powerful militant factions and inclusive of female activists.</p> <p>"Everybody agrees that this is a kind of public struggle," Artema told NBC News as he strolled through clumps of men, women and children sitting on the ground and in tents near the fence separating the Gaza Strip from Israel on Friday, the seventh weekly demonstration since the protests began on March 30. "We are against any faction or party taking this march into their agenda."</p> <p>Getting powerful groups to join — but not dominate — the movement took convincing, said Salah Abdel Ati, the head of the Great March of Return's International and Legal Committee.</p> <p>From the looks of it, that cajoling has been successful. On Friday, there was a noticeable absence of Hamas or Islamic Jihad flags at a field near the barrier. Only Palestinian national flags were flown.</p> <p>The movement's aims are equally broad: Monday's march is meant to protest the inauguration of the U.S. Embassy in Jerusalem, which Palestinians consider their capital. Tuesday is "Nakba" or Catastrophe Day, when Palestinians observe the 70th anniversary of Israel's founding.</p>

	But the ultimate goal — walking peacefully from Gaza into Israel — looks like a suicide mission.
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HEADLINE	05/13 Iran: may remain part nuclear accord
SOURCE	https://www.newsmax.com/newsfront/hassan-rouhani-iran-nuclear-accord/2018/05/13/id/860029/
GIST	<p>President Hassan Rouhani said on Sunday that Iran would remain committed to the 2015 nuclear deal if its interests were protected, while his foreign minister hoped the pact could be redesigned without Washington as a member.</p> <p>The U.S. withdrawal from the accord on Tuesday was a "violation of morals", Rouhani said in remarks carried by state television.</p> <p>"If the remaining five countries continue to abide by the agreement, Iran will remain in the deal despite the will of America," he said.</p> <p>President Donald Trump's pullout has upset European allies, cast uncertainty over global oil supplies and raised the risk of conflict in the Middle East.</p> <p>It has also highlighted divisions among Iran's political elite.</p> <p>Rouhani made similarly conciliatory comments on Tuesday, and on Saturday, foreign minister, Mohammad Javad Zarif began a tour of other signatory nations in an attempt to save the deal.</p> <p>Zarif said in Beijing on Sunday: "We hope that with this visit to China and other countries we will be able to construct a clear future design for the comprehensive agreement."</p> <p>China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi said Zarif's tour would improve understanding of Iran's position and help Tehran protect its legitimate interests.</p> <p>"China is willing to maintain communication and coordination with all relevant parties, including Iran, and take an objective, fair and responsible attitude to continue to safeguard the ...agreement," Wang said.</p> <p>Rouhani has said Iran will stay committed to the deal, which China, Russia, Britain, France and Germany also signed, provided those powers ensured Iran was protected from sanctions.</p> <p>The three European states have recommitted to the agreement, but senior cleric Ayatollah Ahmad Khatami said on Friday that Europe was not to be trusted.</p> <p>The head of the elite Revolutionary Guards also warned against relying on foreign powers.</p> <p>"America's exit aims to break the Iranian people's resistance, which is not new ... but today's problem is not U.S. sanctions, it's that some officials look towards outside rather than looking at domestic potentials," Guards commander General Mohammad Ali Jafari said, the state news agency IRNA reported.</p> <p>On Wednesday, Jafari cast doubt on European nations' ability to save the accord.</p> <p>With the deal opposed by hardliners at home, some analysts say the pragmatic Rouhani may now be a lame duck leader.</p>
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HEADLINE	05/13 China mends fences w/Asia neighbors
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SOURCE

<https://www.newsmax.com/world/globaltalk/china-japan-india-relationship/2018/05/13/id/860073/>

GIST

When Chinese Premier Li Keqiang smiled and clinked glasses with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe at a reception in Tokyo last week, it served as a reminder of just how rare these types of warm gestures have been between the Asian neighbors.

The first visit by a Chinese premier to Japan in seven years was the latest step in Beijing's attempt to shore up fraught ties with other powers to counter escalating tensions with the U.S. It came after an equally congenial visit to Indonesia, and Chinese President Xi Jinping's unexpected rapprochements with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and North Korea's Kim Jong Un.

"It's inevitable there will be differences of opinion and friction," Li told executives at a reception marking the 40th anniversary of a friendship treaty with Japan. "But I want to maintain the overall direction of friendship, keep to the spirit of the treaty and build a bright future together," NHK reported him as saying.

Threatened by looming trade sanctions from Washington, China is seeking support from other nations to counter U.S. pressure. A Chinese official told Bloomberg News last month that the government was considering offering major concessions on trade and investment to the European Union and countries such as Japan and Mexico.

'Bad Situation'

"China is trying to make an opportunity out of a bad situation. The Trump administration's moves on trade could negatively affect the Chinese economy at a time when it faces many internal challenges," said Mary Gallagher, director of the Center for Chinese Studies at the University of Michigan. "But the U.S. has also antagonized many of its important trading partners and allies, so China is smart to try to counter the U.S."

The shift has required China to lay aside some of its most intense foreign disputes. Chinese and Indian soldiers faced off in the Doklam region along their border last year and Beijing and Tokyo still haven't resolved their 2012 confrontation over control of East China Sea islands that plunged relations to their lowest point in decades.

In Xi's meeting with Modi in April, the two emphasized that they would avoid border clashes. Meanwhile, Japan and China signed a memorandum on a maritime communication mechanism aimed at avoiding unintended clashes at sea.

Lingering Disputes

How far China can take the strategy remains to be seen. Many of China's neighbors, including Japan and India, are concerned about Beijing's rising might, especially its willingness to use coercive economic policies to punish countries that run afoul of its goals. South Korea experienced that last year after deploying a U.S. missile shield.

Even as Xi and Li mend fences with Japan and India, they've seen tensions rise with Australia over its efforts to limit perceived Chinese political meddling. And revelations that missiles and other military equipment have been deployed on China's South China Sea outposts have rekindled concerns about its efforts to establish control over that disputed water body.

"The smile diplomacy can be successful, but only within certain limits," said June Teufel Dreyer, a University of Miami political science professor and author of "Middle Kingdom and Empire of the Rising Sun" -- a 2016 book on China-Japan ties. "There are restraints on how much Beijing's willing to make concessions, as well as on other sides' willingness to make reciprocal gestures."

Japan Deals

Officials from Beijing are trying to cast themselves as defenders of the multilateral trade system, countering U.S.-led criticism of restricted access to Beijing's markets.

"Both China and Indonesia believe in globalization and free trade," Li told more than 600 business people at a China-Indonesia business summit earlier in the week, according to the official Xinhua News Agency.

	<p>“We both support the rules-based multilateral trading regime and stand for equal consultation in settling trade disputes.”</p> <p>Li and Abe oversaw the signing of a raft of agreements, including one allowing the transfer of two crested ibises from China as a symbol of a friendship recovering from its worst crisis in decades. China also granted Japanese financial institutions the status of renminbi-qualified foreign institutional investor, enabling them to directly invest in Chinese securities and finally placing Japan on the same footing as Western economies.</p> <p>Abe accompanied the Chinese premier on a trip to the northern island of Hokkaido, where they emphasized business ties by touring a Toyota Motor Corp. plant together. The visit underscored the shared interest in free trade between the world’s second- and third-largest economies.</p> <p>“The current tension between China and the U.S. has required China to have a greater degree of interdependence with its neighbors,” said Yang Bojiang, deputy director of the Institute of Japanese Studies at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, a state research institution. “The strengthening of China’s international cooperation is a response to U.S. trade protectionism, unilateralism, and other trends that do not conform to the times.”</p>
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HEADLINE	05/13 Opioid crisis spurs loperamide abuse
SOURCE	https://abcnews.go.com/Health/News/opioid-crisis-spurs-deadly-abuse-popular-diarrhea-medicine/story?
GIST	<p>The opioid crisis has taken what the FDA calls "many new and troubling turns," and this is one of them. Opioid addicts are buying a popular diarrhea medicine, loperamide, sold under the brand name Imodium -- to get high or as a way to taper off opioids.</p> <p>The FDA is taking steps to change the packaging of loperamide to help deter abuse of this drug. It's safe at approved doses but when taken at 100 times the recommended amount, as some addicts do, it can be deadly, FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb said in a recent article for the agency.</p> <p>"The drug acts locally, inside the gut, to treat the symptoms of diarrhea. But when loperamide is abused and taken at extremely high doses, some of it can cross the gut lining, giving users an opioid like 'high,'" Gottlieb said.</p> <p>Some opioid addicts are also taking large amounts of loperamide as a bridge to help them gradually withdraw from opioids or to treat symptoms of withdrawal, which include diarrhea. The medicine has been dubbed the "poor man's methadone."</p> <p>The FDA has been aware since June 2016 of some people taking far higher amounts of loperamide than is recommended on the packaging. But at these high doses, the drug has been associated with severely-abnormal heart rhythms and even death.</p> <p>To combat this, the Food and Drug Administration began in January proposing methods to encourage safe use of the drug, including by ensuring that negative side effects are clearly written on packaging and that the medicine is not sold in huge amounts. The agency is working with large retailers like Walmart, Amazon and eBay toward changing their packaging, Gottlieb said.</p> <p>Currently, the maximum dose recommended for over-the-counter loperamide is 8 milligrams. If it is given by prescription, the maximum dose is increased to 16mg daily for treatment of conditions like Crohn’s disease. When it is sold in bulk, some packages contain up to a thousand 2-mg tablets. This makes taking dangerously-large doses easy and affordable.</p>
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HEADLINE	05/14 Taiwan boosts domestic arms makers
SOURCE	https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/isolated-threatened-taiwan-boosts-domestic-arms-makers-55138966
GIST	<p>Standing on his company's sprawling campus in central Taiwan, Lin Nan-juh says he's able to make any plane his island's government calls for.</p> <p>"We can do whatever's asked," says Lin, president of Aerospace Industrial Development Corp., or AIDC, a leader in the defense industry serving the isolated self-governing island that China claims as its own territory to be brought under its control by force if necessary.</p> <p>It's a bold statement with potentially major significance for Taiwan's democratic survival as it seeks to build up its domestic defense industry in the face of China's warnings and the reluctance of foreign arms suppliers to provide it with the planes, ships, submarines and other hardware it needs to defend its 23 million people.</p> <p>While the U.S. — which is legally bound to respond to threats to Taiwan — continues to be its main arms supplier, Taiwan is increasingly looking to replace those politically fraught, touch-and-go deals with domestic production that is reliable as well as technologically advanced.</p> <p>Taiwan's indigenous systems are "both a source of national pride and a product of necessity," said David An, senior research fellow with the Washington-based policy incubator Global Taiwan Institute. "As it's commonly said, necessity is the mother of invention."</p> <p>The self-reliance policy has been strongly promoted by Taiwan's pro-independence president, Tsai Ing-wen, whose government has been shunned by Beijing since shortly after she took office more than two years ago. Defense is included in Tsai's economic program targeting eight industries for innovation and job creation, with the government helping match its defense needs with the abilities of Taiwanese companies.</p> <p>China's recent actions have underscored the risk for Taiwan.</p> <p>Beijing has been upping pressure on the island by cutting its already tenuous diplomatic links and has sent military planes and an aircraft carrier close to the island multiple times. China now has the world's second-largest defense budget behind the U.S., significantly boosting its ability to blockade, attack and possibly invade Taiwan.</p> <p>Along with fighter jets and other aircraft, Taiwanese contractors already make anti-ship, surface-to-air and air-to-air missiles, as well as missile boats and Clouded Leopard armored vehicles. Taiwan has long been known worldwide for its civilian high-tech industry and about 200 small and mid-sized companies work in defense.</p> <p>AIDC and the National Chung-shan Institute of Science and Technology are among the larger contractors. The aerospace firm reported sales income of \$235 million and a net profit in the third quarter of 2017, the most recent made public online.</p>
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HEADLINE	05/14 US defends embassy move to Jerusalem
SOURCE	https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/latest-us-envoy-jerusalem-move-needed-peace-55140511
GIST	<p>The Latest on the opening of the U.S. Embassy in Jerusalem and Palestinian protests (all times local):</p> <p>11:15 a.m.</p>

Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin says it's a U.S. "national security priority" to relocate the Israel embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

Mnuchin was speaking Monday at an event in Jerusalem ahead of the opening ceremony for the new U.S. Embassy.

Trump's decision in December to go forward with a campaign promise to move the American embassy from Tel Aviv to contested Jerusalem was welcomed by Israel and condemned by the Palestinians. Previous presidents had signed a waiver postponing the move, citing national security.

Israel captured east Jerusalem in the 1967 Mideast war and annexed it in a move not recognized by the international community. The Palestinians seek the city's eastern half as capital of a future state and say the move shows the U.S. is not an impartial peace negotiator.

11 a.m.

Israeli troops firing from across a border fence have shot and wounded two Palestinians as a protest near the Gaza border gets underway.

Gaza residents streamed to the border area Monday for what is intended to be the largest protest yet against a decade-old blockade of the territory. Israel's military says it will stop a possible border breach at all costs, warning protesters that they are endangering their lives.

Near Gaza City, hundreds gathered about 150 meters (yards) from the fence. A reporter witnessed two people being shot in the legs.

Protester Mohammed Hamami, 40, says the march is a "message to Israel and its allies that we will never give up on our land." Most Gaza residents are descendants of refugees from the Mideast war over Israel's 1948 creation.

10:50 a.m.

Turkey's president has once again condemned the U.S. decision to move its Israel embassy to Jerusalem.

In a statement published late Sunday, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said the U.S. disregarded "rights and justice," ignoring the international community. The new embassy is to be officially inaugurated on Monday.

Erdogan says the move serves to "reward" the Israeli government despite it undermining efforts to resolve the decades-long conflict, while it "punished" Palestinians. Erdogan says: "History and humanity will never forgive the injustices done to our Palestinian brothers."

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HEADLINE	05/14 Hawaii warns of 'explosive eruption'
SOURCE	https://abcnews.go.com/US/hawaii-issues-warning-explosive-eruption-volcano-fissures-open/story?
GIST	An 18th fissure began spewing magma on Sunday as officials in Hawaii warned of the possibility for an "explosive eruption" as lava continues to withdraw from the summit lake at Kilauea. Hawaii's Civil Defense Agency announced an 18th fissure had opened Sunday on private property in the

	<p>Lanipuna Gardens neighborhood. Overhead video showed homes just a short distance from where the earth had cracked open.</p> <p>"Continued earthquake activity and additional outbreaks in the area are likely," the Civil Defense Agency warned in its 6 p.m. local time (midnight Eastern time) update.</p> <p>Two new fissures -- the 16th and 17th -- had cracked open during the day Saturday. Both fissures were located in the lower East Rift Zone, east of the Puna Geothermal energy plant and northeast of homes in the Lanipuna Gardens subdivision.</p> <p>The Kilauea volcano first erupted April 3, sending toxic gases into the Big Island's atmosphere and eventually leading to more than a dozen cracks opening in the neighborhoods of Leilani Estates and Lanipuna Gardens.</p> <p>Nearly 2,000 people were evacuated from the neighborhoods last week.</p>
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HEADLINE	05/12 Calif. biobank w/babies DNA since 1983
SOURCE	https://www.cbsnews.com/news/california-biobank-dna-babies-who-has-access/
GIST	<p>SAN FRANCISCO -- You probably know where your Social Security card, birth certificate and other sensitive information is being stored, but what about your genetic material? If you or your child was born in California after 1983, your DNA is likely being stored by the government, may be available to law enforcement and may even be in the hands of outside researchers, CBS San Francisco's Julie Watts reports.</p> <p>Like many states, California collects bio-samples from every child born in the state. The material is then stored indefinitely in a state-run biobank, where it may be purchased for outside research.</p> <p>Golden State Killer case opens possibility of using DNA in other notorious cold cases State law requires that parents are informed of their right to request the child's sample be destroyed, but the state does not confirm parents actually get that information before storing or selling their child's DNA.</p> <p>KPIX has learned that most parents are not getting the required notification. We've also discovered the DNA may be used for more than just research.</p> <p>In light of the Cambridge Analytica-Facebook scandal and the use of unidentified DNA to catch the Golden State Killer suspect, there are new concerns about law enforcement access, and what private researchers could do with access to the DNA from every child born in the state.</p> <p>The Lifesaving Test It all begins with a crucial and potentially lifesaving blood test.</p> <p>The Newborn Genetic Screening test is required in all 50 states, and is widely believed to be a miracle of modern medicine.</p> <p>Nearly every baby born in the United States gets a heel prick shortly after birth. Their newborn blood fills six spots on a special filter paper card. It is used to test baby for dozens of congenital disorders that, if treated early enough, could prevent severe disabilities and even death.</p> <p>It's estimated that newborn screening leads to a potentially life-saving early diagnosis each year for 5,000 to 6,000 children nationwide.</p> <p>The California Department of Public Health reports that from 2015-2017 alone, the Newborn Screening test diagnosed 2,498 babies with a "serious congenital disorder that, if left untreated could have caused</p>

irreparable harm or death."

But, unless you or your child is diagnosed with one of these disorders, the test is often lost in the fog of childbirth.

The lab generally only needs a few of the blood spots for the baby's own potentially lifesaving genetic test. They use to collect five blood spots total from each child in California, they've now increased that to six.

Some states destroy the blood spots after a year, 12 states store them for at least 21 years.

California, however, is one of a handful of states that stores the remaining blood spots for research indefinitely in a state-run biobank.

Even though the parents pay for the lifesaving test itself, the child's leftover blood spots become property of the state and may be sold to outside researchers without the parent's knowledge or consent.

Some states allow parents to opt-in or give informed consent before they store the child's sample.

In California, however, in order to get the potentially lifesaving genetic test for your child, you have no choice but to allow the state to collect and store the remaining samples.

You do have the right to ask the biobank to destroy the leftovers after the fact, though the agency's website states it "may not be able to comply with your request."

You also have the right to find out if your child's blood spots have been used for research, but you would have to know they were being used in the first place and we've discovered that most parents don't.

Dr. Fred Lorey, the former director of the California Genetic Disease Screening Program, explained that blood spot samples are invaluable to researchers.

"They're important because these samples are needed to create new testing technology," Lorey said.

He explained that they're primarily used to identify new diseases and improve the current tests, ultimately saving more babies

With nearly 500,000 births a year, California's biobank is, by far, the largest and is crucial for research nationwide.

According to the Department of Public Health, more than 9.5 million blood spot samples have been collected since 2000 alone. The state has stored blood spots since 1983.

As a result, California can now test newborns for more than 80 different disorders, more than any other state. The standard panel nationwide is around 30 disorders.

But researchers with the California Genetic Disease Screening Program aren't the only ones with access to samples stored in the biobank.

Blood spots are given to outside researchers for \$20 to \$40 per spot.

Regulations require that the California Genetic Disease Screening Program to be self-supporting.

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HEADLINE 05/12 America's most dangerous volcanoes

SOURCE <https://abcnews.go.com/Technology/wireStory/americas-dangerous-volcanoes-west-coast-55118314>

GIST	<p>Here are the 10 most dangerous volcanic mountains in the U.S., according to the U.S. Geological Survey:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Kilauea, Hawaii 2. Mount St. Helens, Washington 3. Mount Rainier, Washington 4. Mount Hood, Oregon 5. Mount Shasta, California 6. South Sister, Oregon 7. Lassen Volcanic Center, California 8. Mauna Loa, Hawaii 9. Redoubt, Alaska 10. Crater Lake, Oregon
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HEADLINE	05/13 Israel prepares for new US embassy
SOURCE	https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/israel-prepares-opening-us-embassy-jerusalem-55127209?cid=clicksource_76_4_article%20roll_articleroll_hed
GIST	<p>Israel is preparing a series of festivities Sunday to celebrate the opening of the new U.S. Embassy in Jerusalem, a move that has ignited Palestinian protests and raised fears of a further outbreak of violence.</p> <p>As Israel marks Jerusalem Day, the 51st anniversary of what it refers to as the city's "unification" following the 1967 war, it will also be hosting a gala reception for Monday's embassy dedication that will include members of a delegation led by President Donald Trump's daughter Ivanka, his senior adviser and son-in-law Jared Kushner, and Secretary of Treasury Steven Mnuchin.</p> <p>Dozens of foreign diplomats are expected, though many ambassadors of European nations who oppose the move will skip it. Hungary, the Czech Republic and Romania have reportedly blocked a joint EU statement on the issue.</p> <p>Israel captured east Jerusalem in the 1967 Mideast war and annexed it in a move not recognized internationally. The Palestinians want east Jerusalem as the capital of their future state, and view the relocation of the embassy from Tel Aviv to the contested city as a blatantly one-sided move that invalidates the U.S. as a Mideast peace broker.</p> <p>Trump's decision in December to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital ignited months of protests in the Palestinian territories. The weekly protests along the Israel-Gaza border are expected to culminate Monday in parallel to the celebrations in Jerusalem.</p> <p>Since Mar. 30, 42 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli fire in the weekly protests aimed primarily against the decade-long blockade of Gaza. More than 1,800 have been wounded.</p> <p>Gaza's Hamas rulers have led the protests, which are aimed to peak this week with the 70th anniversary of what the Palestinians call the "nakba," or catastrophe, referring to their mass uprooting during the Mideast war over Israel's 1948 creation. Organizers have indicated they may try to breach the border with Israel.</p>
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HEADLINE	05/13 Russia warships stalk US carrier
SOURCE	https://www.dailystar.co.uk/news/world-news/702241/russia-war-us-syria-warship-aircraft-carrier-uss-harry-s-truman-putin-mediterranen
GIST	<p>USS Harry S. Truman has been pursued around the Med by a group of Russian frigates led by warship Yaroslav Mudry.</p> <p>Video of the incident shows a Russian vessel in the distance shadowing the carrier and its destroyer escort.</p> <p>Footage was shared by ITV as a team of news reporters visited the US warship.</p> <p>The vessel is the US's main weapon against ISIS as it launches strikes on their positions in Syria.</p> <p>War tensions have flared however after the US, France and Britain launched airstrikes against Vladimir Putin's pal Bashar al-Assad.</p> <p>USS Harry S. Truman – the 116,000-ton vessel – is the flagship of the US Navy's mighty Carrier Strike Group 8.</p> <p>The warship set sail from the US last month along with a destroyer squadron to become US President Donald Trump's leading force in the Middle East.</p> <p>It has been joined by guided-missile destroyers USS Arleigh Burke, USS Bulkeley, USS Forrest Sherman, USS Jason Dunham and USS The Sullivans and USS Farragut.</p> <p>Russian warships have also been filing into the Med from the Black Sea as Putin gives his full backing to Assad.</p> <p>USS Harry S. Truman can carry up to 90 warplanes and helicopters and carries nearly 6,000 sailors.</p> <p>She is also armed with air defence missiles, torpedoes and machine guns to defend herself from an attack.</p> <p>She helped launch airstrikes against ISIS in 2015 – dropping more than 1,000 bombs from planes which took off from her deck.</p> <p>Russia's frigate Yaroslav Muddy – which weighs 4,400 tons – is packed with anti-ship missiles and torpedo tubes.</p> <p>It carries "Switchblade" missiles that are designed to sink enemy warships.</p> <p>She joined Russia's task force in the Med last month after sailing through the English Channel.</p>
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HEADLINE	05/12 Colombia faces Venezuela exodus
SOURCE	https://www.yahoo.com/news/venezuela-exodus-swells-more-migrants-face-removal-170224915.html
GIST	<p>CUCUTA, Colombia (AP) — When Colombian police caught Victor Colmenares selling coffee without a work permit on the dusty streets of Cucuta, they ordered him to get inside a truck filled with Venezuelan migrants being quietly removed from the country.</p> <p>The 20-year-old construction worker trembled as the unmarked truck approached Colombia's border, thinking about his pregnant wife still in Cucuta and the dangers he might face back in the country he'd fled.</p>

"I was incredibly afraid to go back to Venezuela," Colmenares said. "People are robbed there. People are killed. I cannot go back."

As the exodus of Venezuelans fleeing their country's economic and humanitarian crisis grows, neighboring Colombia is responding by tightening checks aimed at curbing the number of migrants in the country illegally. In border cities like Cucuta, police are rounding up Venezuelans illegally hawking popsicles in public squares or working as prostitutes in brothels and taking them back to Venezuela.

But the removals, although often legal, raise a prickly question: Should migrants be sent back to a country the U.S. and others have condemned as a hunger-stricken "dictatorship?"

"We can't tell everyone, 'Come, stay here,'" Christian Kruger, the director of Colombia's migration agency, said in a recent interview. "There is no country in the world that can support unlimited migration."

About 1 million Venezuelans fled from 2015 to 2017, according to the U.N.'s International Organization for Migration, and hundreds of thousands more have left in the first three months of this year. They are now displaced throughout the region in an accelerating migratory wave that is unparalleled in South America's modern history. Colombia has received the bulk of the migrants, with an estimated 3,000 Venezuelans arriving in the neighboring Andean nation each day. At that pace, Colombia receives within two months about as many migrants as Italy did in all of 2016 during the more high-profile Mediterranean migration crisis.

Officially, Colombia deports few migrants: Just 442 have been removed from the country so far in 2018, according to government figures. But those numbers do not include migrants like Colmenares, who officials count as having "voluntarily returned" to their country of origin. In total, about 2,700 Venezuelans have been sent back under that classification, according to officials.

A new special migration unit launched by President Juan Manuel Santos in February conducts twice-daily round ups in the nation's busiest border cities. According to Kruger, Venezuelans caught without papers are given the option of paying a fine far higher than what most will earn in a year or contesting it in court.

Facing those prospects, he said most instead ask to be taken back.

"They would rather be in their homes than living in a park," he said.

In several inspections witnessed recently by the AP, however, migrants themselves did not ask to be returned. Instead, officials told them simply to, "Get in the truck," as several police officers kept guard nearby.

Once back in Venezuela, most of the migrants easily find a way to return to Colombia through the nation's porous 1,370-mile (2,200-kilometer) border. One migrant caught in a recent sting said she had been returned to Venezuela eight times.

"The process of returning Venezuelans is absolutely useless," said Ronal Rodriguez, a professor studying migrants at Rosario University in Colombia's capital.

Colombia's new removal tactic is not without precedent. Each year thousands in the U.S. who are arrested and face the prospect of deportation instead opt to return in what is known there as a "voluntary departure," noted Kevin Johnson, dean of the law school at the University of California, Davis.

"In a lot of countries you see programs and policies like what is apparently going on in Colombia because there is a fear of mass migration," he said.

Johnson added that whether the practice is legal would hinge on whether any Venezuelans being returned are refugees fearing persecution.

	<p>"There usually should be some avenue for people who fear prosecution to apply for relief and be able to resist pressures to depart voluntarily," he said.</p> <p>The United Nations' Refugee Agency recently issued guidance to regional governments explaining that many of the migrants likely qualify for international protection, and telling officials that Venezuelans should not be deported or forcibly returned.</p> <p>Though many are not fleeing targeted political persecution, the U.N. noted that the circumstances leading Venezuelans to migrate fall within the spirit of the 1984 Cartagena Declaration signed by several Latin American nations. The non-binding agreement embraces a broader definition of refugees to include people fleeing violence, hunger and poverty resulting from the breakdown in the rule of law.</p> <p>The U.N. has not commented specifically on Colombia's removals.</p>
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HEADLINE	05/13 Hawaii: new volcano fissures crack open
SOURCE	https://www.cnn.com/2018/05/13/us/hawaii-kilauea-volcano/index.html
GIST	<p>(CNN)Two new fissures opened on Hawaii's Big Island, spewing lava and fueling fears of violent explosions more than a week after the Kilauea volcano erupted.</p> <p>Nearly 2,000 people have been evacuated since the Kilauea volcano erupted May 3, sending lava flowing into communities and threatening a nearby geothermal plant.</p> <p>The 17th fissure, a crack on the ground through which lava pours out, was reported Saturday night, the US Geological Survey's Hawaiian Volcano Observatory said.</p> <p>"Lava from this latest outbreak is actively spattering," it said.</p> <p>The volcanic vents, or fissures, have released slow-moving lava and toxic gas into island communities, gobbling up dozens of homes and vehicles.</p> <p>Another fissure, the 16th one, was reported earlier Saturday and "produced a lava flow that traveled about 250 yards before stalling," officials said.</p> <p>That vent was about a mile east of the Puna Geothermal Venture plant, where officials removed 60,000 gallons of flammable liquids due to safety concerns.</p> <p>In addition to the new fissures, USGS officials said an explosive eruption is possible at Halemaumau crater at the top of the Kilauea volcano. Such an eruption could generate ash plumes over an area 12 miles from the summit crater, the HOV said.</p>
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HEADLINE	05/11 Eastside looks to lure businesses
SOURCE	https://www.king5.com/article/news/local/eastside-looks-to-lure-businesses-amid-head-tax-fight/281-551455447
GIST	<p>Look around Bellevue, and you see the signs. Like other big cities, it's in the middle of another growth spurt.</p> <p>"The biggest problem is there's just not enough space for all the growing companies that want a piece of the action there," said Geekwire Staff Reporter Nat Levy.</p>

He keeps a keen eye on Eastside development and points out it's already home to some major players.

"Google has a huge campus there, Microsoft is putting a lot of money in its campus, the company is going to be there for a long time. T-Mobile is putting some money into its campus there. There are a lot of companies with split presences," said Levy.

With light rail under construction, Bellevue's former warehouse district is the next destination.

"The Spring District is a little further away, but it's kind of a blank canvas where they can build something from scratch," he said.

"We want to attract companies and institutions that are interested in innovation," said Bellevue Mayor John Chelminak.

This will be its innovation hub. More than a thousand housing units are under construction, REI is relocating its headquarters here and the Global Innovation Exchange is already up and running, a partnership between the University of Washington, China's Tsinghua University and Microsoft.

"And they're creating what I think will not just be the products of the 21st century, but the products of the 22nd century," said Chelminak.

The promise of light rail helped to lead the way, as the city aims to increase transportation options with easy access to eastside corridor.

"The sooner that gets there, the sooner the expansions can come through, you know, the more appealing the Eastside is going to be."

Leaders have pushed hard for progress, hoping to not just compliment Seattle, but compete for coveted jobs. Right now, they're watching Seattle leaders discuss a new business tax, hoping company heads rethink future investment there.

"I'm sure that cities like Bellevue, and Kirkland, and Redmond are waiting with open arms if a company is mad about the head tax and wants to leave," said Levy.

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HEADLINE	05/13 Series of quakes rattle Calif. desert
SOURCE	http://komonews.com/news/nation-world/series-of-earthquakes-rattle-california-desert
GIST	<p>EL CENTRO, Calif. (AP) — A series of earthquakes with magnitudes above 3.0 rattled the Southern California desert.</p> <p>The U.S. Geological Survey said the first quake early Saturday evening was magnitude-3.4 and centered about 27 miles (43 kilometers) northwest of El Centro in the desert near the Arizona border.</p> <p>At least three other quakes struck the area, with the largest being a magnitude-3.5.</p> <p>There were no immediate reports of damage or injuries.</p>
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HEADLINE	05/11 Despite \$200M, homelessness worse
SOURCE	http://q13fox.com/2018/05/11/after-nearly-200-million-spent-on-problem-why-is-homelessness-getting-worse/
GIST	SEATTLE -- Many have asked why the many millions of dollars Seattle has already spent on the homeless

crisis doesn't appear to be making a difference.

Just take a look at the numbers...

Last year alone, Seattle and King County spent nearly \$200 million on homelessness, when you combine all government and private philanthropic sources.

But the number of people without a home is not dropping. About 11,000 people in King County were considered homeless last year, and when the results of a new count come out later this month, those numbers aren't expected to go down.

Two leaders of United Way of King County say they know what it will take to really tackle the homeless crisis -- and say it's not just about the money.

"We can do better for people who need it and that's why we have a sense of urgency," said Jon Fine, CEO of United Way of King County.

In his 17 years as CEO, Fine has seen the region's homeless problem grow.

"We can see it visually with the tents on the street and we can see it in the numbers that we're counting them up," he added.

Fine and Peter Orser -- the United Way's chairman of the Homeless Impact Council -- have also had a front-row seat to the proposed solutions -- good and bad.

Which is why last Sunday Orser and Fine did something they've never done together -- they co-wrote and published an op-ed in the Seattle Times offering four solutions.

But when Q13 News sat down with them, they focused on one main priority -- a joint city-county government entity with the authority to address homelessness.

"We're concerned that a lot of good-intentioned ideas and organizations are asking for money in an uncoordinated way," Fine said. "We would make sure that whatever amount of money the city and county are generating would be spent in a coordinated way."

"We're in a war," Orser said. "The mayor and executive have declared an emergency. When you declare an emergency, that's not just day-to-day, that is an all-out effort that needs some tactical planning to execute at all levels."

Both agree it will take money. Right now, King County is spending about \$200 million a year to address homelessness. A study released this week says it would take double that amount to really make an impact.

But Fine and Orser say it's not that simple.

"It's hard to say precisely what that number should be," Fine said.

"We need more supply and we need more service to support," Orser said. "Now we can get some of the more out of efficiency, effectiveness and leadership and courage to act. But at the end of the day, because of the scope of the problem, there's the likelihood for the need to be more."

They agree more money is needed, but so is a better plan about how to spend it.

"Whether it's a contribution to the United Way, whether it's a property tax or a sales tax or a head tax, it needs a plan. It needs a comprehensive plan," Orser said.

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HEADLINE	05/11 Behind Seattle rising pension costs
SOURCE	https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/seattles-retirement-fund-was-mismanaged-now-taxpayers-are-paying-the-price/
GIST	<p>In the summer of 2015, officials overseeing the city of Seattle’s retirement fund realized that one of their investments was in trouble.</p> <p>By this point, the manager of the investment, Capital Point Partners, had been the subject of complaints and litigation in multiple states going back more than a decade. New Mexico authorities had accused him of leveraging his political clout to reap millions of public dollars. Yet officials at the Seattle City Employees’ Retirement System knew none of this.</p> <p>Today that investment is worth less than what the retirement system paid for it roughly a decade ago. With \$5.5 million on the line, it was the kind of lapse that Seattle’s \$2.8 billion retirement fund could have shrugged off had it been an isolated one. It wasn’t.</p> <p>In the years before the financial crisis, Seattle’s retirement system bet on a series of complex investments that backfired, from a local biofuels company to a Cayman Islands hedge fund. Behind the system’s struggles were allegations ranging from mismanagement to misconduct, leaving in their wake rising pension costs increasingly shouldered by the city and taxpayers at more than \$100 million a year, a Seattle Times investigation has found.</p> <p>The Seattle City Employees’ Retirement System had a worse return on investment over 10 years than 97 percent of large state and local pensions, according to a Times review of 2016 data for more than 160 plans compiled by the Center for Retirement Research at Boston College. SCERS had counted on earning at least a 7.5 percent annual return but made only 4.1 percent, leaving the fund about \$1 billion short of retirement obligations.</p> <p>“Frankly, I was shocked at the condition that I found there,” Tim Burgess, a former mayor and City Council member, said of his first term as chair of the retirement board in 2012. “There was misconduct involved there and we, the pension fund, lost tens of millions of dollars.”</p> <p>The allegations, which haven’t been publicly reported, concern actions by a former chief investment officer, according to Burgess and another former elected official. The city ultimately paid a six-figure sum to secure the exit of the investment officer. It later reached an even costlier settlement to remove his boss for performance issues not related to the allegations, according to records reviewed by The Times.</p> <p>While it is difficult to quantify the effect of mismanagement on investment earnings, the results have been disappointing by SCERS’ own standards. For the decade that ended in 2016, the fund earned less than its performance benchmarks in eight out of 10 years.</p> <p>Some public officials have argued Seattle would be better off handing over management of its pension investments to the Washington State Investment Board — as many cities do — which has consistently earned better returns than SCERS. Instead, Seattle has taken a different course, more than doubling the retirement system’s payroll between 2012 and 2016, among the steepest increases of any city department.</p> <p>Current SCERS executives attribute the subpar investment earnings in part to the lack of expertise among staff prior to 2009. A report by SCERS’ investment consultant shows its latest three-year return was in the top 25 percent of large public pensions.</p> <p>As of February, the fund’s market value was about 71 percent of what it owes in future benefits, up from a low of 54 percent in 2009. (An 80 percent ratio is considered healthy by pension experts.)</p> <p>“I do not deny there were poor investments made in the past,” said Jeff Davis, who became the retirement system’s executive director in 2017. “If there’s something that we should have done differently in the past five years, I’m not really clear on what that is.”</p>

Yet even now some advisers have questioned whether SCERS is relying on unrealistic projections — including a 7.5 percent long-term investment return — in its plan to cover future retirement costs. If these assumptions turn out to be too optimistic, the public costs of funding pensions could well go up.

SCERS (often pronounced “serz”) provides guaranteed, lifetime payments to eligible employees when they retire. Workers pay into the system, the city kicks in additional money and SCERS invests the funds to generate enough income to cover future payouts. Investing became increasingly critical as the City Council made retirement benefits more generous from 1975 through 2001.

In the late 1990s, the job of tending to SCERS’ investments belonged to its assistant executive director, an accountant named Mel Robertson.

Often described as the system’s chief investment officer, Robertson had no prior professional experience managing investments, according to his résumé — nor did anyone else on staff. A consultant tracked the portfolio’s performance but provided little in the way of investment advice.

Robertson presented investment opportunities to the seven board members that govern SCERS, and won accolades from some. “I rave about the job Mel Robertson has done,” one former board member wrote in a Spring 2008 newsletter for city retirees.

The value of the pension fund had surged along with a red-hot stock market. Like other public pensions, SCERS hunted for higher returns by snapping up more complex investments like private equity and hedge funds, which grew to make up about 25 percent of its portfolio.

Among the more exotic bets was the Epsilon Global Active Value Fund II, a Caribbean-based fund whose strategy included investing in “distressed or mismanaged companies,” according to a confidential fund document. SCERS also acquired a stake in Imperium Renewables, a biofuels firm with offices in Seattle that planned a public stock-offering to expand.

A private accounting firm hired by the city to audit SCERS, however, was raising concerns about the lack of documentation and monitoring of such investments, records show. A new executive director, Cecelia Carter, also began asking questions when she arrived in January 2008.

Carter, who had run a public pension in Kansas City, was taken aback by Robertson’s response when she met with him about a pending audit in March 2008. He objected to turning over certain investment records to auditors and was angry and confrontational, Carter wrote in a memo warning him that he could face disciplinary action.

“I’ve been doing this for 16 years,” Robertson said, according to Carter’s memo. “Aren’t I in charge of operations around here?”

Robertson acknowledged he’d asked the question repeatedly “and never received a definitive answer,” he later wrote in response to Carter’s reprimand. He did not believe he had been “inappropriately loud.” As for the audit, he said, “There was no refusal to provide data.”

Carter’s suspicions only grew. In a later memo, she accused Robertson of investing SCERS funds on his own while telling the board that the money was still being managed by investment firms. He responded that the money had been moved into index funds temporarily and that he didn’t recall any trading on his part. “There was no deliberate attempt to mislead,” he said.

Carter was also uncomfortable with how Robertson seemed to push investing in Imperium Renewables even after it canceled plans to go public, jeopardizing its potential to expand. SCERS ultimately lost money on the deal.

“Given the large amounts of money entrusted to our care, this pattern of behavior raises real issues for me

regarding whether you should continue in this position,” Carter wrote in June 2008. “The retirement system cannot afford to have someone at your level taking such risks.”

Robertson dismissed the criticism, responding that an industry publication had singled out Seattle as “among the more sophisticated plans of our size.”

By the fall of 2008, as a wave of mortgage defaults triggered a global financial panic, SCERS was among public pensions hit hard. It booked a \$620 million loss for 2008 and shed about a third of its value. The losses were more than market-inflicted: Auditors found that SCERS’ investments had not been properly monitored, partly due to a “lack of qualified personnel,” and they shaved \$50 million off the fund’s value, state records show.

Robertson’s employment at SCERS ended in February 2009. City records initially reflected he had been fired but were later corrected to show his job was eliminated. Jean Godden, a former City Council member who chaired SCERS at the time, said Robertson had made investments without consulting the board, and that “there was a suggestion that he was close to the people with whom he was investing.”

She added, “Whether it actually crossed the line into something that was misconduct, I can’t be sure. But it was close.”

Burgess, who took over as board chair in 2012, said that soon after starting he reviewed an investigative file on Robertson kept by the City Attorney’s Office. In his view, the file showed “misconduct.”

“My initial reaction was to say to the staff there, ‘Did we call the police?’ ” he said, referring to documents he recalls detailing Robertson’s relationship with investment firms. He no longer remembers specifics.

Robertson, who has worked for King County as an analyst since 2010, didn’t respond to phone messages or emails seeking comment. When a Times reporter came to his office, he said, “Will you stop harassing me? Please leave.” He didn’t respond to written questions handed to him.

After The Times requested records on Robertson earlier this year, city lawyers said that a physical file on him was destroyed in 2016 under its records-retention policy. They withheld or almost completely redacted more than 20 electronic files, saying they were protected by attorney-client privilege or other exemptions. The undisclosed records included documents related to the Epsilon investment and a letter from Seattle’s chief civil attorney to the accounting firm auditing SCERS.

Burgess said that some documents he recalled reading in 2012 were no longer available when he recently reviewed city records on Robertson, including ones not disclosed to The Times. According to Burgess, one of the remaining documents laid out what he called “negligence and a very clear breach of fiduciary duty,” but it also stated there was “no evidence of unlawful behavior,” he added.

The Times asked the SCERS board to use its discretion to release the records. At a meeting in March, the four board members present declined. Councilmember Sally Bagshaw, the board’s chair who hadn’t been present, reviewed some of the legally privileged documents and recommended that the board release them. In April, with Bagshaw again absent, the same four board members declined.

One of those board members, Sherri Crawford, said she was concerned that waiving the privilege could set a precedent. The other three — Lou Walter, Jean Becker and Robert Harvey Jr. — either declined to comment or didn’t respond to a request.

Records that the city did release show that Robertson filed four appeals of his dismissal, and the city settled with him in 2010. The city’s payout totaled more than \$100,000 including back pay and \$50,000 in damages. He was placed on a list to be reinstated to a city job — with one exception: The agreement barred him from ever working for SCERS again or seeking a position on its board.

As Carter moved to overhaul SCERS, she hired a full-service investment consultant, and brought on two

staffers with professional investing experience. But she found herself continuing to deal with the fallout of Robertson-era investments.

The agreement with Epsilon — signed by Robertson — had provided minimal transparency. The Epsilon fund loaned money to a Minnesota firm that proposed buying and selling consumer electronics — but that turned out to be a multibillion-dollar Ponzi scheme, court records show. SCERS eventually took control of the fund through legal action but never recovered its \$20 million.

Carter had her own struggles, from allowing the fund's cash account to be overdrawn to conflicts with staff. More than four years into her tenure, SCERS' investment returns continued to lag its targets even as the stock market surpassed its pre-crisis value.

While Carter had inherited much of the pension fund's morass, Burgess said, "it was pretty clear she was not going to be the person who was going to lead us out of it, either." In June 2013, the board eased her out with a settlement that paid her more than \$330,000.

Carter is currently executive director of the Omaha School Employees' Retirement System. She didn't respond to phone or email messages seeking comment.

The next executive director didn't come from a national search. He came out of retirement.

Ken Nakatsu had never worked for a public pension or managed investments, but he was a seasoned government executive, having run departmental operations under Mayor Greg Nickels. Now, Burgess asked him to help get a sense of what was going on at SCERS.

"It was clear that things were in shambles," Nakatsu recalled. "The board had no confidence in what they were doing."

The trouble wasn't only on the investment side. In August 2013, the city auditor revealed widespread problems in how SCERS staff calculated retirement payouts, many of which were done by hand. Of 30 cases that auditors reviewed, 22 had errors.

Though most of the errors concerned relatively small amounts, the auditors concluded that SCERS' practices were "vulnerable to error and abuse" and that most of the weaknesses were "issues that have been known to SCERS staff members for years."

SCERS continued to be dogged by investments made during the Robertson era, like the funds it placed with Houston-based Capital Point Partners in 2007 to invest in small, privately held companies. By then, managing partner Alfred Jackson had drawn attention for winning business managing public funds while being linked to financial contributions to key state officials, according to news reports from 1998 to 2002.

"We did not know that," said Lou Walter, who has served on the retirement board since the late 1990s. "Would we have selected them? No, if we had known that."

Jackson, a former wide receiver with the Atlanta Falcons, drew more scrutiny in the following years — but not from SCERS.

In 2011, the New Mexico State Investment Council sued Jackson, alleging he reaped millions in investments and fees in a pay-to-play scheme. Jackson denied wrongdoing. He settled the lawsuit in 2014 for \$775,000. A securities filing shows that Capital Point investors like SCERS were responsible for covering much of the settlement along with Jackson's legal expenses.

It's common for investors in a fund to cover the legal costs of the manager — unless those costs stem from wrongdoing, according to legal and business experts.

Despite media coverage of the litigation, it wasn't until 2015 that SCERS officials learned that Jackson's

legal costs had reduced the value of the fund. It was then that they found out that their Capital Point investment had been sold to a publicly traded company where Jackson became chairman.

The city hired a law firm charging rates up to \$745 an hour, and teamed up with other Capital Point investors to try to undo the sale to Princeton Capital, records show. A settlement removed Jackson as chairman and negotiated a lower investment fee.

Jackson didn't respond to requests for comment.

SCERS remains a shareholder in Princeton, whose stock has fallen 92 percent since April of 2015 to 11 cents a share. Its return on investment was a negative 0.7 percent as of last September, records show. Princeton's chief executive resigned in September after federal authorities charged him with fraud in a college-sports bribery scandal.

The investment losses have had lasting consequences for city workers and taxpayers. Since the 1980s, employees had contributed 8 percent of their paychecks into the pension fund and the city roughly matched it. To make up for the losses, those contributions had to go up.

Starting in late 2008, city officials struck deals with unions that increased employee contributions up to 10 percent of their pay. The city has footed a much larger share, contributing 15 percent of worker pay into the fund — \$108.5 million in 2016 — underwritten by taxes, utility rates and other revenue. Today, departments are squeezed by rising pension costs they are powerless to curb as Mayor Jenny Durkan asks for budget cuts.

At the same time, the costs of operating SCERS itself have surged. The system greenlighted a \$15 million project that will partly automate benefits calculations, expected to launch next year. It bulked up its in-house investment team to four staffers, who have stepped up due diligence of prospective investments, including traveling to London to review one such deal. It hired Jason Malinowski, a former managing director for financial behemoth BlackRock, as chief investment officer.

"He really has done miracles, although the noticeable effects of that are pretty subtle and will take some time to realize," Nakatsu said of Malinowski.

Malinowski and Jeff Davis, who took over from Nakatsu last year, are two of the city's highest paid employees, drawing salaries of more than \$200,000 a year. With other staff additions and consultants, the system's administrative costs nearly tripled between 2012 and 2016.

With retirement costs rising — the fund paid \$169 million in benefits in 2016, 72 percent more than a decade earlier — city officials have taken steps to reduce future pension costs. A new plan for employees hired after 2016 reduces how much they contribute while lowering the multiplier for calculating payouts; officials estimate it will save the city about \$200 million over 30 years.

Yet Seattle's plan to fully fund its retirement obligations by 2043 relies on assumptions about a growing government and investment earnings that, if they don't materialize, could mean higher costs for taxpayers down the road.

In the past two years, a committee of investment experts appointed by SCERS has questioned whether it can achieve the 7.5 percent return it is expecting over the long term, calling the assumption "quite optimistic and inconsistent with the reality of a low return environment."

That target return has been common among public pensions, but many have begun lowering their expectations. Of 164 state and local plans surveyed by the National Conference on Public Employee Retirement Systems in 2017, 85 percent were considering reducing their expected returns or had already done so.

In April, representatives of SCERS' consultant Milliman Inc. gave board members a "heads up": The firm

anticipated that SCERS would earn only a 6.5 percent return over 30 years. If the board drops the expected return, as Milliman will likely recommend, it would trigger higher contributions into the fund. With employee contributions capped, this would mean the public would foot more of the cost in the near term.

Even if SCERS were to meet its investment goals, the funding schedule assumes that the number of employees paying into the system will increase steadily and help fund retirement payouts. It is unusual for public pensions to incorporate future growth into how much they set aside for retirement costs, leaving them on the hook for higher costs if the growth doesn't materialize, according to Milliman.

Glen Lee, Seattle's finance director and a SCERS board member, said the funding plan is based on projections that the city will grow. "Since population growth is generally a good indicator of local government employment growth," he said, "and generations of City leaders have a track record of increasing City government employment, it is unreasonable to assume no membership growth in SCERS."

The board will review whether to change its assumptions later this year.

State Sen. Reuven Carlyle, who represents Seattle's 36th District, has proposed legislation in the past that would give cities the option of transferring pension assets into the \$98.4 billion fund managed by the Washington State Investment Board, which has consistently earned better returns than SCERS. A billion dollars invested over 10 years would be worth \$242 million more with the state's return than at SCERS' rate through 2016.

Seattle pension officials attribute the state fund's superior performance to a higher tolerance for risk, arguing that a strategy suitable for the state might not be prudent for the city. Another concern, they said, would be having no ability to influence how the funds are managed once transferred to the state.

Carlyle isn't persuaded. "If you go back over the years, if the city of Seattle had been with the state system, we would have hundreds of millions of dollars more in that system," he said. "This is less about politics and more about math."

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HEADLINE	05/11 NOAA: April cold, snow broke records
SOURCE	http://www.newsweek.com/april-colder-average-temperature-noaa-climate-922319
GIST	<p>Spring was a bit of a late bloomer this year, and cold temperatures affected much of the contiguous United States for the month of April. In fact, the temperatures were so low in the lower-48 that they set the record for the coldest average temperature for the month of April in 20-plus years, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).</p> <p>The average temperature was just 48.9 degrees Fahrenheit, 2.2 degrees less than the 124-year average. "It was a persistent weather pattern that resulted in the cold month," Jake Crouch, a climate scientist at NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information, told Newsweek.</p> <p>Cold air filtered down from the Arctic, and there were multiple cold fronts in April, many of which brought snowfall to some areas in the north-central region of the country. That snow contributed to the colder temperatures: "If you have snow on the ground, that can suppress daytime temperatures," said Crouch.</p> <p>Those cold fronts put April in place as the 13th coldest April on the 124-year record. While some parts of the country were seeing abnormally cold temperatures, other areas in the Southwest were warmer than average, and dry, according to the NOAA. Wildfires spread across Arizona and Oklahoma, and drought conditions worsened in some states. In addition to wacky temperatures and drought, Hawaii saw incredibly heavy rainfall.</p> <p>The below-average temperatures farther north were not normal for the U.S.: "We don't have a lot of cold</p>

	<p>months anymore,” said Crouch. But the cold doesn’t mean anything in terms of a globally changing climate.</p> <p>“One cold month does not change the long-term trends,” Crouch told Newsweek. In terms of overall temperatures for April, “we do still have a warming trend,” as does the rest of the world.</p> <p>“The contiguous United States was really out of step with the rest of the world” for the month of April, Crouch noted, calling the cold temperatures an “anomaly.”</p> <p>The cold trend likely won’t continue. “Just looking at the first nine days of May, most of the contiguous U.S. has been really warm,” said Crouch. The Climate Prediction Center is also predicting a warm May.</p>
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HEADLINE	05/12 Israel bombs Gaza tunnel; closes crossing
SOURCE	http://time.com/5275391/israel-closes-cargo-crossing-gaza/
GIST	<p>(JERUSALEM) — The Israeli military said Saturday it was shutting down its main cargo crossing into Gaza after Palestinian protesters caused extensive damage to it, and that it had also destroyed an attack tunnel militants dug near its main pedestrian crossing.</p> <p>The twin developments come ahead of a potentially charged week along the Israel-Gaza border as weekly protests being staged there are expected to culminate with a potential breach of the border and a surge in casualties.</p> <p>Once again, thousands of Palestinians protested Friday in various locations along the frontier. Later, a group of Palestinians burned a fuel complex and conveyor belt on their side of the Kerem Shalom crossing, causing more than \$9 million in damages and disrupting the import of diesel fuel and building materials, the military said. It said the attack rendered the main fuel and gas lines unusable and caused further damage to electrical infrastructure and other vital equipment.</p> <p>The military said the Kerem Shalom crossing will be closed until further notice and not before the damage is repaired.</p> <p>A lengthy closing of the crossing would deliver further devastation to Gaza’s already dire humanitarian crisis. The fuel installation is the only way to bring diesel fuel into Gaza for operating generators for hospitals and other key facilities. The military distributed a video showing Palestinians cheering as a fire was set. It was the second such attack on the facility in a week, it said. “ Hamas continues to lead the residents of Gaza to destroy the only assistance they receive,” the army said.</p>
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HEADLINE	05/12 Seat belt patrols kick off Monday
SOURCE	http://www.theolympian.com/news/local/traffic/article211028879.html
GIST	<p>Are you part of the 5 percent in Washington state?</p> <p>If so, law enforcement will be looking for you Monday through June 3.</p> <p>A new report shows 95 percent of people in the state wear their seat belts, according to the Washington Traffic Safety Commission.</p> <p>The annual “Click It or Ticket” campaign kicks off its 17th year next week, with more than 150 law enforcement agencies putting more officers on patrol to look for the 5 percent of unbuckled drivers and passengers.</p>

	<p>Participating in Thurston County are Olympia, Evergreen State College and Yelm police, the Thurston County Sheriff's Office and the Washington State Patrol.</p> <p>According to the report, Thurston County is on par with the state with an observed seat belt use rate 95 percent.</p> <p>Washington passed its secondary seat belt law in 1986 and 36 percent of people wore seat belts that year. It has steadily grown and remained at 94 to 95 percent in the past few years.</p> <p>That has played a significant role in the reduction of unrestrained traffic fatalities from 64 percent to 18 percent, the Traffic Safety Commission said.</p>
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HEADLINE	05/13 China's first domestic aircraft carrier
SOURCE	https://edition.cnn.com/2018/05/12/asia/china-aircraft-carrier-trial-intl/index.html?no-st=1526215182
GIST	<p>(CNN)China's first domestically built aircraft carrier began sea trials on Sunday, a historic step in the country's mission to build a navy capable of rivaling the world's leading maritime powers.</p> <p>The new aircraft carrier, temporarily named Type 001A, sailed out at around 7 a.m. in Dalian, in the northeast province of Liaoning, according to reports in Chinese state media.</p> <p>The 50,000-tonne ship will become the country's second aircraft carrier, and the first to be entirely built and designed inside of China, when it joins the navy sometime before 2020.</p> <p>The carrier's maiden sea trial follows a speech given by Chinese President Xi Jinping on April 12, in which he announced plans to build a "world-class" navy under the banner of the Chinese Communist Party.</p> <p>China's first carrier, the Liaoning, a retrofitted Soviet-era vessel bought from the Ukraine, was hailed as the fulfillment of a "70-year dream" of the Chinese nation when it launched to much celebration in 2012.</p> <p>But experts said while the new aircraft carrier will dramatically boost China's military power in the Asia region, its technology was still outdated and lagged far behind the world's naval superpower, the United States.</p> <p>"This is, in and of itself, not designed to be some frontal challenge to US power in the Asia Pacific, because it simply isn't in the class of America's aircraft carriers," Sam Roggeveen, senior fellow at Sydney's Lowy Institute, told CNN.</p> <p>China's second aircraft carrier will be "modernized" compared to its first, experts said, with a design that's bigger and heavier to allow it to carry more planes.</p> <p>The basic design for the new aircraft carrier is clearly modeled heavily on the Liaoning, including the signature ski-jump inclination at the front from which aircraft lift off.</p> <p>The ship, which is roughly 315 meters (1,033 ft) in length and 75 meters (246 ft) wide, uses conventional rather than nuclear propulsion, and is believed to displace 50,000 tonnes, according to reports in state media.</p> <p>Speaking to CNN, RAND Corporation senior international defense research analyst Timothy Heath described the design as generally easier to build and to operate aircraft from.</p> <p>But expert analysis of pictures and satellite images of the new China-built vessel reveals it has been altered</p>

	<p>in subtle ways, possibly allowing it to accommodate up to eight additional aircraft.</p> <p>By comparison, the Liaoning is thought to currently carry around 30 warplanes, including fixed wing aircraft and helicopters.</p>
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HEADLINE	05/12 Concerns of west coast volcano eruptions
SOURCE	http://mynorthwest.com/986556/hawaii-volcano-raises-concerns-of-eruptions-along-west-coast/
GIST	<p>SPOKANE, Wash. (AP) — The eruption of a Hawaii volcano in the Pacific “Ring of Fire” has experts warily eyeing volcanic peaks on America’s West Coast that are also part of the geologically active region.</p> <p>The West Coast is home to an 800-mile (1,300-kilometer) chain of 13 volcanoes , from Washington state’s Mount Baker to California’s Lassen Peak. They include Mount St. Helens, whose spectacular 1980 eruption in the Pacific Northwest killed dozens of people and sent volcanic ash across the country, and massive Mount Rainier, which towers above the Seattle metro area.</p> <p>“There’s lots of anxiety out there,” said Liz Westby, geologist at the U.S. Geological Survey Cascades Volcano Observatory in Vancouver, Washington, in the shadow of Mount St. Helens. “They see destruction, and people get nervous.”</p> <p>Kilauea, on Hawaii’s Big Island, is threatening to blow its top in coming days or weeks after sputtering lava for a week, forcing about 2,000 people to evacuate, destroying two dozen homes and threatening a geothermal plant. Experts fear the volcano could hurl ash and boulders the size of refrigerators miles into the air.</p> <p>Here are some key things to know:</p> <p>WHAT IS THE RING OF FIRE?</p> <p>Roughly 450 volcanoes make up this horseshoe-shaped belt with Kilauea situated in the middle. The belt follows the coasts of South America, North America, eastern Asia, Australia and New Zealand. It’s known for frequent volcanic and seismic activity caused by the colliding of crustal plates.</p> <p>America’s most dangerous volcanoes are all part of the Ring of Fire, and most are on the West Coast, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Besides Kilauea, they include: Mount St. Helens and Mount Rainier in Washington; Mount Hood and South Sister in Oregon; and Mount Shasta and Lassen Volcanic Center in California.</p> <p>Images of lava flowing from the ground and homes going up in flames in Hawaii have stoked unease among residents elsewhere along the Ring of Fire. But experts say an eruption on one section of the arc doesn’t necessarily signal danger in other parts.</p> <p>“These are isolated systems,” Westby said.</p> <p>WHEN WILL THE WEST COAST VOLCANOES ERUPT?</p> <p>No eruption seems imminent, experts say.</p> <p>The Cascades Volcano Observatory monitors volcanoes in the Pacific Northwest and posts weekly status reports. All currently register “normal.”</p> <p>But the situation can change fast.</p> <p>“All our mountains are considered active and, geologically speaking, things seem to happen in the</p>

Northwest about every 100 years,” said John Ufford, preparedness manager for the Washington Emergency Management Division. “It’s an inexact timeline.”

Some geologists believe Mount St. Helens is the most likely to erupt.

But six other Cascade volcanoes have been active in the past 300 years, including steam eruptions at Mount Rainier and Glacier Peak and a 1915 blast at Lassen Peak that destroyed nearby ranches.

The closest settlement to a West Coast volcano may be Government Camp, on Oregon’s Mount Hood. Lava could conceivably reach the town, but the greater threat is an eruption triggering a so-called pyroclastic flow, which is a fast-moving cloud of hot ash and gas, experts said.

But Lange believes California’s Mount Shasta is the most dangerous, in part because it is surrounded by towns.

The town of Mt. Shasta has numerous response plans for emergencies, including a volcano eruption, Police Chief Parish Cross said. But the plan for a volcano is pretty fluid, he said.

“We don’t know the size or scope of the event,” Cross said, including which direction the eruption would occur.

This is not an issue in Orting, Washington, about 20 miles (32 kilometers) west of Mount Rainier. Orting would be directly in the path of a lahar, and local officials each year conduct drills in which children move from school to higher ground to escape the flow.

Students usually take about 45 minutes to walk the 2 miles (3 kilometers) to higher ground, which should be fast enough to escape, officials said.

“Our concern is ice and snow melting rapidly on Mount Rainier,” said Chuck Morrison, a resident of the town of 7,600 who has long been involved in evacuation planning. “We need a quick way off the valley floor.”

Orting is the town most vulnerable to lahar damage from Mount Rainier, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

Scientists say that in the worst case, a 30-foot-high (9-meter-high) lahar with the consistency of wet concrete could rumble through Orting at 50 mph (80 kph) if volcanic activity suddenly melted snow and ice on Rainier.

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HEADLINE	05/12 Eastern Wash. emergency for flooding
SOURCE	http://mynorthwest.com/986562/flooding-in-eastern-washington-reaches-emergency-level/
GIST	<p>OLYMPIA, Wash. (AP) — Washington state Gov. Jay Inslee proclaimed a state of emergency Saturday for counties in the eastern part of the state that are experiencing severe flooding.</p> <p>Flooding is impacting communities in Ferry, Okanogan and Pend Oreille counties and could get worse next week.</p> <p>The proclamation covers these three plus the 17 other Eastern Washington counties facing an increased threat of flooding over the next seven days.</p> <p>“Flooding caused by recent rains and snow melt has fouled water and sewage treatment facilities, threatened state highways and local roads, and caused some people to leave their homes,” Inslee said. “Continued higher temperatures are predicted to increase snow melt and cause additional flooding as</p>

rivers and streams continue to rise to record or near record levels.”

State agencies and local jurisdictions are coordinating resources to address the impacts caused by the flooding, and the governor’s proclamation directs state agencies to implement appropriate response activities

The State Emergency Operations Center at the Washington Military Department’s Camp Murray was activated Saturday to monitor local efforts and coordinate resources to help local officials respond. The proclamation allows the governor to activate resources of the Washington National Guard, if necessary.

The National Weather Service predicts major flooding of the Okanogan River near Tonasket to continue through the next week, the Spokesman-Review reported.

The Okanogan River, which runs through Tonasket, reached a level of 19 feet (5.8 meters) early Friday morning, which is above the 15-foot (4.6-meter) flood stage.

Okanogan county announced Friday afternoon that it had opened its Emergency Operations Center to coordinate communication about region floods.

The city of Omak has a levy that’s handling water flow, but is experiencing backup in storm drains. Some residents and businesses in Omak are experiencing basement flooding, according to an Omak Police Department release. Officials with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Okanogan County Emergency Management are continuing to monitor river levels.

Omak City Administrator Todd McDaniel said the city brought in additional pumps to handle water flow and is on 24/7 watch.

“We believe the levy is going to hold. We are concerned about (water) seepage coming in, but I think we’ll be fine,” he said. “We are hoping we don’t have anyone displaced.”

The Pend Oreille River is forecast to reach a flow of more than 118,000 cubic feet (3,341.8 cubic meters) per second by next Thursday, which hasn’t occurred since 2011.

The Kettle River reached a crest of 22 feet (6.7 meters) Friday and is expected to remain above record levels for the next week, according to the National Weather Service.

Though not yet above the flood stage, the stretch of the Spokane River in Spokane reached a near-flood stage Friday, though meteorologists predict it will likely crest there and go back down next week.

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HEADLINE	05/12 Interests widen w/coal export terminal
SOURCE	http://mynorthwest.com/986568/interests-widen-in-legal-fight-over-coal-export-terminal/
GIST	<p>SEATTLE (AP) — Six Western states and several national industry groups have lined up against Washington state in a legal battle over its decision to reject permits for a massive proposed coal-export terminal on the Columbia River.</p> <p>Utah-based Lighthouse Resources, which operates coal mines in Montana and Wyoming, sued Washington state officials in federal court in January, alleging state officials violated federal laws in denying permits and approvals for its \$680 million Millennium Bulk Terminals-Longview project.</p> <p>State regulators have said they denied the project a water-quality permit because there were too many major harmful impacts including air pollution, rail safety and vehicle traffic.</p> <p>Wyoming, Montana, Kansas, Utah, South Dakota and Nebraska filed a joint amicus brief Tuesday, arguing</p>

	in support of project backers and saying the case has broad implications for the export of commodities that are important to many states.
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HEADLINE	05/12 Tax supporters attend Sawant rally
SOURCE	http://mynorthwest.com/981861/kshama-sawant-continues-push-against-amazon/
GIST	<p>Kshama Sawant’s rally “March on Amazon! Tax Big Biz to Build Affordable Housing!” was planned well before a committee passed a head tax on big businesses, including Amazon. The full Seattle City Council is expected to vote on the proposal on Monday.</p> <p>”Our message today for the council is to stay strong,” Kshama Sawant – one of the most vocal proponents of the tax – told KTTH’s Jason Rantz at the rally.</p> <p>The rally on Saturday began at Seattle Central College Plaza and preceded a march to Amazon’s headquarters in South Lake Union.</p> <p>“This is extortion,” the events Facebook page reads, “and we must stand up to [Jeff] Bezos’ bullying. Having made a profit of \$1.6B in the first 3 months of this year, the tax will be pocket change for Amazon.”</p> <p>That extortion is the aforementioned threat to halt construction on two projects in the city.</p> <p>Sawant has continually targeted Amazon as she’s pushed for the head tax.</p> <p>When the city council first began pursuing a head tax, Sawant pushed to double the proposed tax on the wealthiest 10 percent of businesses. Her reasoning: if Amazon can afford a second headquarters, it can surely pay a tax for each of its employees.</p> <p>On Friday, Seattle City Council’s Finance and Neighborhoods Committee voted down an amendment to the head tax that would have cut the amount businesses would have paid in half and approved the original bill that would tax big businesses \$500 per employee, per year.</p>
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HEADLINE	05/11 Seattle police builds trust w/immigrants
SOURCE	https://www.king5.com/article/news/local/seattle/seattle-police-build-trust-with-immigrants-in-high-crime-neighborhood/281-551471294
GIST	<p>Nearly 20 families will meet with Seattle Police at City Hall for a graduation ceremony Saturday to mark the end of an eight-week program designed to build stronger relationships between immigrants and officers.</p> <p>Armando, 13, plans to attend.</p> <p>He lives in Seattle's South Park neighborhood. His single mother, Monica, immigrated to Seattle from Mexico in 2011. She signed him up for the police program, partly, because they live in a place that struggles with crime.</p> <p>"This neighborhood has its pros and cons, mostly cons I guess," said Armando.</p> <p>"We've got some quality of life issues we are trying to deal with. These are hard issues," said Lt. John Brooks, a 25-year veteran of the Seattle Police Department.</p> <p>So far this year, a third of Seattle's homicides have happened in the South Park neighborhood, according to</p>

	<p>city records. Violent assaults have been a concern too.</p> <p>Seattle Police work with the Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs to put on the Immigrant Family Institute. The program was launched in 2017 with 18 young people. This year 21 are participating, including Armando.</p> <p>City of Seattle's general fund pays approximately \$100,000 to run the program.</p> <p>"This was a real opportunity that is outside of our typical 911 response. It's an opportunity to just talk with people, get to know people," said Brooks. "I think really our real goal is to make people, especially the kids, feel comfortable talking with us and feel like it is a safe thing to approach a Seattle police officer."</p> <p>"I really came in not knowing what to expect," said Armando.</p> <p>After eight weeks in the program, he says he already has a new perspective.</p> <p>"We didn't see them as officers. We saw them as normal people who were just trying to help out the community," said Armando.</p>
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HEADLINE	05/11 Health insurance data: more depressed
SOURCE	https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation-now/2018/05/11/major-depression-up-33-u-s-health-insurance-data-finds/601212002/
GIST	<p>New data from insurer Blue Cross Blue Shield says major depression among Americans is on the rise.</p> <p>The report released Thursday finds more than 9 million commercially insured people in the U.S. suffer from major depression, a 33% jump from 2013 through 2016.</p> <p>Millennials and teenagers have experienced even faster rates of depression. According to the data, it's up 47% for millennials and 63% for teens.</p> <p>"The high rates for adolescents and millennials could have a substantial health impact for decades to come," said Trent Haywood, senior vice president and chief medical officer for Blue Cross Blue Shield Association, in a statement.</p> <p>One potential factor for the quick jump in major depression rates among teens and kids is increased screen time. Last year, a study from researchers at San Diego State and Florida State universities found nearly half of teens who spent five or more hours in front of screens daily experienced thoughts of suicide or prolonged periods of hopelessness or sadness.</p> <p>"In preliminary literature, high users of social media have been linked with higher rates of social isolation than low users," Haywood added. "It is important to further explore this relationship."</p> <p>Earlier this year, the American Academy of Pediatrics updated its guidelines on treating teen depression, including endorsing a universal screening for children ages 12 and over.</p> <p>Another factor contributing to an increase in depression: other chronic health conditions. The data found 85% of people who reported major depression suffered from another serious chronic condition.</p>
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HEADLINE	05/11 Russia backs off Syria missile defense
SOURCE	https://www.upi.com/Top_News/World-News/2018/05/11/Russia-backs-off-Syrian-air-defense-after-

	Putin-Netanyahu-meeting/8981526055672/?utm_source=fp&utm_campaign=lh&utm_medium=7
GIST	<p>May 11 (UPI) -- Russia has reversed course and dropped plans to deliver advanced S-300 air-defense systems to Syria, a Kremlin spokesman said Friday.</p> <p>The change followed a meeting between Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Russian President Vladimir Putin.</p> <p>Israel became concerned about the possible arrival of a new defense system in Syria after a wave of airstrikes on targets in Syrian by French, British and U.S. fighter planes in April. The airstrikes were retaliation for an alleged chemical weapons attack by Syria.</p> <p>Israel worried installation of the defense systems could upset the balance of power in Syria and could make Israeli aircraft penetration more difficult.</p> <p>Supply lines in Syria, manned primarily by Iranian soldiers, have been a frequent target of Israeli airstrikes. A large attack occurred Wednesday and Thursday after Syrian troops, the Israeli armed forces say, fired a barrage of missiles into the Israeli-held Golan Heights.</p> <p>The presence of the S-300 system could have complicated Israel's efforts, the Moscow Times reported Friday.</p> <p>Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said there was never a formal plan to equip Syria with the systems, but Kremlin aide Vladirmir Kozhin said, "We're not discussing any deliveries of advanced new systems," and added the Syrian military "has everything it needs."</p>
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HEADLINE	05/11 Court rules in favor of farmworkers pay
SOURCE	https://www.upi.com/Top_News/US/2018/05/11/Washington-high-court-Farmworkers-must-be-paid-outside-piece-work/5621526054701/?utm_source=fp&utm_campaign=lh&utm_medium=6
GIST	<p>May 11 (UPI) -- Piece-work farm laborers in Washington state must be paid minimum wage for any other work they do, the state Supreme Court ruled.</p> <p>The justices ruled 5-4 in favor of farmworkers, who said they should be paid for time they spend working outside of piece work in the orchards and fields. This generally involves tasks like loading and unloading equipment at the beginning and end of the day, and traveling between fields.</p> <p>"It should not come as a surprise to growers that you have to pay workers for all their work," said Marc Cote, an attorney representing two workers who filed the proposed class-action lawsuit against Dovex Fruit Co.</p> <p>Farmers argued that because the workers' weekly take-home pay averaged more than minimum wage per hour, they shouldn't be required to give additional pay for other tasks. Dissenting judges agreed.</p> <p>The court ruled, however, the Washington Minimum Wage Act "requires employers to pay their adult workers 'at a rate of not less than [the applicable minimum wage] per hour.'"</p> <p>"There is no exception, other statutory provision, or judicial or executive interpretation that allows employers to evade this plain language in the context presented," they wrote.</p> <p>The ruling could mean piece-work laborers can sue for back wages.</p>
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HEADLINE	05/11 Philippines, Kuwait sign agreement
SOURCE	https://www.upi.com/Top_News/World-News/2018/05/11/Philippines-Kuwait-sign-agreement-to-protect-domestic-workers/9021526070913/?utm_source=fp&utm_campaign=ts tn int&utm_medium=4
GIST	<p>May 11 (UPI) -- Kuwait and the Philippines signed an agreement Friday bringing an end to a dispute over the treatment of Filipino domestic workers.</p> <p>The memorandum of understanding came nearly two weeks after Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte banned the deployment of Filipino workers to Kuwait after the body of 29-year-old Filipina worker Joanna Demafelis was found stuffed in a freezer in an abandoned apartment in Kuwait in February.</p> <p>Under the new agreement, officials will create a hotline and a special police unit to assist distressed Filipinos in Kuwait. The workers also must be given proper food and will be allowed to keep their passports and cellphones at the Philippine Embassy instead of handing them over to employers in Kuwait.</p> <p>If employers want to transfer workers to another employer, the worker must give their consent.</p> <p>Relations between the two countries have declined in recent months since the death of Demafelis and a video taken at the Philippine Embassy.</p> <p>The video purportedly showed Philippine Embassy staff helping workers in Kuwait flee an allegedly abusive employer. Duterte's government issued an apology after it was determined the Philippines broke diplomatic rules by smuggling domestic workers and Kuwait expelled Manila's envoy and recalled their own.</p>
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HEADLINE	05/12 Food fight: raising waiter salaries
SOURCE	http://www.foxnews.com/us/2018/05/12/expanding-drive-to-raise-waiter-salaries-puts-fear-on-table-in-some-restaurants.html
GIST	<p>A food fight is brewing that could take a big bite out of restaurant waiters, customers and owners.</p> <p>A nationwide effort to increase the minimum wage in the U.S. is attaching itself to the restaurant business, where waiters have long earned less than the minimum but usually more than made up for it in tips.</p> <p>The effort wouldn't necessarily end tipping, but it could decrease tips if customers knew waiters were getting a higher wage. Meantime, small business owners who run restaurants may have to eat the massive payroll hike by cutting staff – or closing.</p> <p>The Restaurant Opportunities Centers United, with branches in ten cities, is steering the effort to ensure that when the minimum wage goes up, tipped restaurant servers are included. Seven states – California, Oregon, Washington, Alaska, Nevada, Montana, and Minnesota – have adopted the concept. In Maine, voters raised waiters' minimum wage but then the legislature reversed it – under pressure from servers as well as owners.</p> <p>The latest front in this battle is in Washington, DC, where a June 19 referendum will be held on Initiative 77, which would gradually raise the tipped wage from \$3.33 to \$15 per hour minimum by 2025. That would replace the current system, under which employers are supposed to compensate waiters up to the minimum wage if they don't make it in tips. Initiative 77, proponents believe, provides a needed guarantee.</p> <p>Diana Ramirez, the D.C. contact for ROC, did not respond to requests for an interview. But at a recent meeting in Washington, she said her group was going after “the system” that has “allowed a subminimum wage to disproportionately affect people of color and women.” She added, “This is the single largest</p>

source of sexual harassment in the industry,” suggesting that women put up with harassment so as not to lose a tip.

Some studies suggest big problems for both businesses and employees. A March 2016 U.S. Census bureau study found that hiring of servers by employers increases until the minimum wage hits \$4.50 per hour, but then levels out and begins declining with further minimum wage increases.

A March 2018 Harvard Business School study found that just a one dollar increase in the minimum wage leads to a 14-percent increase in the likelihood that a restaurant with an average rating on Yelp will close.

The authors calculated that, because a third of a restaurant’s expenses are spent on payroll, a ten percent increase in the minimum wage will cause profits to decline by two percent. The average profit margin of a restaurant is from two to five percent.

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HEADLINE 05/11 Anti-Semitism unease in Germany

SOURCE <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/world/anti-semitic-incidents-provoke-unease-berlin-n872226>

GIST BERLIN — Avraham Granov joined a gym in February, visiting two or three times a week.

Soon other members started making comments to him suggesting Jews control the world and the Palestinian territories should be free.

Granov is an Orthodox Jew who wears a kippah, the traditional Jewish head covering, but hides it with a hat in public.

While Granov admits such remarks aren't a "catastrophe," they have left him rattled and, like a growing number of Jewish residents here in Germany’s capital, he says he feels a little less comfortable than they once did. He now goes to the gym less often and seldom after dark.

"I feel it," he told NBC News.

Anti-Semitism is a particularly sensitive issue in Germany, given its history. Incidents that may not make headlines elsewhere, or would be quickly forgotten, provoke bouts of soul-searching here.

Chancellor Angela Merkel recently warned that a "different type of anti-Semitism" had taken root in the country, highlighting the far-right as an issue but also blaming "refugees" and "people of Arab origin." Her government appointed a new commissioner to fight the problem.

On the surface, Jewish life in Berlin is flourishing. Two weeks ago, the Chabad Lubavitch synagogue celebrated five births, a bar mitzvah and an engagement. The city is home to several kindergartens, two schools and eight synagogues, and a new Jewish community center is planned.

But other parents at the religious school where Granov sends his son cite an unsettling number of low-level incidents of anti-Semitism that seem to have increased in recent years.

Some tell of being spit at on the street or been the target of slurs, while others report hearing migrants speak threateningly about Jews in Arabic.

It all adds up to an increasing feeling of discomfort for many of Berlin's 9,000 Jews. Some are now hiding their religion, guarding it as a secret.

"It has changed a lot here in the last few years," said Dwora Kahanovsky, a teacher at a Berlin Jewish school who lives in a neighborhood that is also home to many recent arrivals from abroad. "I feel like we get stared at often and the other week a group of migrant girls made spitting sounds at my husband as he

walked past. I try not to attract attention. My kids call me 'ima' [Mommy] in Hebrew and I have told them not to scream it when we are out in public."

In the seven decades since the end of World War II, Germany has refused to gloss over its Nazi past. Holocaust education is mandatory in schools, and in the late 1980s and early '90s the country welcomed tens of thousands of Jews from the former Soviet Union.

"For many Germans, no one in their right mind would be anti-Semitic and there is an astonishment that they have to deal with it again," said Doron Rubin, the head of Berlin's Kahal Adass Jisroel community organization.

Making such amends is also widely seen as playing into Merkel's decision to open Germany's borders to migrants in 2015, when around 1 million asylum-seekers reached the country, which had a population of 81 million. At times more than 10,000 people were arriving daily. Some migrants brought a hatred of Israel and belief in conspiracy theories involving Jews with them.

There are around 100,000 Jews in Germany, and the vast majority are relatively secular and don't outwardly display signs of their faith.

However, an Israeli Arab who wore a kippah in Berlin last month as an experiment was subjected to verbal abuse and was lashed with a belt by a teenage Syrian refugee. The incident was captured on video and quickly spread on social media.

When word of the attack spread, several cities around Germany hosted kippah marches with participants of all religions wearing the traditional head covering in solidarity.

The success of far-right populists at the ballot box has also set off alarm bells. The anti-immigration Alternative for Germany (AfD) party won more than 5.8 million votes in parliamentary elections in September — or around 13 percent of the ballots cast.

Felix Klein, the federal government's new commissioner tackling anti-Semitism, has accused the AfD of helping make such views "presentable" again by challenging a longtime consensus about how to deal with the country's fascist past.

Referring to Berlin's Holocaust memorial, one senior AfD politician last year said that "Germans are the only people in the world who plant a monument of shame in the heart of the capital."

However, Klein said that "discussion about drawing a line" under the Holocaust "is very dangerous."

While the Jewish community is closely monitoring the rise of the AfD, the views and actions of the more than 1 million migrants who arrived since 2015 is a more immediate concern for some.

"Jews live side by side with migrants more than with the right-wingers who are often in rural areas or outside big cities," said Sergey Lagodinsky, who is Jewish and a community board member in Berlin.

The number of anti-Semitic crimes in Germany increased by 2.5 percent during 2017, according to official figures. Overall crime was down by 9.6 percent last year.

Interior Minister Horst Seehofer said that while "imported anti-Semitic crimes" were rising, he pointed out that "almost 95 percent of anti-Semitic crimes in 2017 had a right-wing motive."

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HEADLINE 05/11 Iran warns US for full compensation

SOURCE <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/iran-warns-of-reprisal-if-u-s-doesnt-compensate-for-withdrawal->

	from-nuclear-deal/
GIST	<p>TEHRAN, Iran -- The Iranian government is warning that it will take "whatever reciprocal measures it deems expedient" if it is not fully compensated for the U.S. withdrawal from the nuclear agreement as provided for in the accord. A lengthy government statement issued Friday said the other parties to the agreement -- especially Britain, France and Germany -- must safeguard the accord, implement their commitments, and "proceed from giving pledges to taking practical action without any preconditions."</p> <p>Iran reiterated that no provisions or timeframes in the 2015 agreement "are negotiable in any manner." It also reiterated that the foreign minister is seeking "required guarantees" from the five other parties to the agreement as well as Iran's other economic parties.</p> <p>At the same time, the government said it has tasked the president of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran with "taking all necessary steps in preparation for Iran to pursue industrial-scale enrichment without any restrictions, using the results of the latest research and development of Iran's brave nuclear scientists."</p> <p>The statement was sharply critical of President Donald Trump, calling his administration "extremist" and the U.S. withdrawal from the accord "unlawful." The government said the U.S. pullout damages U.S. credibility on the world stage and the credibility of accords the U.S. has signed, and puts "the present system of international law in serious danger."</p> <p>The decision to pull the U.S. out the deal will also affect European countries, now trying to figure out how to save billions of dollars in trade. French Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire said on Europe-1 radio that Europe should not accept the U.S. as the "world's economic policeman."</p> <p>"Do we want to be vassals who obey decisions taken by the United States while clinging to the hem of their trousers?" Le Maire asked. "Or do we want to say we have our economic interests, we consider we will continue to do trade with Iran?"</p>
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HEADLINE	05/11 Unprecedented tension Iran, Israel
SOURCE	https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/ap-explains-unprecedented-tension-iran-israel-55106619
GIST	<p>In the escalating confrontation between Israel and Iran, Israel's defense minister called on Syria's President Bashar Assad on Friday to rid his country of Iranian forces based there — warning their presence will only cause more trouble to the already war-ravaged country.</p> <p>Avigdor Lieberman's comments were followed by threats from an Iranian cleric that Tel Aviv or Haifa would be in danger if Israel did "anything foolish."</p> <p>The war of words followed the worst face-off to date between Israel and Iran. Israel fired dozens of missiles at what it said were Iranian positions in Syria on Thursday, hours after it said its forces in the occupied Golan Heights were targeted by Iranian rockets.</p> <p>The brief but intense confrontation raised fears the region may be sliding into an unprecedented direct conflict between the two archenemies.</p> <p>Here is a look at why the two countries are at each's other throats and why Syria could be the ground for a showdown.</p> <p>_____</p> <p>WHY SYRIA?</p> <p>Iran sent massive military help to its ally, Syrian President Bashar Assad, to rescue his rule against armed</p>

rebellion during that country's 7-year-old civil war. With the war winding down in favor of Assad, Israel — which saw him as the lesser of two evils compared to Islamic hard-liners among rebels — is now finding that his victory has brought Iran closer to its borders.

Israel has increasingly warned that it sees Iranian influence in Syria as a threat, pointing to Iran's military presence inside the country as well as that of Iranian-backed militiamen. Israeli officials have said that 80,000 Shiite fighters in Syria are under Iranian control, including forces of Lebanon's Hezbollah and Iraqi and Afghan fighters.

Iranian officials and their allies have spoken of securing a corridor from Iran to Lebanon, through Syria and Iraq. Israel fears that will allow Iran to more easily transfer weapons to Hezbollah, Lebanon's powerful Shiite guerrilla force, and reinforce the militant group's influence over the region. During the civil war, Israel is believed to have carried out hundreds of strikes in Syria, mainly hitting weapons shipments.

Tension has been building. An airstrike on a military base in Syria last month, which Iran and Russia blamed on Israel, killed seven Iranians. In February, Israel shot down an Iranian drone that entered its airspace, triggering a clash in which an Israeli warplane crashed after being struck by Syrian anti-aircraft fire.

WHAT DOES THE NUCLEAR DEAL HAVE TO DO WITH RISING TENSIONS?

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was a sharp critic of the Iran nuclear deal. Now, with President Donald Trump's decision to withdraw from it, Netanyahu may be emboldened to pursue his confrontation with Iran.

Tehran, meanwhile, is under pressure from the U.S. and Western allies to negotiate a new deal, one that goes beyond restricting the nuclear program to curb Iran's military power in the region. Iranian officials have rejected any new accord.

Tehran has not completely walked away from the nuclear deal, since the Europeans are still participating. But if it completely collapses and the U.S. imposes heavy new sanctions on Iran, prospects for major fallout with Israel are higher.

HAVE ISRAEL AND IRAN ALWAYS BEEN MORTAL ENEMIES?

During the rule of Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi, Iran had close relations with Israel starting in the 1950s, including diplomatic representations and direct flights. The two countries were the main allies of the United States in the region, and Iranian oil was shipped to Israel during the 1973 war.

But the 1979 Islamic Revolution ousting the shah ended that. The revolution's leader, Ayatollah Khomeini, declared Israel an "enemy of Islam" and cut all ties. Hostile rhetoric has escalated over the decades since. Israel considers the government in Iran an existential threat.

But unlike Israel and its Arab neighbors, the two countries have never had a direct confrontation. Instead, Israel has fought Iran's ally, Hezbollah, the last time in a 2006 war that saw massive destruction in southern Lebanon and concentrated rocket fire on Israeli cities.

IS THE MIDEAST SLIDING TO AN ALL-ENCOMPASSING, RUINOUS WAR?

	<p>The reported Iranian attack on Israeli positions in the Golan and Israel's bombardment of suspected Iranian posts in Syria appeared to be warnings by each side that it is willing to respond — but not necessarily that they want to plunge into war.</p> <p>But if they do escalate, the region could face one of its worst cross-border conflicts in decades, one that could potentially drag in the United States, a major ally of Israel, and Russia, which is Syria's mightiest ally.</p> <p>Although Iran may not be a match for Israel's military power, it has a variety of allies and ways to hit back if corned by the U.S., Israel and Saudi Arabia, Iran's regional rival.</p> <p>Iran has an ally in Hamas, the Palestinian militant group in Gaza. In Lebanon, Hezbollah would stand ready to support its patron Iran. In Iraq, Iran sponsors a range of Shiite militias and has close ties to the political leadership.</p> <p>In Yemen, the war in its fourth year is seen as a proxy between Saudi Arabia and Iran and can be a place for Tehran to retaliate and increase pressure. Saudi Arabia already accuses Iran of providing missiles that Yemeni rebels have fired toward Riyadh.</p>
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HEADLINE	05/12 Myanmar rebel group launches attacks
SOURCE	https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/myanmar-rebels-launch-attacks-leaving-15-dead-55116014?cid=clicksource_76_4_article%20roll_articleroll_hed
GIST	<p>An ethnic rebel group fighting Myanmar's government launched an attack against the country's military in a northern town on Saturday, leaving at least 15 people dead and 20 injured, including civilians, officials said.</p> <p>The Ta'ang National Liberation Army launched three attacks just after 5 a.m. in the town of Muse in Shan state, government spokesman Zaw Htay said on Facebook. Two of the attacks occurred at military bases and the other at a bridge. The 15 dead and 20 injured included civilians, Zaw Htay said.</p> <p>Aye Myint, a police officer in Muse, said the death toll was 19, and that TNLA fighters used small arms as well as mortars.</p> <p>Nan Mwe Phown, a Red Cross member who was at a hospital in Muse, said the dead included 13 male civilians and two female civilians, including a pregnant woman, as well as several police officers.</p> <p>Video on social media showed smoke rising above Muse's prominent trading center.</p> <p>The TNLA is among more than a dozen ethnic rebel groups that have been fighting the central government for greater autonomy for decades. In the past few months, clashes between ethnic groups and the military in Myanmar's northeastern region have intensified, resulting in thousands of people being displaced in neighboring Kachin State.</p> <p>Myanmar's army has earned a reputation for extrajudicial killings, torture, forced labor, rape and other abuses against the country's various minority groups.</p>
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HEADLINE	05/11 Iran cleric threatens Israel cities
SOURCE	https://apnews.com/ceb31f5b9c174358ae25422e35e76b3e
GIST	TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — A prominent Iranian cleric on Friday threatened two Israeli cities with destruction if the Jewish state “acts foolishly” and attacks its interests again, while thousands of protesters

demonstrated against President Donald Trump’s withdrawal from the Iranian nuclear deal with world powers.

The comments by Ayatollah Ahmad Khatami followed a week of escalating tensions that threaten to spill over into a wider conflict between the two bitter enemies, who have long fought each other through proxies in Syria and Lebanon.

Israeli airstrikes struck Iranian military installations inside Syria on Thursday — its biggest coordinated assault on Syria since the 1973 Mideast war — in retaliation for an Iranian rocket barrage on Israeli positions in the occupied Golan Heights. It was the most serious military confrontation between the two rivals to date.

Khatami, who has echoed sentiments of Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei who says Israel will not exist in 25 years, said the Jewish state could face destruction if it continues to challenge Iran.

“The holy system of the Islamic Republic will step up its missile capabilities day by day so that Israel, this occupying regime, will become sleepless and the nightmare will constantly haunt it that if it does anything foolish, we will raze Tel Aviv and Haifa to the ground,” he said, according to state television.

His remarks drew chants of “Death to America!” from those gathered for Friday prayers in Tehran.

Thousands later demonstrated across the country to protest Trump’s withdrawal from the nuclear deal. The protests resembled other aggressive but orderly gatherings typical under President Hassan Rouhani, who has portrayed himself as seeking rapprochement with the West and is simultaneously trying to save the nuclear deal with world powers while attempting to appease hard-liners seeking revenge for Israeli attacks.

In a lengthy government statement on Friday, the Iranian government warned that it would take “whatever reciprocal measures it deems expedient” if it is not fully compensated for the U.S. withdrawal from the nuclear agreement as provided for in the accord.

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HEADLINE	05/11 Gas prices could see summer spike
SOURCE	https://www.cnbc.com/2018/05/11/gasoline-prices-could-see-summer-spike-with-prices-at-4-year-highs-and-record-demand.html
GIST	<p>Already expected at four-year highs, gasoline prices could be especially vulnerable to spikes this summer, with demand at record highs and refineries running full throttle.</p> <p>Gasoline prices are expected to peak at a national average of around \$3 per gallon by the Fourth of July holiday. But with summer driving season officially kicking off on Memorial Day about two weeks from now, the average price of unleaded gas is already at \$2.85 a gallon, according to AAA.</p> <p>Nineteen states are already above the national average, with nine averaging above \$3 a gallon, and California heading toward \$4 per gallon. Drivers in 25 cities are already paying 70 cents a gallon more than this time last year, according to GasBuddy.com.</p> <p>"In recent weeks, we've seen 10 million barrels a day of gasoline production. It continues to run very high. You're not talking a lot of breathing room. If there's a big refinery that goes down in the heat of the summer driving season, you can still expect a pretty big reaction," said Patrick DeHaan, senior energy analyst at GasBuddy.com.</p> <p>But it's not just the potential hiccups at domestic refineries and pipelines, and even summer hurricanes that analysts say could threaten to send U.S. prices even higher. It's the fact that for the first time in a while, geopolitics has been driving oil prices higher.</p>

With oil prices at a four-year high, gasoline prices are climbing too, and analysts are carefully watching developments with Iran in the Middle East and the continued decline of Venezuela's oil production.

This summer, the average family could pay about \$1,318 for gasoline from May through September, compared to \$1,070 in the same period a year ago, according to Tom Kloza, head of global energy analysis at Oil Price Information Service.

In 2014, when gasoline prices were last at \$3 per gallon, the average family paid about \$1,600 for the summer season. Drivers this year, however, should see the national average peak at about \$3 to \$3.10 per gallon, but not stay at or above that level as they did in 2014, Kloza said.

Gasoline demand, meanwhile, was at a high 9.8 million barrels last week, just shy of the record of 9.86 million barrels, and it is expected to rise during the summer. Analysts say low unemployment and tax breaks could be pushing up demand as more people drive to jobs and vacations.

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HEADLINE	05/11 Palestinians in Gaza clash w/Israel forces
SOURCE	https://www.cnn.com/2018/05/11/middleeast/israel-gaza-protests/index.html
GIST	<p>Jerusalem (CNN) — One Palestinian was killed and hundreds injured by Israeli forces on Friday during protests along the border of Israel and Gaza, according to the Palestinian Ministry of Health.</p> <p>Jaber Abu Mustafa, 40, was shot in the chest and killed near Khan Younis in the south of Gaza, the ministry said. More than 730 others were injured.</p> <p>The Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) said on Twitter that 15,000 Palestinians took part in what it described as riots along the fence that separates Israel from Gaza.</p> <p>"The rioters hurled pipe bombs, rocks, & grenades, sabotaged security infrastructure, & burned tires," the IDF said.</p> <p>Dozens of Palestinian youths set fire to the Kerem Shalom border crossing, the only point where goods enter Gaza from Israel. Gas pipelines at the crossing, bringing fuel into the coastal enclave, were damaged, the army said.</p> <p>This is the seventh straight week that Palestinians have participated in the "March of Return" along the border fence with Israel.</p> <p>Palestinians are calling for an end to Israel's blockade of the territory and their right to return to lands their families fled or were expelled from during Israel's founding seven decades ago.</p> <p>Israel says the demonstrations are orchestrated by Hamas, the militant group that controls Gaza.</p> <p>Abu Mustafa is the latest Palestinian to be killed during the protests. Since they began in March, more than 50 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli forces, according to a CNN count based on figures from the Palestinian Ministry of Health.</p> <p>No Israeli soldiers have been killed or injured.</p> <p>Palestinians and human rights organizations accuse Israel of using excessive and illegal force on what they described as mostly peaceful protesters.</p> <p>The IDF said on Friday that forces are "responding with riot dispersal means and are firing in accordance with the rules of engagement."</p>

	The UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, Nickolay Mladenov, has urged Israeli forces and Palestinians to exercise restraint, saying "demonstrations and protests must be allowed to proceed in a peaceful manner. Civilians, particularly children, must not be intentionally put in danger or targeted in any way."
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HEADLINE	05/12 Stealth fighters intercept Russia bombers
SOURCE	https://www.cnn.com/2018/05/11/politics/us-stealth-fighters-intercept-russian-bombers/index.html
GIST	<p>Washington (CNN) — Two Russian TU-95 "Bear" bombers were intercepted by US F-22 stealth fighters in international airspace off the coast of Alaska on Friday, according to North American Aerospace Defense Command.</p> <p>The Russian long-range bombers flew into the Air Defense Identification Zone, which extends approximately 200 miles off Alaska's western coast.</p> <p>"At approximately 10 a.m. ET, two Alaskan-based NORAD F-22 fighters intercepted and visually identified two Russian TU-95 'Bear' long-range bomber aircraft flying in the Air Defense Identification Zone around the western coast of Alaska, north of the Aleutian Islands," NORAD and USNORTHCOM spokesman Canadian Army Maj. Andrew Hennessy said in a statement.</p> <p>The Russian aircraft were "intercepted and monitored by the F-22s until the bombers left the ADIZ along the Aleutian Island chain heading west," and never entered US airspace, according to the statement.</p> <p>The last such intercept of Russian aircraft by US jets took place on May 3, 2017.</p>
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HEADLINE	05/12 Major disaster in Hawaii declared
SOURCE	https://www.cnn.com/2018/05/12/us/hawaii-kilauea-volcano/index.html
GIST	<p>(CNN) — President Donald Trump declared a major disaster in Hawaii after days of volcanic activity that sent molten lava and toxic fumes spewing into residential neighborhoods.</p> <p>The declaration allows federal assistance to supplement state and local recovery efforts in areas affected by the Kilauea volcanic eruption and earthquake.</p> <p>Federal funding is available to state, eligible local governments and certain private nonprofit organizations on a cost-sharing basis, the White House said.</p> <p>The Kilauea volcano erupted on May 3, leaving the future of hundreds of people in Hawaii's Big Island uncertain.</p> <p>The threat of violent explosions prompted authorities to close the Hawaii Volcanoes National Park on Friday until further notice.</p>
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HEADLINE	05/12 Delaware bans child marriage
SOURCE	https://www.cnn.com/2018/05/12/us/delaware-child-marriage-ban/index.html
GIST	<p>(CNN) — Delaware has made history as the first state in the nation to ban child marriage under all circumstances.</p> <p>Democratic Gov. John Carney signed a bill this week making it illegal for anyone under age 18 to get</p>

married, even with parental consent.

Before this, minors in Delaware could get married at any age with parental consent and a judge's approval, officials said.

Despite most US state laws setting the age of marital consent at 18, every other state and the District of Columbia have loopholes for minors seeking marriage licenses, experts say. Texas and Virginia, for instance last year enacted new laws limiting marriage to those 18 and older, but they made narrow exceptions for minors granted adult rights by the courts.

"Most US states set the minimum age at 18," Human Rights Watch said in a statement. "But except for Delaware, all still allow exceptions, most of which are very broad -- for example with parental permission, or for pregnancy. In 23 states, children of any age can marry under some circumstances."

There were 167,000 children married in 38 states between 2000 to 2010, the latest numbers available, Human Rights Watch reported. In some states, children as young as 12 may marry.

"Children under 18 have no legal standing -- they cannot file for divorce, utilize a domestic violence shelter, apply for a loan or open a credit card. They cannot enter any legal contract, but until this bill was signed they could be married as a child without any way of escaping an abusive marriage," Delaware Rep. Kim Williams, a Democrat and one of the bill's main sponsors, said in a statement.

Delaware's new law, which takes immediate effect, was a bipartisan effort.

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Cyber Awareness

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HEADLINE	05/14 Cyberattack hits Danish rail network
SOURCE	https://www.thelocal.dk/20180514/cyber-attack-hits-danish-rail-network
GIST	<p>Danish state rail operator DSB was the victim of an unprecedented DDoS cyber attack, the company confirmed on Monday.</p> <p>The attack caused a breakdown which prevented train passengers across the country from buying tickets on Sunday.</p> <p>The issue is resolved as of Monday morning, DSB confirmed.</p> <p>Tickets purchases via the company's app, ticket machines, website and in 7-Eleven stores were all out of action due to the issue on Sunday.</p> <p>Passengers with Rejsekort travel cards were able to use that system, while others purchased tickets from ticket inspectors on board trains.</p> <p>"Our technicians and IT contractors have analysed this closely during the night and have concluded this is an outside attack in which someone has attempted to bring our system down," DSB vice-director Aske Wieth-Knudsen said.</p> <p>Internal mail and telephone systems used by DSB staff were also affected by the cyber attack, rendering the company able to communicate via social media or provide staff or customers with further information.</p> <p>A similar issue earlier this year was caused by an electronic failure rather than a cyber attack.</p> <p>"They type of attack we saw yesterday is a new way of doing things that we [DSB, ed.] haven't seen before. So a little more close analysis is required for us to see what exactly happened so we can prevent a</p>

	reoccurrence,” Wieth-Knudsen told DR.
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HEADLINE	05/12 Report: Iran hackers ramp up cyberattacks
SOURCE	https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2018/may/12/iranian-hackers-ramp-up-cyberattacks-following-tru/
GIST	<p>Iranian hackers ramped up their attacks against U.S. targets as expected in the immediate aftermath of President Trump withdrawing this week from the Iran nuclear deal, cybersecurity experts said afterwards.</p> <p>Researchers at CrowdStrike, a cybersecurity firm headquartered in Silicon Valley, witnessed a “notable” shift in Iranian cyberactivity within 24 hours of Mr. Trump announcing his withdrawal from the nuclear deal Tuesday, The New York Times reported on Friday.</p> <p>After Mr. Trump’s announcement, Iranian hackers began sending malicious emails to diplomats employed in the foreign affairs offices of U.S. allies and unspecified telecommunications firms, according to CrowdStrike, The Times said.</p> <p>The emails contained malware designed to let the hackers infiltrate the recipients’ computer systems, the newspaper reported, though it was not immediately clear if any of their targets were actually breached.</p> <p>The apparent surge was hardly unexpected, and the assaults allegedly occurred after other security researchers warned that withdrawing the U.S. from the Iranian nuclear deal would likely trigger retaliatory cyberattacks following years of relative inactivity in terms of Iran hacking American targets.</p> <p>Iran has been blamed in the past for high-profile hacks targeting U.S. entities — including a dam near New York City in 2013, and the Sands Las Vegas Corporation in 2014 — but security researchers have said that it scaled back those sorts of cyberattacks after the nuclear deal was reached under the Obama administration in 2015 when Iran agreed to curb its energy program in exchange for U.S. lifting sanctions.</p>
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HEADLINE	05/13 Anonymous hacks Russia govt. site
SOURCE	https://www.hackread.com/anonymous-hacks-russian-govt-website-against-censorship/
GIST	<p>On May 10th, 2018, the online hacktivist group Anonymous conducted a cyber attack on the official website of Russia’s Federal Agency for International Cooperation (Rossotrudnichestvo) by hacking and defacing its subdomain against the ongoing censorship in the country especially the recent ban on the encrypted messaging app Telegram.</p> <p>If you are not familiar with the situation in Russia, in April this year, Telegram app (along with millions of IP addresses) was blocked in the country after the company declined the request of handing over encryption keys of its users to Federal Security Service (FSB) of Russia for investigation purposes.</p> <p>Then on May 3rd, 2018, Russia’s media and communication regularity authority Roskomnadzor blocked over 50 virtual private networks (VPNs), Web Proxies and Anonymizers amid its crackdown against the Telegram messaging service.</p> <p>However, in an unexpected cyber attack, the world-renowned Anonymous group defaced one of the subdomains of Rossotrudnichestvo with NSFW image and messages against the ongoing censorship. According to the deface message:</p> <p>“Greetings, Roskomnadzor. Your recent destructive actions against Runet led us to the idea that you are just a handful of incompetent brainless worms. You no longer have to be able to continue this pointless vandalism. Consider this as our last warning. Yours, Anonymous.”</p>

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HEADLINE	05/11 Panda Banker campaign hits US banks
SOURCE	https://www.securityweek.com/panda-banker-campaign-hits-us-banks
GIST	<p>Recently detected campaigns using the Panda Banker malware are targeting financial institutions worldwide, with those in the United States taking the largest hit, F5 reports.</p> <p>First seen in 2016, Panda is based on the leaked source code of the infamous Zeus banking Trojan and has been involved in multiple infection campaigns globally. Sold as a kit on underground forums, the malware uses man-in-the-browser and webinjects to steal user credentials.</p> <p>Historically, the threat has been targeting financial institutions in Italy, Canada, Australia, Germany, the United States, and the United Kingdom, but also started focusing on Japan earlier this year.</p> <p>Now, F5 reports that, while Japan continues to be hit, the malware is also targeting users in the United States, Canada, and Latin America.</p> <p>In February, the malware was targeting financial services and cryptocurrency sites in Italy with screenshots rather than webinjects, likely “to document and spy on user interaction at cryptocurrency accounts.”</p> <p>In May, three different Panda Banker campaigns were observed, each focused on another geography.</p> <p>One of them, F5 reports, hit 8 industries in North America, with 78% of the targets being US financial organizations. Canadian financial organizations, cryptocurrency sites, global social media providers, search and email providers, payroll, entertainment, and tech providers were also targeted.</p> <p>“This campaign is also targeting major social media platforms like Facebook and Instagram, as well as messaging apps like Skype, and entertainment platforms like Youtube. Additionally, Panda is targeting Microsoft.com, bing.com, and msn.com,” F5 reports.</p>
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HEADLINE	05/12 Nigeltorn malware infects 100 countries
SOURCE	https://www.securityweek.com/nigeltorn-malware-infects-over-100000-systems
GIST	<p>A newly discovered malware family capable of credential theft, cryptomining, click fraud, and other nefarious actions has already infected over 100,000 computers, Radware reveals.</p> <p>Dubbed Nigeltorn because it abuses a Google Chrome extension called Nigelify, the malware is propagating via socially-engineered links on Facebook. The group behind the campaign has been active since at least March 2018 and has already managed to infect users in 100 countries.</p> <p>Victims are redirected to a fake YouTube page that asks them to install a Chrome extension to play the video. Once they accept the installation, the malicious extension is added to their browser, and the machine is enrolled in the botnet.</p> <p>Impacting both Windows and Linux machines, the malware depends on Chrome, which suggests that those who do not use this browser are not at risk, the security researchers point out.</p> <p>The actor behind the campaign uses the Bitly URL shortening service when redirecting victims to Facebook to trick users into revealing their login credentials. Based on statistics from Bitly and the Chrome web store, Radware determined that 75% of the infections occurred in the Philippines, Venezuela and Ecuador, with the remaining 25% distributed over 97 other countries.</p>

	<p>The Nigelthorn malware itself is focused on stealing Facebook login credentials and Instagram cookies. It also redirects users to a Facebook API to generate an access token that is then sent to the C&C.</p> <p>The stolen credentials are used for propagation, to spread the malicious link to the user's network either via messages in Facebook Messenger, or via a new post that includes tags for up to 50 contacts. Should any of the victim's contacts click on the link, the infection process is repeated.</p> <p>The malware also downloads a cryptomining tool to the victim's machine. A publicly available browser-mining tool is used for this, downloaded from external sites that the group controls. Over the past several days, the actor was observed attempting to mine Monero, Bytecoin and Electroneum, all of which require CPU power to mine.</p>
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HEADLINE	05/14 Trump reverses course on China ZTE
SOURCE	https://www.zdnet.com/article/trump-reverses-course-on-zte-citing-job-losses-in-china/
GIST	<p>United States President Donald Trump has characteristically taken to Twitter to announce that he has directed the US Department of Commerce to allow ZTE to operate again.</p> <p>"President Xi of China, and I, are working together to give massive Chinese phone company, ZTE, a way to get back into business, fast," the president tweeted on Sunday, US time.</p> <p>"Too many jobs in China lost. Commerce Department has been instructed to get it done!"</p> <p>Trump added later on Sunday that the United States and China are working well together on trade.</p> <p>"Past negotiations have been so one sided in favor of China, for so many years, that it is hard for them to make a deal that benefits both countries," he said.</p> <p>"But be cool, it will all work out!"</p> <p>The shift in attitude comes less than a week after ZTE said it was ceasing "major operating activities" due to export sanctions placed on it by the US government, after the Department of Commerce said ZTE lied to the Bureau of Industry and Security about disciplinary actions supposedly enforced on senior employees relating to the illegal shipments to Iran and North Korea, and paid full bonuses to employees who had engaged in illegal conduct.</p> <p>"ZTE misled the Department of Commerce. Instead of reprimanding ZTE staff and senior management, ZTE rewarded them. This egregious behavior cannot be ignored," US Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross said in April.</p> <p>The company was subsequently slapped with a ban on purchasing components and software from US manufacturers for seven years.</p> <p>At the time, ZTE said the US ban would threaten the survival of the company and its partners, including some US companies.</p> <p>In March 2017, ZTE had been fined \$1.2 billion by the United States for directly, or through third-party distributors, shipping \$32 million worth of products containing American-made equipment to Iran between 2010 and 2016 without the proper licensing.</p> <p>ZTE was similarly the subject of a 2012 investigation by the FBI and US Commerce Department after allegedly setting up a network of sub-companies to illegally export Microsoft, HP, Oracle, Dell, Cisco, and Symantec products to Iran.</p>

	In February, the heads of the CIA, FBI, NSA, and the director of national intelligence to the Senate Intelligence Committee also recommended that Americans not use products from Huawei and ZTE.
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HEADLINE	05/14 Family Planning NSW data breach
SOURCE	https://www.zdnet.com/article/information-on-thousands-of-clients-accessed-in-family-planning-nsw-breach/
GIST	<p>Family Planning NSW has told customers their personal information may have been compromised after the not-for-profit fell victim to a ransomware attack.</p> <p>The organisation provides advice on contraception, pregnancy, and sexual health, and it is believed the databases breached contained information on around 8,000 clients who had contacted Family Planning NSW to make an appointment or leave feedback through its website.</p> <p>It was confirmed to clients via email that the not-for-profit that provides vital assistance to the state suffered the breach on Anzac Day -- April 25, 2018.</p> <p>"Since the attack we have had no evidence that this information has been used by the cyber attackers," the email, signed off by chair Sue Carrick and chief executive Ann Brassil, said.</p> <p>"All web database information has been secure since this time and more sensitive medical records held internally were never under threat."</p> <p>Those potentially caught up in the breach would have accessed the organisation's online services in the past two-and-a-half years.</p> <p>The organisation said the situation has been "contained", but its website will remain offline until a security review and internal testing are completed.</p>
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HEADLINE	05/14 New malware harvests financial data
SOURCE	https://www.zdnet.com/article/this-malware-is-harvesting-saved-credentials-in-chrome-firefox-browsers/
GIST	<p>Vega Stealer malware is at the heart of a new campaign designed to harvest saved financial data from Google Chrome and Firefox browsers.</p> <p>While the new malware is only being utilized in simplistic and small phishing campaigns at the moment, researchers from Proofpoint say that Vega Stealer has the potential to become a common threat to businesses in the future.</p> <p>Vega Stealer is a variant of August Stealer. Written in .NET, August Stealer locates and steals credentials, sensitive documents, and cryptocurrency wallet details from infected machines.</p> <p>The new malware has a subset of the same functionality but has also been upgraded with an arsenal of expanded features, including a new network communication protocol and Firefox stealing functionality.</p> <p>Vega Stealer is also written in .NET and focuses on the theft of saved credentials and payment information in Google Chrome. These credentials include passwords, saved credit cards, profiles, and cookies.</p> <p>When the Firefox browser is in use, the malware harvests specific files -- "key3.db" "key4.db", "logins.json", and "cookies.sqlite" -- which store various passwords and keys.</p>

However, Vega Stealer does not wrap up there. The malware also takes a screenshot of the infected machine and scans for any files on the system ending in .doc, .docx, .txt, .rtf, .xls, .xlsx, or .pdf for exfiltration.

According to the security researchers, the malware is currently being utilized to target businesses in marketing, advertising, public relations, retail, and manufacturing.

The phishing campaign designed to propagate the malware, however, is not sophisticated. Emails are sent with subject lines such as "Online store developer required," and while some are targeted and sent to individuals at a business, most messages are sent to distribution lists including "publicaffairs@" and "clientservice@".

The email contains an attachment called "brief.doc" in which malicious macros download the Vega Stealer payload.

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HEADLINE	05/11 EternalBlue exploit bigger than ever
SOURCE	https://www.bleepingcomputer.com/news/security/one-year-after-wannacry-eternalblue-exploit-is-bigger-than-ever/
GIST	<p>... May 12, is the one-year anniversary of the WannaCry ransomware outbreak.</p> <p>Exactly one year after the biggest cyber-security incident in history, the exploit at the heart of the WannaCry attack is now more popular than ever, according to telemetry data gathered by Slovak antivirus vendor ESET.</p> <p>Named EternalBlue, the exploit was supposedly developed by the cyber division of the US National Security Agency. EternalBlue was part of a large cache of tools that a hacker group known as The Shadow Brokers stole from NSA servers in 2016 and then leaked online from August 2016 to April 2017.</p> <p>Many suspect the NSA might have notified Microsoft of what the Shadow Brokers stole, because in March 2017, a month before EternalBlue was released, Microsoft released MS17-010, a security bulletin containing patches for the many SMB-targeting exploits included in the Shadow Broker leak.</p> <p>What happened next is well documented, with EternalBlue being used to create a self-spreading mechanism for the WannaCry ransomware, and later for subsequent ransomware outbreaks like NotPetya and Bad Rabbit.</p> <p>The impact of EternalBlue was devastating, with companies reporting total damages of over \$8 billion across 150 countries just from the WannaCry incident alone, according to IBM X-Force.</p> <p>But the initial version of EternalBlue wasn't perfect. It only worked on Windows 7 and Windows Server 2008 and crashed on Windows XP.</p> <p>EternalBlue did a lot of damage during WannaCry, but there were very few malware authors that knew how to use it. This is why, according to ESET, that shortly after WannaCry, EternalBlue usage declined tremendously.</p> <p>"EternalBlue had a calmer period immediately after the 2017 WannaCryptor campaign," ESET's Ondrej Kubovič explains. "Over the following months, attempts to use the EternalBlue exploit dropped to 'only' hundreds of detections daily."</p> <p>But things changed during the post-WannaCry and post-NotPetya incidents. For starters, security researchers ported EternalBlue to more platforms, such as Windows 8 and Server 2012, and later even</p>

Windows 10.

This broadened the exploit's ability to infect more victims than usual and made it a commodity among malware authors.

In the following months, EternalBlue spread from mundane crypto-mining operations to the arsenal of state-level cyber-espionage groups.

Even if EternalBlue is not being used anymore to help ransomware become a virulent nightmare on a global level (only on a network level), most regular users don't know that it's still one of today's biggest threats.

This threat doesn't only come from malware authors continuing to weaponize it for a diverse set of operations. Malware authors wouldn't ever bother with an inefficient exploit. ExploitBlue continues to be a threat because of the vulnerable machines still available online.

According to Nate Warfield of the Microsoft Security Response Center, there are still plenty of vulnerable Windows systems exposing their SMB service available online.

EternalBlue is also most likely one of the reasons Microsoft reacted by shipping new versions of the Windows OS with SMBv1 disabled, which was the protocol that EternalBlue targets.

Kryptos Logic, the company behind the WannaCry sinkhole also revealed the same thing a few weeks ago. The company pointed out that residual WannaCry infections are still using EternalBlue to infect new victims, even to this day, with "millions" of devices scanning the Internet for unpatched systems and deploying EternalBlue in attempts to infect them with WannaCry.

The sinkhole stops WannaCry from encrypting files, but the EternalBlue exploit used for WannaCry's self-spreading system is still running just fine, even to this day.

The key takeaway is that organizations failing to apply the MS17-010 patch have contributed to EternalBlue's recent success, and their vulnerable systems will keep this threat active for years to come, just like we still see worms from the early 2000s still hanging around.

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HEADLINE	05/12 Ohio town police lose 10mo. work data
SOURCE	https://www.bleepingcomputer.com/news/security/police-dept-loses-10-months-of-work-to-ransomware-gets-infected-a-second-time/
GIST	<p>Ransomware has infected the servers of the Riverside Fire and Police department for the second time in a month.</p> <p>The first ransomware infection took place on April 23, last month and encrypted ten months worth of work data related to active investigations.</p> <p>Officials said they didn't pay the ransom and were able to recover some of the data from previous backups. Other data they recovered from public court records, but to this day, the Riverside Fire and Police department have not fully recovered from the first attack.</p> <p>The second infection took place last week, May 4, but only came to light today when US Secret Service agents arrived in the Ohio town to help with the investigation.</p> <p>This time around officials appear to have learned their lesson and were actively making backups on a daily basis. Officials said the second ransomware infection only locked up data for the last eight hours of work, and the department fully recovered after the second attack.</p>

"Everything was backed-up, but we lost about eight hours worth of information we have to re-enter," City Manager Mark Carpenter told local media. "It was our police and fire records, so we just re-enter the reports."

Secret Service agents are now investigating the point of entry for both infections, hoping to find clues and track down the hackers.

This is not the first ransomware infection that hit a police department and has wiped data on investigations. Police in Cockrell Hill, Texas suffered a similar incident in January 2017 when they lost nearly eight years worth of evidence.

Police and fire departments are regularly hit with ransomware, but usually, they manage to recover either by restoring backups or by paying the ransom. Past victims include the police departments in the Mad River Township, Ohio; Roxana, Illinois; Tewksbury, Massachusetts; Rockport, Oregon; Mount Pleasant, South Carolina; just to name a few.

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HEADLINE 05/12 Anonymous member arrested in Ohio

SOURCE <https://www.bleepingcomputer.com/news/security/anonymous-member-arrested-in-ohio/>

GIST The Federal Bureau of Investigation has arrested an Ohio man on accusations of launching DDoS attacks on websites belonging to the city of Akron.

According to court documents obtained by Bleeping Computer, the man's name is James Robinson, 32, from Akron, Ohio. He went online under the pseudonym of AkronPhoenix420.

Online, Robinson posed as a member of the Anonymous hacker collective. He ran a YouTube account where he regularly published Anonymous-themed videos and a Twitter account from where he threatened, touted, and bragged about DDoS attacks and the Anonymous operations he was taking part in.

While his Twitter feed lists a litany of supposed DDoS attacks, court documents filed on Thursday, May 10, reveal that US authorities have charged him with carrying out two attacks in particular —against the domains of akronohio.gov and akroncops.org, belonging to the city of Akron, Ohio.

According to court documents, the attack took place on August 1, 2017. EyeMG, the company providing the hosting for the two websites said it often changed IP addresses to skirt the attacks, but the attacker would target the new ones as well.

The DDoS attack continued until August 5, during which time the two websites "were unavailable to legitimate users."

Two weeks before the attacks, an account allegedly associated with Robinson uploaded a video on YouTube threatening Ohio police with impeding cyber-attacks from the Anonymous collective. He then reshared the video, along with the targeted domains and their IP addresses during the attack.

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HEADLINE 05/14 Claim: PGP email encryption security flaw

SOURCE <https://www.bleepingcomputer.com/news/security/users-warned-of-critical-pgp-email-encryption-security-flaw/>

GIST A team of nine academics is warning the world about critical vulnerabilities in the PGP and S/MIME email encryption tools.

	<p>The flaws, if exploited, allow an attacker to decrypt sent or received messages, according to the researcher team.</p> <p>"They might reveal the plaintext of encrypted emails, including encrypted emails sent in the past," researchers said. "There are currently no reliable fixes for the vulnerability."</p> <p>Researchers promised to publish more details tomorrow, Tuesday, May 15. In the meantime, they are recommending that users stop using PGP and S/MIME for now.</p> <p>The Electronic Frontier Foundation —which researchers contacted to help them broadcast their message to a broader audience— has published tutorials on how to disable PGP and related plugins.</p> <p>Users are advised to disable email encryption to avoid any attackers from recovering past encrypted emails after the paper's publication.</p> <p>"These steps are intended as a temporary, conservative stopgap until the immediate risk of the exploit has passed and been mitigated against by the wider community," the EFF said.</p> <p>Users in dire need of using encryption to protect their communications channels were advised to use an instant messaging client that supports end-to-end encryption, the EFF recommended.</p>
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HEADLINE	05/11 Bitcoin slips below \$9,000
SOURCE	https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2018-05-11/bitcoin-slips-below-9-000-as-korean-exchange-raid-renews-fears
GIST	<p>Bitcoin was on course to eke out two weeks in a row above the \$9,000 mark, until now.</p> <p>The top digital token broke its streak Friday after South Korean prosecutors raided the offices of Upbit, one of the world's largest cryptocurrency exchanges, renewing concerns that heightened regulatory scrutiny around the world could hurt business and dampen enthusiasm for digital assets.</p> <p>The top digital token declined as much as 6.4 percent to as low as \$8,508 in New York trading, the lowest level in three weeks, according to Bloomberg data.</p> <p>There was also speculation that the trustee of failed exchange Mt. Gox was selling its Bitcoin to pay back creditors.</p> <p>Bitcoin's drop is part of a broader selloff in the cryptocurrency market, which is currently worth around \$380 billion, according to Coinmarketcap.com. That's almost \$100 billion less than it was worth a week ago. The Bloomberg Galaxy Crypto Index, which measures the performance of the largest digital tokens, fell as much as 14 percent.</p>
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HEADLINE	05/12 Chili's Bar & Grill: 'data incident'
SOURCE	https://www.cbsnews.com/news/chilis-grill-and-bar-data-incident-customers-credit-debit-card-information-2018-05-12/
GIST	<p>Chili's Grill & Bar has informed customers of a "data incident," saying some payment information was compromised at "certain" locations between March and April, and that it will "continue to assess the scope of the incident." The chain restaurant said it believes malware was used to collect credit and debit card numbers along with the names of cardholders from its payment systems.</p> <p>"We deeply value our relationships with all of you and sincerely apologize to those who may have been</p>

	<p>affected," the company said in a statement. "We take the security and privacy of your data seriously and are working diligently to address this issue."</p> <p>The company said it learned of the incident on May 11, but did not say which locations -- or how many customers -- were affected. The company said it is working with third-party forensic experts to understand the details of the incident.</p> <p>"We are committed to sharing additional information on this ongoing investigation with our Guests as we learn more," the company said, adding there was "no reason to believe" customers would be putting themselves at risk by using a credit or debit card at one of their locations going forward.</p>
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HEADLINE	05/11 'Malicious intrusion' Tenn. elections site
SOURCE	https://abcnews.go.com/Technology/wireStory/cyberattack-tennessee-election-website-preceded-outage-55101304?cid=clicksource_79_4_article%20roll_articleroll_hed
GIST	<p>Investigators found evidence of a "malicious intrusion" into a Tennessee county's elections website from a computer in Ukraine during a concerted cyberattack, which likely caused the site to crash just as it was reporting vote totals in this month's primary.</p> <p>Cyber-security experts hired by Knox County to analyze the so-called "denial of service" cyberattack, said Friday that "a suspiciously large number of foreign countries" accessed the site as votes were being reported on May 1.</p> <p>That intense activity was among the likely causes of the crash, according to the report by Sword & Shield Enterprise Security.</p> <p>"Given the circumstantial evidence—especially the simultaneous proven malicious intrusion from a Ukraine IP address—I think it is reasonable to at least hypothesize that it was an intended event," David Ball, the county's deputy director of information technology, added in an email to The Associated Press.</p> <p>County officials said no voting data was affected, but the site was down for an hour after the polls closed, causing confusion before technicians fixed the problem.</p> <p>Investigators said it's impossible to prove just where the so-called "denial of service" attack originated from, since the county can't store all the "packet data" needed to identify the source.</p> <p>"The effect was clearly a loss of service, but it is unclear, with the information provided, if the outage was an intended event or a side effect of the events," the report said.</p> <p>Ball said "the bottom line is that there was a proven malicious attack from a foreign source occurring simultaneously with an apparent deliberate DOS attack. Nothing was held back from Sword and Shield, and their assessment was well aligned with our initial assessment on election night."</p> <p>Joyce McCants, a spokeswoman for the FBI in Knoxville, said Knox County has not reached out to the FBI in relation to the website crash.</p>
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HEADLINE	05/11 Miami man behind 100M robocalls
SOURCE	http://www.miamiherald.com/news/local/community/miami-dade/article210861109.html
GIST	<p>If there were a Guinness World Record for robocalls, a Miami man may have set it.</p> <p>And now he's paying the price.</p>

The FCC has fined Adrian Abramovich \$120 million for setting up a program that made nearly 100 million robocalls between 2015 and 2016.

“Abramovich is the perpetrator of one of the largest — and most dangerous — illegal robocalling campaigns that the Commission has ever investigated,” the FCC said in June, when it handed down its citation against him. The fine amount was finalized Thursday.

Abramovich's scheme involved calling unsuspecting customers with a prerecorded message instructing them to “Press 1” to hear more about an “exclusive” vacation deal offered by a well-known travel or hospitality company, like TripAdvisor, Expedia, Marriott, or Hilton, the FCC said.

They would then be transferred to a call center, where live operators would attempt to sell them one or more “discounted” vacation packages, like timeshares.

On his busiest day, October 19, 2016, Abramovich made 2,121,106 calls. The fewest calls he made on a single week day was 644,051; he averaged over 200,000 calls on Saturdays.

But neither the call center nor Abramovich were affiliated with the well-known brands presented to the customer during the prerecorded message.

TripAdvisor began investigating and eventually triangulated the calls to a single business that had agreements with call centers in Mexico, who were paying Abramovich for traffic. TripAdvisor also contacted the FCC, which used law enforcement techniques to track him down.

Abramovich has formed 12 corporations in Florida over the past two decades, many only existing for one year before being dissolved. In nearly every case, he was the sole director, the FCC said.

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HEADLINE	05/10 West Sacramento tracks social media
SOURCE	http://sacramento.cbslocal.com/2018/05/10/west-sacramento-tracking-social-media/
GIST	<p>WEST SACRAMENTO (CBS13) — West Sacramento is the first city to launch a controversial new program that watches what people post about it online.</p> <p>The pilot project gives city leaders a look at what’s trending in the city, whether it’s good or bad. It’s also creating privacy concerns around how the data is being used.</p> <p>When a wave of mailbox thefts hit the city last year, people complained about it on social media, and West Sacramento was watching. City leaders were alerted to the community concerns by a new system.</p> <p>“We saw the thing that most people were talking about were mailbox thefts,” said West Sacramento Mayor Christopher Cabaldon. “That’s something that we might not have noticed just by waiting for people to come to city hall or filing a complaint.”</p> <p>The pilot project with Zencity gives city leaders like Mayor Christopher Cabaldon a look at what’s trending in the city, whether it’s good or bad.</p> <p>The city is using Zencity, a system that crawls through publicly available social media posts on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. It takes all of that data and sorts through to find what people are talking about and whether it’s positive or negative.</p> <p>“The purpose of Zencity is to see the big picture,” he said.</p> <p>In January, concerns came from the closure of a Safeway store and the brutal murder of two sisters at the</p>

hands of their father. In March, a shooting threat at River City High School generated negative posts over the lack of updates from police and school staff.

“It’s not that Zencity replaces our other forms of civic engagement, it’s just a way to listen more,” he said.

But in the wake of the Facebook Cambridge Analytica scandal and concerns over data collection in general, some are worried about where that data goes and who sees it.

“There are ways this could go wrong,” said Peter Eckersley with the Electronic Frontier Foundation. “Once you get into policing there are many more potential concerns around the use of artificial intelligence.”

The ACLU worries about the potential misuse of the technology. Facebook started as a social engagement tool, then turned into a behemoth that exposed user data, even in unplanned ways.

“There’s no privacy issues because we’re not opening up anything that hasn’t already been published publicly for the purpose of being public,” Cabaldon said.

Instead, he hopes it will give all residents an equal say in civic matters.

“It allows us to hear the whole community and not just the loudest voices that come to our chambers for a public hearing,” he said.

The city is spending \$12,000 from the Measure E sales-tax increase to license the software for one year. It gets a 66 percent discount as an early user.

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Terror Conditions

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HEADLINE	05/14 Threat report: ISIS in spotlight
SOURCE	https://www.thecipherbrief.com/threat-report-2018-isis-spotlight
GIST	<p>Bottom Line: The Islamic State, also known as the Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham (ISIS), has experienced significant territorial losses in its former self-declared caliphate that once spanned large swaths of eastern Syria and western Iraq.</p> <p>However, the group remains a potent international threat as it increasingly adopts conventional insurgent tactics, increases its focus on executing terrorist attacks in the West and doubles down on supporting affiliate organizations across the globe as well as lone wolf actors pursuing inspired attacks in their home countries.</p> <p>Background: ISIS is the third reincarnation of al-Qaida in Iraq, a group that was originally formed in the aftermath of the Iraq War in 2004 and later changed its name to the Islamic State of Iraq (ISI) in 2006.</p> <p>ISIS was expelled from the al-Qaida network in February 2014 after the group’s leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi announced the merger of ISIS and al-Qaida’s Syrian affiliate, the Al-Nusra Front, under his leadership – a move that was rejected by both al-Qaida emir Ayman al-Zawahiri and Al-Nusra Front leader Abu-Muhammad al Joulani.^[i] Al-Baghdadi and al-Zawahiri also failed to see eye-to-eye on several other issues, such as ISIS’s brutality particularly towards other Muslims.^[ii]</p> <p>In Iraq, ISIS expediently gained traction in late 2013 through mid-2014, as Sunnis there felt increasingly disenfranchised by a Shia-dominated government based in Baghdad that had instituted what they saw as sectarian policies. Facing little resistance from a battered Iraqi army, ISIS swiftly conquered significant territory in eastern Syria and western Iraq, including Iraq’s second largest city of Mosul. In June 2014, al-</p>

Baghdadi announced the establishment of an Islamic caliphate from Mosul's Grand Mosque. At its peak, ISIS governed approximately 7.7 million people and controlled roughly 40,000 square miles of land, essentially forming a proto-state as large as the United Kingdom.^[iii]

ISIS's ideology can be divided into three main components:^[iv] First is the group's Salafi interpretation of Islam, which originates from the Arabic word *salaf*, meaning ancestor, and refers to a version of Islam practiced by the Prophet Muhammad and the earliest generations of Muslims in the seventh century. ISIS subscribes to a brand of Salafism that licenses violence against all those who do not share their religious credence, including fellow Muslims. Second, ISIS insists that Sharia law play an essential role in the group's political system, with al-Baghdadi assuming the role of political leader and religious authority.

Third, ISIS strongly advocates for an apocalyptic vision of a global jihad in which the Muslim world battles the West to achieve global dominion; only by participating in jihad against the West will Muslim lands be saved, an Islamic caliphate created and the world reach its phase of final salvation. During its peak earning period from mid-2014 through the end of 2015, ISIS was grossing between \$1-3 million per day in November 2014^[v] and as much as \$80 million per month by the end of 2015.^[vi] It generated the bulk of its revenue via illegal oil sales, which brought in nearly \$40 million per month, while also relying on antiquities sales, the extortion and taxation of local populations and kidnappings for ransom.^[vii]

Since the U.S. initiated military operations against ISIS targets in August 2014, ISIS's core in Syria and Iraq has lost approximately 98 percent of the territory it once controlled, including its former Syrian capital of Raqqa and Mosul.^[viii] An estimated 3,000 fighters remain in the area, down significantly from the more than 60,000 militants that fought for the group in Syria and Iraq,^[ix] including approximately 40,000 foreign fighters originating from over 110 countries.^[x] Territorial losses, coupled with precision strikes on ISIS financial hubs, have also depleted the group's revenue streams, although ISIS's exploitation of oil still brings in roughly \$4 million per month and it has turned to other sources of income, namely black-market antiquities trading, to offset the losses incurred by its oil industry.^[xi]

Issue: With ISIS decimated in Syria and Iraq, the network has shifted its resources to expanding the influence and lethality of its affiliates in North Africa, the Sahel, the Sinai, Afghanistan and southeast Asia. Furthermore, ISIS continues to inspire terrorist attacks worldwide and maintains a sizeable network of foreign fighters who have returned to their homelands and may seek to carry out local attacks in ISIS's name.

ISIS first appeared in **Libya** in mid-2014 in the eastern town of Derna. By June 2015, ISIS had built a stronghold in the coastal city of Sirte, the hometown of former Libyan strongman Moammar Gadhafi, and conquered nearly 125 miles of the Libyan coast, establishing the group's most important base outside of Syria and Iraq.^[xii] In May 2016, brigades from the western Libyan city of Misrata launched a counterattack against ISIS, pushing them out of both Derna and Sirte by December 2016. Yet ISIS has maintained a strong presence in Libya and remains a potent regional threat, having regrouped and established training centers and operational headquarters in the central and southern parts of the country. General David Rodriguez, former commander of U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM), estimated in April 2016 that ISIS in Libya maintained a force of between 4,000-6,000 fighters.^[xiii]

Militants who pledged allegiance to ISIS roam the **Sahel** region, as demonstrated by the October 2017 ambush of a joint U.S.-Nigerien patrol along the Mali-Niger border, which resulted in the deaths four U.S. troops and five Nigerien soldiers.^[xiv] The news garnered significant attention and led to the publicizing that there were approximately 800 U.S. forces stationed in Niger and that the U.S. military was operating a key drone base in the area.^[xv]

Originally known as Ansar Beit al-Maqdis, ISIS's Sinai branch has been active in Egypt's **Sinai Peninsula** since 2011. The group pledged allegiance to ISIS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi in November 2014, assuming the name Sinai Province. With an estimated force of between 1,000-1,500 militants,^[xvi] Sinai Province claimed responsibility for the October 2015 downing of Russian passenger plane Metrojet Flight 9268, which took off from the Egyptian city of Sharm el-Sheikh, killing all 224

people on board.[xvii] Over the last few years, Sinai Province has frequently attacked Egyptian military and security forces deployed in the Sinai. It has also managed to strike in Egypt’s heartland, conducting several attacks in the capital of Cairo, and bombings of Coptic churches as far west as Alexandria and Tanta.[xviii]

ISIS in **Afghanistan**, also called ISIS Khorasan Province (ISKP), first emerged in late 2014 and operates primarily in the country’s eastern Nangarhar Province along the porous Afghan-Pakistan border. According to U.S. military estimates, ISKP has dropped from a peak of between 2,000-3,000 fighters in 2016 to around 1,100 fighters, with between 600-800 militants based in Nangarhar province and an additional 300 in the northern Kunar and Jowzjan provinces combined.[xix] ISIS has carved out a dangerous foothold in Afghanistan as demonstrated by its repeated barrage of attacks against both civilian and military targets in Afghanistan and across the border in Pakistan.

In May 2017, pro-ISIS militants managed to overrun the city of Marawi located in the southern **Philippine** Island of Mindanao after Philippine forces raided the house of Isnilon Hapilon, the head of the Abu Sayyaf terrorist organization that had pledged allegiance to ISIS in July 2014. They encountered fiercer-than-expected resistance when Hapilon’s supporters aligned with another pro-ISIS brigade called the Maute Group. After five months and 1,100 total deaths, Philippine forces finally defeated the pro-ISIS militants, killing Hapilon and Omar Maute, the leader of the Maute group.[xx] However, ISIS aims to regroup in Mindanao where it has amplified its force size in recent months as militants have arrived from Syria and Iraq.[xxi] In addition, the country’s island geography has complicated Manila’s centralized authority, particularly over Mindanao, affording jihadist groups the opportunity to establish safe havens in areas with limited government oversight.

Boko Haram pledged allegiance to ISIS in March 2015 becoming the most infamous terrorist group to join the ISIS network. However, after ISIS’s central leadership attempted to replace long-time Boko Haram leader Abubakar Shekau with Abu Musab al-Barnawi in August 2016, an organizational split ensued. Currently, Boko Haram is divided amongst two factions, one loyal to Shekau and the other to Barnawi and ISIS.[xxii] Both continue to strike government officials, troops and civilians from the northeast of the country, despite intervention by a Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) comprised of 8,700 troops from Cameroon, Chad, Niger, and Nigeria to oust Boko Haram militants from the **Lake Chad Basin Area**. [xxiii] As recently as 2015, the Global Terrorism Index labeled Boko Haram the world’s deadliest terrorist organization.[xxiv]

ISIS became perhaps the most media savvy terrorist group in history, skillfully exploiting social media websites, such as Twitter and Facebook, and encrypted communication applications, such as Telegram, to recruit new members and lure them to either travel abroad and fight on their behalf, or conduct acts of terror in their home countries. ISIS has managed to convert its grand message into targeted appeals that resonate on an individual basis, attracting a variety of people to its cause. Consequently, ISIS-inspired attacks carried out by “lone wolves” or small bands of homegrown violent extremists continue to represent the primary terrorist threat for the U.S. and its allies.

ISIS has also attempted to develop a cyber-hacking toolset that could one day rival those of criminal or state-sponsored hacking. To date, ISIS cyberattacks have included website defacement, doxing of personally identifiable information, and distributed denial of service (DDoS) attacks.

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HEADLINE	05/14 Indonesia: 2 families behind bombings
SOURCE	https://apnews.com/1ff09616930b4bbe81b7962d88620d42/Police:-Indonesia-suicide-bombings-work-of-2-families
GIST	SURABAYA, Indonesia (AP) — An Indonesian family detonated explosives outside the police headquarters in the country’s second-largest city on Monday, a day after members of another family launched coordinated suicide bombings on three city churches that killed at least eight people.

National police chief Tito Karnavian said a girl aged about 8 who was with two of the attackers on a motorcycle survived being thrown by the blast at Surabaya's police headquarters. The attack killed the four perpetrators. Six civilians and four officers were wounded.

The attack came just hours after police said the family that carried out the church bombings included girls aged 9 and 12.

The flurry of attacks raised concerns that previously beaten-down militant networks in the world's most populous Muslim-majority nation have been reinvigorated by the return of some of the estimated 1,100 Indonesians who went to fight with the Islamic State group in Syria. Experts have warned for several years that when those fighters return, they could pose a significant threat.

IS claimed responsibility for the church bombings in a statement carried by its Aamaq news agency. Karnavian, however, said earlier police comments that the family had spent time in Syria were incorrect.

He said the church bombers and the police headquarters attackers were friends, as were another family whose homemade bombs exploded in their apartment Sunday night.

The use of children in the attacks has been particularly horrifying to people.

"This is terrifying," said Taufik Andrie, executive director of an institute that runs programs to help paroled militants reject extremism and rejoin society. "This is showing how extremist ideology can entrap children. Children have no choice. They can't comprehend the decisions involved."

Indonesian President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo condemned the attacks as "barbaric" and vowed that authorities would root out and destroy Islamic militant networks. The top security minister, Wiranto, who uses one name, said the government will attempt to hasten passage of an updated anti-terrorism law that has languished in parliament.

Karnavian said the father of the family that carried out the church bombings was head of the Surabaya cell of Jemaah Anshorut Daulah, an Indonesian militant network affiliated with IS that has been implicated in attacks in Indonesia in the past year. All six members of the family were killed.

The IS statement claiming responsibility for the attacks didn't mention anything about families or children taking part and said there were only three attackers. The group also claimed responsibility for a hostage-taking ordeal last week by imprisoned Islamic militants at a detention center near Jakarta in which six officers were killed.

Separately on Sunday, three members of another family were killed when homemade bombs exploded at an apartment in Sidoarjo, a town bordering Surabaya, police said.

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HEADLINE	05/14 Al-Qaeda leader: jihad against US
SOURCE	http://www.france24.com/en/20180514-al-qaeda-leader-calls-jihad-eve-us-embassy-move-jerusalem
GIST	<p>Al-Qaeda leader Ayman al-Zawahiri on Sunday urged Muslims carry out jihad against the United States. Ayman al-Zawahiri said America's decision to shift its Israeli embassy to Jerusalem was evidence that negotiations and "appeasement" have failed Palestinians.</p> <p>In a five-minute video entitled "Tel Aviv is Also a Land of Muslims," the Egyptian doctor who took charge of the global terror group after its founder Osama bin Laden was killed in 2011 referred to the Palestinian Authority as the "sellers of Palestine" while urging followers to take up arms.</p> <p>US President Donald Trump "was clear and explicit, and he revealed the true face of the modern Crusade, where standing down and appeasement does not work with them, but only resistance through the call and</p>

	<p>jihad," Zawahiri said, according to a transcript provided by the SITE monitoring agency.</p> <p>He added that Bin Laden had declared the US "the first enemy of the Muslims, and swore that it will not dream of security until it is lived in reality in Palestine, and until all the armies of disbelief leave the land of Muhammad."</p> <p>He argued that Islamic countries had failed to act in Muslims' interests by entering into the United Nations, which recognizes Israel, and submitting to Security Council and General Assembly resolutions instead of sharia (Islamic law).</p>
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HEADLINE	05/13 Paris knife attacker's murky path
SOURCE	https://www.yahoo.com/news/paris-knifemans-murky-path-reserved-student-extremist-175632917.html
GIST	<p>Paris (AFP) - Khamzat Azimov, who kept his beard short over a youthful face, was not considered a major threat despite being on France's two watchlists for suspected extremists since 2016.</p> <p>"It was his relatives who alerted the security services, as opposed to his behaviour, actions or ideas" which might have drawn scrutiny, a source close to the inquiry told AFP.</p> <p>Yet on Saturday night the 20-year-old described by neighbours as a quiet student spread terror throughout a bustling area of restaurants and theatres just a short stroll from the historic Paris opera house.</p> <p>Former classmates from his Strasbourg high school described Azimov as a religious and "very discreet" student who liked video games and sports.</p> <p>The eastern French town where he grew up is home to a large community of refugees from Chechnya who fled the Muslim-dominated Russian republic during two bloody separatist wars against Moscow-backed forces.</p> <p>One ex-pupil told AFP: "Khamzat was quite calm, he kept himself to himself, he didn't have a problem... He did Ramadan, he paid attention to girls."</p> <p>The man who declined to be identified added that Azimov "had a distinctive manner and was in contact with Syria where he wanted to go. But after the bac (exams) he left all that, he wanted to make a living."</p> <p>Another former pupil described a "normal student, not excellent but not bad either".</p> <p>"We knew he was Muslim but he did not show it," the young woman added, saying he never talked about his birthplace Chechnya or the wars there.</p> <p>- Family fled Chechnya -</p> <p>Investigators have taken Azimov's parents into custody for questioning as well as a friend in Strasbourg.</p> <p>The conflict in Chechnya gave birth to a fierce Islamic insurgency that would eventually produce fighters who would join other militant groups, including the Islamic State, which claimed responsibility for Saturday's attack in Paris.</p> <p>But a manager of the apartments in the northern 18th arrondissement of the French capital where the Azimovs rented a room said there was nothing overtly religious about the family.</p> <p>Calling them "very discreet," the woman said "there was nothing ostentatious in terms of religion" and described Khamzat Azimov as a young man who favoured tracksuits and "said he was a student".</p>

- 'Discreet family' -

A neighbour also spoke of "a very discreet family, never any problems," adding that they "never received visitors".

And the son "wasn't a thug, but someone who was reserved," she added.

"They have been living here for a little over a year," said Reda, another resident in the building.

"The father worked sometimes, mostly in construction, painting. The mother worked for an association which helps the homeless," she said.

Witnesses to Saturday's attack said Azimov remained composed as he began attacking people with a 10-centimetre (four inches) blade shortly before 9:00 pm (1900 GMT).

"He approached calmly, a total contrast with the panic all around him," said Romain, 34, who was placing an order with his wife and six-year-old son at the Starbucks cafe on the Avenue de l'Opera.

"He had a beard, not very long, and was dressed normally. He didn't fit the stereotype" of a jihadist, he said.

Investigators have yet to reveal how Azimov became radicalised. One source told AFP he had been questioned by anti-terror investigators last year "because he knew a man who was in contact with a person who had gone to Syria."

He did not have a criminal record, and became a French citizen as a teenager in 2010 following his mother's naturalisation.

But his attack echoed a similar one last October, when a knifeman who also carried no ID papers began stabbing people at the main train station in the southern city of Marseille, killing two people.

That attack was also claimed by the Islamic State.

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HEADLINE	05/13 France defends anti-terrorism strategy
SOURCE	http://www.bakersfield.com/ap/national/france-defends-anti-terrorism-strategy-after-attack-by-man-on/article_18bec6c0-5d0b-5657-b1bf-acd790984478.html
GIST	<p>PARIS — The French government defended its anti-terrorism measures over the weekend after it turned out that the perpetrator of a deadly knife attack in Paris was on a state security watchlist.</p> <p>Government spokesman Benjamin Griveaux said the man, a naturalized French citizen who was born in Chechnya in 1997, had been on the watchlist since 2016.</p> <p>It was the second deadly attack in two months by a person flagged on the watchlist, and the conservative opposition renewed calls for people on the list to be detained or deported.</p> <p>Griveaux said security forces had foiled 22 attacks over the past 15 months.</p> <p>“When we live through a tragedy like yesterday, it is visible,” Griveaux told broadcasters LCI and RTL. “What’s unfortunate is that our successes, by definition, are invisible.”</p> <p>The attack was claimed by Islamic State. French authorities have not confirmed any link with the organization but are treating the incident as a terrorist attack.</p>

A video emerged Sunday online purporting to show the attacker swearing allegiance to Islamic State leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi.

In the video, the speaker, wearing a mask that covers most of his face, calls on “my brothers the mujahedeen” in French with scattered Arabic phrases.

In terms typical of Islamic State’s propaganda, he calls on Muslims in Europe to try to move to the group’s now much-reduced territory, or, failing that, to commit attacks at home.

The video, which appeared to have been published by Islamic State’s news agency, Amaq, could not be verified.

The attack near the Paris Opera Saturday night killed a 29-year-old man. Four other people were injured, two of them seriously.

The attacker was shot dead by police, who arrived on the scene within minutes.

Both seriously injured people were out of danger by midday Sunday, a source close to the investigation said.

The attack took place in a busy area with several theaters and many bars and restaurants.

“It is, once again, a way of life, our way of life, which has come under a cowardly attack,” Griveaux said.

The attacker’s parents and a friend were detained for questioning, according to a judicial source.

The revelation that the perpetrator was on the state security watchlist — known as the “S file” — drew an angry reaction from the right and far-right opposition.

In March, a man on the watchlist killed four people in a series of attacks in southern France, including a senior police officer who surrendered to him in return for the freeing of a civilian hostage.

The leader of France’s biggest opposition party renewed his call on President Emmanuel Macron to detain “the most dangerous individuals” on the watchlist and expel all foreigners listed on it.

“There is no longer room, Mr. President, for this blind inaction which has lasted too long,” Laurent Wauquiez of the conservatives Les Republicains said in a statement.

“What use can this S file be if we don’t use it to ensure that these time bombs cannot do any harm on French soil?” National Front leader Marine Le Pen wrote on Twitter.

But Griveaux argued: “Unfortunately, there is no way of stopping this sort of incident from happening.”

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HEADLINE	05/13 ISIS: allegiance video Paris attacker
SOURCE	https://www.newsmax.com/newsfront/france-attack-isis-video/2018/05/13/id/860066/
GIST	<p>Islamic State, which has claimed the deadly knife attack in Paris this weekend, released a video on Sunday of a young man it claims was the attacker pledging allegiance to the jihadi group.</p> <p>The IS propaganda agency Amaq posted the video online using Telegram, featuring a young man wearing a hood with only his eyes exposed as the lower part of his face is covered by a black cloth.</p> <p>Speaking in French, he vows allegiance to IS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi.</p>

	<p>The attack in central Paris on Saturday night by a knifeman, later shot dead by police, left one person dead and four wounded.</p> <p>"The author of this knife attack in Paris is a soldier of the Islamic State and the operation had been carried out in retaliation against the states in the coalition," said a "security source" at Amaq, referring to the international forces including France which are fighting jihadists in Syria and Iraq.</p> <p>The attacker killed at the scene by French police has been identified as Khamzat Azimov, a 20-year-old French citizen born in Chechnya who had been on two watchlists for suspected Islamist extremism.</p>
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HEADLINE	05/14 Shiite cleric al-Sadr leads Iraq election
SOURCE	https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/shiite-cleric-sadr-leads-iraqs-initial-election-results-55140457
GIST	<p>The political coalition of influential Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr took an early lead in Iraq's national elections in partial returns announced late Sunday by the Iraqi electoral commission.</p> <p>An alliance of candidates linked to Iraq's powerful Shiite paramilitary groups was in second. The alliance is headed by Hadi al-Amiri, a former minister of transport with close ties to Iran who became a senior commander of paramilitary fighters in the fight against the Islamic State extremist group.</p> <p>Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi performed poorly across majority Shiite provinces that should have been his base of support.</p> <p>The announcement came just over 24 hours after polls closed across the country amid record low voter turnout. It included full returns from only 10 of the country's 19 provinces, including the provinces of Baghdad and Basra.</p> <p>Members of the national election commission read out vote tallies for each candidate list in each of the 10 provinces on national TV. By the end of the announcement, al-Sadr's list had the highest popular vote, followed by al-Amiri's.</p> <p>Seats in parliament will be allocated proportionately to coalitions once all votes are counted. The commission gave no indication on when further results would be announced.</p> <p>Celebrations erupted in Baghdad's Sadr City, an impoverished quarter that is home to some 3 million people and is named after the cleric's late father, Ayatollah Mohammad Sadq al-Sadr. The younger al-Sadr campaigned on a cross-sectarian platform of fighting corruption and investing in services and struck a surprising alliance with the Communist Party in the capital.</p> <p>The strong showing could be a testament to al-Sadr's loyal base of followers he maintains who cast their ballots despite a general mood of apathy that kept many Iraqis away from the polls. Al-Sadr commanded fighters in the war against the IS group and headed a powerful militia that fought U.S. forces in Iraq prior to 2011, but his 2018 campaign focused on social issues and eliminating government corruption.</p> <p>Al-Abadi sought to retain his post as prime minister after overseeing the military defeat of the IS movement, but faced stiff competition from his predecessor, Nouri al-Maliki, as well as al-Sadr and the Fatah alliance of candidates with paramilitary ties.</p> <p>Many of the candidates on Fatah were militia commanders before they cut their official ties with the force in order to seek office.</p> <p>Fatah's strong result will be seen as a victory for Iran as it seeks to protect its interests in the Iraq,</p>

	including the militias it finances and has sometimes directed to fight alongside its forces in Syria. Al-Sadr is a staunch foe of Iranian and American influence in Iraqi politics.
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HEADLINE	05/14 Police HQ Indonesia city attacked
SOURCE	https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/indonesia-police-surabaya-headquarters-attacked-55139405?
GIST	<p>An Indonesian family detonated explosives outside police headquarters in the country's second-largest city on Monday, a day after members of another family launched coordinated suicide bombings on three city churches that killed at least eight people.</p> <p>National police chief Tito Karnavian said a girl aged about eight who was with two of the attackers on a motorcycle survived being thrown by the blast at Surabaya's police headquarters. The attack killed the four perpetrators. Six civilians and four officers were wounded.</p> <p>The attack came just hours after police said the family that carried out the church bombings included girls aged nine and 12.</p> <p>The flurry of attacks have raised concerns that previously beaten down militant networks in the world's most populous Muslim-majority nation have been reinvigorated by the return of some of the estimated 1,100 Indonesians who went to fight with the Islamic State group in Syria. Experts have warned for several years that when those fighter return, they could pose a significant threat.</p> <p>IS claimed responsibility for the church bombings in a statement carried by its Aamaq news agency. Karnavian, however, said earlier police comments that the family had spent time in Syria were incorrect.</p> <p>He said the church bombers and the police headquarters attackers were friends, as were another family whose homemade bombs exploded in their apartment Sunday night.</p> <p>The use of children in the attacks has been particularly horrifying to people. Indonesia's president Joko "Jokowi" Widodo condemned them as "barbaric" and vowed that authorities would root out and "destroy" Islamic militant networks.</p>
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HEADLINE	05/12 Paris: man armed w/knife stabs 5
SOURCE	https://www.nytimes.com/2018/05/12/world/europe/paris-knife-attack-stabbing-france.html
GIST	<p>PARIS — A man armed with a knife attacked five people in a neighborhood near the Paris Opera, according to the French police, killing one and wounding four, two of them seriously.</p> <p>Hours later, the Islamic State claimed responsibility, describing the attacker as a “soldier of the Islamic State.” President Emmanuel Macron called the assailant, who was killed by the police, a “terrorist.”</p> <p>The Paris prosecutor’s office, which handles all terrorism cases, is taking over the investigation. The prosecutor, François Molins, gave a brief news conference near the scene of the attack. He confirmed that the attacker, whose name has not yet been released, had shouted “Allahu akbar,” Arabic for “God is Great,” during the assault.</p> <p>On Sunday morning, a French judicial official said that the suspect had been a naturalized French citizen who was born in 1997 in the Russian republic of Chechnya, and that his parents had been taken into custody for questioning.</p>
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HEADLINE	05/13 France: friend of attack suspect detained
SOURCE	https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/latest-officials-paris-attacker-police-record-55127315
GIST	<p>The Latest on the Paris stabbing attack (all times local):</p> <p>4:30 p.m.</p> <p>A judicial official says a friend of the young man who rampaged through a central Paris neighborhood knifing passers-by has been detained in the eastern French city of Strasbourg.</p> <p>The friend is the third person French police have taken in for questioning since the suspect in the Saturday night attack — a 20-year-old French citizen born in the Russian republic of Chechnya — killed one person and wounded four others.</p> <p>The parents of the alleged attacker were picked up in the northern 18th district of Paris after their son was fatally shot by police.</p> <p>The president of Chechnya identified the assailant as Khasan Azimov.</p> <p>The judicial official said the man detained Sunday was a friend of Azimov's who also was born in 1997. The official wasn't authorized to speak publicly and asked that he not be named.</p>
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HEADLINE	05/13 Militants attack Afghan govt. building
SOURCE	https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/militants-attack-afghan-government-building-dead-55127350?cid=clicksource_76_4_article%20roll_articleroll_hed
GIST	<p>Militants attacked a provincial government building in eastern Afghanistan on Sunday, killing at least ten people, officials said.</p> <p>Attahullah Khogyani, the spokesman for the governor of Nangarhar province, said a suicide car bomb exploded outside the building, which belongs to the provincial finance directorate. The attackers then stormed the building, trading fire with security officials.</p> <p>"There were eight terrorists who carried out a coordinated attack in Jalalabad city, killing ten people," Khogyani said. He added that 42 other people were wounded during a five-hour battle.</p> <p>He said security forces killed six of the attackers after two of them carried out suicide attacks near the building's entrance. Security forces were able to rescue around 50 employees stuck in the building during the attack, he added.</p> <p>Inamullah Miakhial, a Nangarhar hospital spokesman, also confirmed the dead toll and said that more than 40 wounded people are undergoing treatment at the hospital.</p> <p>No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack. Both the Taliban and a local Islamic State affiliate have carried out numerous attacks in Nangarhar.</p>
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HEADLINE	05/13 Parents Paris knife attacker detained
SOURCE	https://www.yahoo.com/news/officials-paris-attacker-born-chechnya-parents-detained-062053269.html

<p>GIST</p>	<p>PARIS (AP) — The man behind a deadly knife attack in central Paris was born in Chechnya and had been on police radar for radicalism, and his parents have been detained for questioning, French authorities said Sunday.</p> <p>Counterterrorism investigators are working to determine whether the man who stabbed five people in a busy neighborhood in the heart of the French capital Saturday night had any help. The attacker killed a 29-year-old man and wounded four others, before being shot by police.</p> <p>Witnesses reported hearing the man shouting Allahu akbar, the Arabic phrase for God is great, during the attack. The Islamic State group claimed the attacker was one of its fighters, but provided no evidence or details about his identity.</p> <p>The assailant had been on a nationwide database of thousands of people suspected of links to radicalism, according to a judicial official. Extremists behind multiple attacks in France in recent years were also on radical watch lists.</p> <p>The official said the assailant, born in 1997, had French nationality but was born in the largely Muslim Russian republic of Chechnya, where extremism has long simmered. The official wasn't authorized to be publicly named speaking about an ongoing investigation.</p> <p>The man had no record of arrests or criminal activity, and didn't know his victims, Interior Ministry spokesman Frederic de Lanouvelle told The Associated Press.</p>
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<p>HEADLINE</p>	<p>05/13 Paris: knife attack terror investigation</p>
<p>SOURCE</p>	<p>https://www.cnn.com/2018/05/12/europe/paris-stabbing-attack/index.html</p>
<p>GIST</p>	<p>Paris (CNN)The person who stabbed five people in Paris on Saturday night, killing one, yelled the Arabic phrase "Allahu Akbar," meaning "God is great," during the attack, city prosecutor François Molins told reporters at the scene.</p> <p>Authorities have opened a terrorism investigation, he said.</p> <p>Four people were wounded during the knife attack in the touristy 2nd arrondissement, or district, of Paris. It happened around 9 p.m. (3 p.m. ET) , a time when streets and sidewalks were filled with people.</p> <p>Two of the victims were gravely wounded and two others were lightly injured, police said.</p> <p>The attacker, who French President Emmanuel Macron called a terrorist, is dead, according to police.</p> <p>An official with the union for French police officers told CNN's Jim Bittermann that officers first tried stun guns on the attacker but they didn't work, so police shot him as he came at them.</p> <p>The media wing of ISIS claimed responsibility for the attack in a statement published online.</p> <p>The Amaq News Agency said "the person who executed the stabbing in Paris is a soldier of the Islamic State." The statement also said the assailant acted in response to calls to attack anti-ISIS coalition countries.</p> <p>ISIS did not provide proof to substantiate the claim and no authorities or security sources have yet verified the authenticity of the ISIS claim.</p> <p>Macron said he salutes the courage of the police who "neutralized the terrorist" in the Paris knife attack, according to a tweet from his official account Saturday. He says his thoughts are with the victims.</p>
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HEADLINE	05/13 Indonesia: family suicide bombers kill 13
SOURCE	https://www.reuters.com/article/us-indonesia-bomb-churches/family-of-is-inspired-suicide-bombers-attack-indonesian-churches-at-least-13-dead-idUSKCN1IE01U
GIST	<p>SURABAYA, Indonesia (Reuters) - A family of six launched suicide attacks on Christians attending Sunday services at three churches in Indonesia's second-largest city of Surabaya, killing at least 13 people and wounding 40, officials said.</p> <p>Indonesia, the world's largest Muslim-majority country, has seen a recent resurgence in homegrown militancy and police said the family who carried out Sunday's attacks were among 500 Islamic State sympathizers who had returned from Syria.</p> <p>"The husband drove the car, an Avanza, that contained explosives and rammed it into the gate in front of that church," East Java police spokesman Frans Barung Mangera told reporters at the regional police headquarters in Surabaya.</p> <p>The wife and two daughters were involved in an attack on a second church and at the third church "two other children rode the motorbike and had the bomb across their laps", Mangera said.</p> <p>The two daughters were aged 12 and 9 while the other two, thought to be the man's sons, were 18 and 16, police said.</p> <p>Police blamed the bombings on the Islamic State-inspired group Jemaah Ansharut Daulah (JAD).</p> <p>JAD is an umbrella organization on a U.S. State Department terrorist list that is estimated to have drawn hundreds of Islamic State sympathizers in Indonesia.</p> <p>Islamic State claimed responsibility for the attacks, in a message carried on its Amaq news agency.</p>
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HEADLINE	05/13 France: Paris attacker known to police
SOURCE	https://www.apnews.com/9e9b262e17ec45289dc11d88bf442a60?utm_source=Twitter&utm_campaign=SocialFlow&utm_medium=AP
GIST	<p>PARIS (AP) — The man behind a deadly knife attack in central Paris was born in Chechnya and had been on police radar for radicalism, and his parents have been detained for questioning, French authorities said Sunday.</p> <p>Counterterrorism investigators are working to determine whether the man who stabbed five people in a busy neighborhood in the heart of the French capital Saturday night had any help. The attacker killed a 29-year-old man and wounded four others, before being shot by police.</p> <p>Among the injured was a 34-year-old man from Luxembourg, the foreign ministry of the small country north of France said in a statement. After emergency treatment, he was out of danger.</p> <p>Witnesses reported hearing the man shouting Allahu akbar, the Arabic phrase for God is great, during the attack. The Islamic State group claimed the attacker was one of its fighters, but provided no evidence or details about his identity.</p> <p>The assailant had been on a nationwide database of thousands of people suspected of links to radicalism, according to a judicial official. Extremists behind multiple attacks in France in recent years were also on radical watch lists.</p>

The official said the assailant, born in 1997, had French nationality but was born in the largely Muslim Russian republic of Chechnya, where extremism has long simmered. The official wasn't authorized to be publicly named speaking about an ongoing investigation.

The man had no record of arrests or criminal activity, and didn't know his victims, Interior Ministry spokesman Frederic de Lanouvelle told The Associated Press.

The attacker targeted five people and then fled, according to Paris police and a witness. When police officers arrived minutes later, he threatened them and was shot dead, according to police union official Yvan Assioma. Several witnesses said the attacker ran directly toward police.

A police official said the assailant didn't have identity documents with him during Saturday's attack but was identified thanks to DNA.

The four people injured are out of life-threatening danger, Interior Minister Gerard Collomb said.

Collomb held a special security meeting Sunday to address the Paris attack, whose motive was unclear.

The Islamic State group's Amaq news agency said the assailant carried out the attack in response to the group's calls for supporters to target members of the U.S.-led anti-IS military coalition. France's military has been active in the coalition since 2014, and IS adherents have killed more than 200 people in France in recent years.

The Russian Embassy in France said that they have asked French authorities for more information on the attacker. Some refugees fleeing wars in Chechnya in the 1990s and early 2000s settled in France, but this country has not seen a high-profile attack by Chechens in the past. Two Chechen brothers were behind the deadly bombing of the Boston Marathon in 2013.

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HEADLINE	05/12 Yemen officials: 115 killed in fighting
SOURCE	http://www.foxnews.com/world/2018/05/12/yemeni-officials-say-fighting-kills-115-in-western-yemen.html
GIST	<p>SANAA, Yemen – Yemeni officials say fighting over two days in western Yemen has killed at least 115 people on both sides of the conflict pitting forces loyal to a Saudi-led coalition against Iran-backed Shiite rebels.</p> <p>The officials said Saturday the clashes west of the province of Taiz also wounded dozens. They said the forces loyal to the coalition backing the internationally recognized government seized control of some rebel-held areas in western Yemen.</p> <p>The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to brief the media.</p> <p>The coalition has been at war with Yemeni rebels, known as Houthis, since March 2015. The Houthis control much of northern Yemen, including the capital, and have fired dozens of missiles across the border at Saudi Arabia.</p>
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HEADLINE	05/12 Burundi: 'terrorist group' kills 26
SOURCE	https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/26-people-killed-burundi-terrorist-attack-official-55116481
GIST	Twenty-six people were killed and seven others wounded in an attack in a rural area of Burundi, the country's security minister said Saturday, calling it the work of a "terrorist group" he did not identify.

	<p>Speaking at the scene, Alain Guillaume Bunyoni told reporters that 24 people were killed in their homes Friday night and two others died of their wounds at a local hospital.</p> <p>He gave no further details about the attack in the Ruhagarika community of the rural northwestern province of Cibitoke.</p> <p>The attack came shortly before Burundians vote May 17 in a controversial referendum that could extend the president's term. It was not immediately clear if the attack was related.</p>
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HEADLINE	05/12 Iraq holds parliamentary elections
SOURCE	https://abcnews.go.com/International/iraq-holds-parliamentary-election-isis-driven-country/story?id=55116141&cid=clicksource_76_4_article%20roll_articleroll_hed
GIST	<p>Iraqis are headed to the polls on Saturday to vote for the first time since ISIS was driven out of their country at the end of 2017.</p> <p>Voting will be held for 328 seats in the country's parliament, which is currently dominated by the State of Law Coalition. Current Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi leads the coalition after succeeding longtime Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, who founded it.</p> <p>The parliamentary elections will likely confirm the rule of Shia groups, including the State of Law Coalition and the Al-Ahrar Bloc, which currently has the second highest number of parliament members. Today's polling marks the fourth election of a new parliament since the downfall of Saddam Hussein's dictatorship in 2003.</p> <p>Around 7,000 candidates are running to fill 328 seats in parliament, with 25 percent of the spots specifically reserved for female candidates. New faces have been plastered on banners all over Baghdad streets, publicizing first-time candidates. Some others are now running for their fourth time.</p> <p>There are an estimated 24,349,357 people eligible to vote in elections for the Council of Representatives of Iraq, in what There are 8,959 electoral districts and 55,232 polling stations.</p>
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Suspicious, Unusual

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HEADLINE	05/11 TSA: record 26 guns at checkpoints
SOURCE	https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/news/tsa-finds-record-breaking-26-guns-at-airport-checkpoints-nationwide-in-single-day
GIST	<p>Transportation Security Administration officers across the country found a record high 26 guns in one day on people attempting to pass through airport checkpoints before boarding planes.</p> <p>The 26 firearms were found across 15 airports nationwide on May 3, the Department of Homeland Security agency said in a press release.</p> <p>Officers found four guns each at Atlanta's ATL and Houston's IAH airports. In addition, 21 of the 26 guns were loaded.</p> <p>A total of 90 guns were found on passengers and in luggage from April 30 to May 6; more than 80 percent of those guns were loaded.</p>

In February, agents set a record for most guns found in one week. A total of 104 firearms were uncovered in air travel passengers' carry-on bags Feb. 5-11. The new record is nearly a 10 percent hike from the previous record of 96 guns set in July 2017.

Last year, agents found a record high 3,957 guns in passenger carry-on bags, nearly five times the number seized a decade ago. An average of 10.8 guns were found each day, or 75 per week, in 2017.

TSA has attributed the spike to an overall increase in air travel passengers.

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HEADLINE	05/13 Sheriff critic's name: DumpOzzie Dot Com
SOURCE	https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/washington-sheriffs-critic-changes-legal-name-to-dumpozzie-dot-com-says-hell-run-for-the-office/
GIST	<p>Scott Maclay, the leader of the Rattlesnakes Motorcycle Club who has spent years accusing Spokane County Sheriff Ozzie Knezovich of cover-ups and corruption, has taken a drastic step to show just how badly he wants Knezovich out of office.</p> <p>On Friday, a Spokane County District Court judge granted Maclay's request to change his legal name. The 60-year-old man is now DumpOzzie Dot Com — a nod to his website, DumpOzzie.com, where he publishes conspiracy theories about Knezovich and the Sheriff's Office.</p> <p>"It was a little bit of a challenge, but I was able to convince the judge ... that it was for a legitimate purpose," Maclay (Dot Com) said in a phone call Friday. That purpose, he explained, is his "sincere passion in replacing Sheriff Knezovich."</p> <p>Maclay, who has no law-enforcement training but claims he once turned down a job offer from the CIA, said he intends to run against Knezovich in this year's election. He hasn't filed, but said he plans to formally announce his candidacy sometime this week.</p> <p>"I'm running because I think the sheriff is not accountable, open or transparent," he said.</p> <p>Maclay has been a boisterous presence at Spokane Valley City Council meetings and other events, once falsely claiming he was a bodyguard for state Rep. Matt Shea. And he has been a thorn in Knezovich's side for several years, railing against the sheriff's handling of high-profile incidents such as the death of Spokane Valley pastor W. Scott Creach, who was shot by a deputy in 2010, and the death of 15-year-old Ryan Holyk, who was struck by a deputy's patrol vehicle while riding his bicycle in 2014.</p> <p>In one recent encounter with law enforcement, Maclay was arrested at a Sept. 23 memorial service for Sam Strahan, the 15-year-old killed in the shooting at Freeman High School.</p> <p>Knezovich said Friday that he and his deputies responded to the service at the request of Strahan's family because Maclay "went there with the intent of disrupting that funeral for his own political gain." He said Maclay then tried to goad deputies into a fight in the gymnasium at University High School, where the memorial was held.</p> <p>Although the charges from that arrest were ultimately dismissed, Knezovich said Maclay is dishonest and has a violent past, and he pointed to a protection order recently filed against Maclay by Maclay's ex-wife.</p> <p>Knezovich said he isn't surprised that Maclay channeled so much energy at him.</p> <p>"His family will tell you that's what he does," Knezovich said.</p> <p>"He targets someone and then he tries to make their lives fairly miserable, and that's what he's done with me."</p>

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HEADLINE	05/13 Nuclear fallout forcing NKorea hand?
SOURCE	https://www.newsmax.com/newsfront/nuclear-fallout-testing-north-korea/2018/05/13/id/860054/
GIST	<p>Scientists are now questioning whether Kim Jong Un's willingness to talk denuclearization is diplomatic progress for the Trump administration or a panacea for possible nuclear fallout in North Korea, according to Forbes.</p> <p>Both the Trump administration and North Korea's Kim are spinning June 12's summit as a result of diplomatic progress, but a geological study suggests Kim's recent halting of a nuclear testing program might be tied more to a nuclear fallout than true willingness for denuclearization.</p> <p>A collapse of Mount Mantap amid massive underground nuclear detonation in north west North Korea has blown a hole through the side of the mountain and might ultimately be leaking radioactive dust into China and other countries surrounding the Korean Peninsula, according to the report on the soon-to-be-published study.</p> <p>The study reportedly bases its findings on satellite imagery and seismic activity in the area since a 100-kilotonne nuclear bomb was detonated 2,300 feet below Mt. Mantap's peak last September.</p> <p>The U.S. Geological Survey registered earthquakes of 6.3 and 4.6 magnitude shortly after the reported nuclear detonation, PhD geologist Trevor Nace wrote for Forbes late last month.</p> <p>This study only addresses possible environmental factors bringing North Korea to the table and not the issue of North Korea's struggling economy seeking a boost from American investment, which Secretary of State Mike Pompeo offered Sunday in exchange for denuclearization.</p>
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HEADLINE	05/14 Univ. Wisconsin false emergency alert
SOURCE	https://abcnews.go.com/US/university-wisconsin-tells-students-run-hide-fight-false/story?id=55139946
GIST	<p>The University of Wisconsin gave students a scare on Sunday after it mistakenly sent an email that urged everyone on campus to "run, hide, fight."</p> <p>Officials on the university's Whitewater campus sent the "active alert" email at around 3 p.m. on Sunday, sounding the school's emergency alarm system, even though there was no actual threat.</p> <p>"There is an active threat to life safety on campus, RUN, HIDE, FIGHT," the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater wrote in the email.</p> <p>The university issued a correction about seven minutes later, saying there was no threat to safety and promising to offer more information later.</p> <p>University Police Services Chief Matt Kiederlen apologized for "any undue stress" the initial email may have caused.</p> <p>The misfire sent the campus into a frenzy, according to one witness, who said she saw students and faculty members running in fear after the first email went out.</p>
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HEADLINE	05/11 Black mothers dying at alarming rate
SOURCE	https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/how-training-doctors-implicit-bias-could-save-lives-black-mothers-n873036
GIST	<p>WHITE PLAINS, N.Y. — There was a pool of blood, a look of panic on her husband’s face — and then everything went black.</p> <p>Alia McCants was back at New York’s Mount Sinai Hospital, where nine days earlier, she had given birth to healthy twins. She and her husband had brought the babies home to their apartment in Harlem, and everything seemed all right — until complications from her cesarean section caused her to hemorrhage.</p> <p>She rushed to the emergency room, where her vision went dim.</p> <p>“My husband said, ‘You have to stay here, you have to stay here.’ And then I thought: I’m going to die,” she said.</p> <p>Each year in the United States, about 700 women die as a result of pregnancy or delivery issues — while 50,000 experience severe complications, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.</p> <p>Black women are three to four times more likely than white women to die from pregnancy-related causes nationwide; in New York City, they are 12 times more likely to die. Postpartum hemorrhaging, or heavy blood loss, is one of the leading preventable causes.</p> <p>McCants, who is black, did not know the grim statistics in December 2014, when her twins were born. Her birth experience was generally positive, and she credited the hospital staff with later saving her life when she needed emergency surgery to stop the hemorrhaging.</p> <p>But she has since wondered if there was anything her doctors could have done to avoid such a near-death experience in the first place — if they might have been more open to her concerns about her care if she were white.</p> <p>She recalled that her obstetrician was dismissive of her desire to avoid a C-section. While cesareans are common when delivering twins, McCants, who had a complication-free pregnancy, had hoped for a natural birth.</p> <p>Then, McCants said a social worker who stopped by her hospital room seemed “visibly surprised” to meet a black couple who were both working professionals — McCants is a director at a graduate school and her husband, Christopher, who now works in software, was a manager at a TV network at the time.</p> <p>And most crucially, while McCants was still only semi-lucid after delivering her twins, a doctor was short with her while explaining warning signs of hemorrhaging, a known risk of C-sections. “Was it like, ‘We just need to get her out of here — another black woman having babies?’” McCants said. With little information from the doctor, she didn’t immediately recognize how much danger she was in the following week when the bleeding started.</p> <p>“At the time, I was so grateful to the doctors for saving my life. But afterward, I thought, was it preventable?” said McCants, 34, who has since moved to White Plains, N.Y., with her family. “I go back and look at all those functional interactions where the doctors lacked empathy, and I wonder if it was because I was black. Or how much of it was because I was black.”</p> <p>Mount Sinai could not comment on McCants’ case due to patient privacy laws but said that the hospital “is committed to providing the highest standard of care for all of our patients and integral to that is a zero tolerance for racism and bias.”</p> <p>The racial disparity in U.S. maternal mortality rates is one of the severest in all of women’s health. Researchers don’t have a clear explanation for why.</p>

“There seems to be something specific about the African-American experience here in the United States that seems to just have a toxic effect on the health of African-Americans,” said Swapna Reddy, who teaches a class on health disparity at Arizona State University. “It seems to be this double whammy, the intersectionality of being both African-American and also being a woman.”

The issue, Reddy continued, “is literally skin-deep.”

There are some concrete contributors identified by researchers: Certain health conditions that affect pregnancy outcomes are more prevalent in black women, such as obesity and hypertension. And black women are more likely to lack access to preventative care, highly rated hospitals and safe housing during pregnancy.

But the problem is not limited to class: Having higher income and more education offers no protection for black women. That has led some to theorize that the disparity is at least partly caused by institutional racism in our society and health care system, conscious or unconscious. Over time, research shows, the stress of that racism has a physical effect on black women that shows up on a cellular level.

With implicit bias, it’s tasteless, odorless, to everybody except the victim.

There is urgency to solve the crisis. America ranks the worst out of all developed nations on maternal mortality, a rate based on deaths of women while giving birth or within a year after.

With the statistics particularly dire for black women, those in medicine are taking an introspective look for a solution. One approach that is gaining steam in hospitals and medical schools is training providers on implicit bias — the deeply ingrained stereotypes that everyone has.

From the Mayo Clinic to Kaiser Permanente to Vanderbilt University Medical Center, leaders in medicine are increasingly urging doctors to recognize their own bias so they can combat it.

‘MICROAGGRESSIONS’ THAT ADD UP

Physicians have a long way to go to overcome stereotypes, and not just when it comes to childbirth. Studies have shown that black patients are often prescribed less pain medication than white patients who present the same complaints. And black patients with signs of heart problems get referrals for advanced cardiovascular procedures less often than white patients with the same symptoms.

Discrepancy in treatment has made headlines before. A Texas woman spoke out after her surgical team made racist remarks about her on a secretly recorded videotape while she was under anesthesia in 2015. And a white doctor in Tennessee publicly apologized to a black patient last year after referring to her by a racial slur during her appointment.

Those patients are not alone: Thirty-two percent of black women feel they’ve been discriminated against in physicians’ offices.

For Jaymie Rivera-Clemente of Austin, Texas, who is black and Latina, the slights she experienced while pregnant were subtle.

There was the way the all-white staff at her OB-GYN’s office greeted patients.

“If you’re late to your appointment as a black person or a Hispanic person, they’re like, ‘Well, you’ve missed it,’ or ‘We’ll see if we can push you back.’ And then a white lady comes in and she says she had trouble with traffic, and they’re like, ‘We’ll squeeze you in,’” said Rivera-Clemente, 37, a mother of three.

And then there were pointed questions from her doctor.

“Do all your kids have the same father?” Rivera-Clemente said she was asked repeatedly. (They do.)

While she was never certain, Rivera-Clemente said she often suspected the staff viewed her differently than white patients.

“These are microaggressions that people don’t even realize they’re putting you under,” she said.

She thought about this more after three traumatic birth experiences. Though her life was not in danger, she felt poor communication from doctors and nurses put her and her babies under unnecessary stress.

While in labor 17 years ago with her first child, a daughter, the baby started crowning while Rivera-Clemente was using the restroom at the hospital, Austin Diagnostic Clinic. Rivera-Clemente screamed for help, but she said minutes ticked by before anyone came. By the time a nurse finally checked in, Rivera-Clemente was barely able to make it back to the bed to give birth.

St. David's HealthCare, which acquired Austin Diagnostic Clinic, said it couldn't comment on Rivera-Clemente's experience but said the hospital is committed to “providing exceptional care to every patient every day.” All of the hospital's employees receive diversity training, and the hospital recently added more training for the nursing staff, it said.

Dr. Raymond Cox, a former OB-GYN who is now the medical and clinical director at the Hilton Head, South Carolina, branch of Volunteers in Medicine, a free clinic network, said that throughout his career, he has witnessed patients treated differently based on race.

“Doctors tend to spend less time and tend to assume that the black or Latino patient isn't going to understand what we're talking about, and as a consequence, have a tendency to make decisions for that patient,” said Cox, who is black.

“With implicit bias, it's tasteless, odorless, to everybody except the victim,” he added. “It is related to institutional racism, and that's something that's very difficult to parse out.”

‘I HAVE EVERY BIAS IN THE BOOK’

In the past several years, implicit bias training has gained popularity in a variety of industries as a way of confronting prejudices. Police departments have used it in the wake of high-profile shootings of unarmed black men. Facebook has trained all of its employees in it, and at the end of this month, Starbucks is closing some 8,000 stores for an afternoon of employee implicit-bias training.

But it's a newer idea in medicine, where such training is just beginning to catch on.

Bias training typically starts with taking the Harvard Implicit Association Test, which measures automatic associations between categories of people and value judgments through a series of multiple-choice questions. (Take the test here.) The test measures not just biases on race, but also religion and ethnicity.

The results can be stunning — particularly for those who think they are unbiased.

“The Implicit Association Tests are humbling. I have every bias in the book,” said Dr. Molly Carnes, director of the Center for Women's Health Research at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health and an internal medicine doctor.

Carnes has developed workshops for the university's faculty that increase awareness about bias by teaching participants how to recognize it. They also get specific strategies, like putting themselves in the shoes of others, and practicing seeing people as individuals rather than as part of a group.

The Mayo medical schools in Arizona and Rochester, Minn., recently started offering training for their students. All first-years entering in the fall will read “Blindspot: Hidden Biases of Good People,” a book that examines perceptions of social groups written by the two psychology professors who co-created the Implicit Association Test.

Then at the start of school, students will take the test, said Dr. Sharonne Hayes, the cardiology and medical director of the Office of Diversity and Inclusion at the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota. Hayes has led an institution-wide effort to train all 63,000 Mayo Clinic employees in implicit bias.

“There’s really no evidence that you can get rid of implicit bias,” Hayes said. “So what our approach has been is to use some of the evidence-based things that can help us as health care providers not be hijacked by those implicit biases.”

This includes having providers follow checklists for each patient so they don’t accidentally skip over something, and reminding providers that it’s important to take care of themselves — getting more sleep and eating better may make doctors less vulnerable to falling victim to their own stereotypes, Hayes said.

Mount Sinai, the New York City hospital where McCants delivered, has also implemented implicit bias training.

But implicit bias training is not without controversy. While the Implicit Association Test is the most widely used way of measuring ingrained prejudice, critics say its methodology — testing how quickly a user associates certain words with certain groups — may not be reliable.

Those touting it acknowledge this. Carnes said raising awareness of biases can backfire by normalizing them, and while the training can help, it must be done properly.

“Saying it will improve maternal-fetal outcomes is a stretch,” she said. “It all depends on how you do it.”

AN UPHILL BATTLE

The risks black women face in childbirth came into the spotlight last year when tennis pro Serena Williams nearly died after giving birth to her daughter. Williams told Vogue magazine that a day after her emergency C-section, she felt short of breath. Given her history of blood clots, she knew something was wrong. But she struggled to convince doctors, and when they finally checked her, it turned out she had several clots in her lungs. Her insistence likely saved her life.

Advocates fear that the disregard Williams’ doctors initially showed is playing out in hospital rooms across the country — and even more so for women who are not wealthy and famous.

“How many other women has that happened to that we don’t know about where they’re telling their providers that there’s something wrong, you need to help me, and yet no help is offered?” asked Elizabeth Dawes Gay, the steering committee chair of the Black Mamas Matter Alliance, a network of partners across the United States that is raising awareness about black maternal health.

Black women face an uphill battle before even getting pregnant. In 1992, Arline Geronimus, a professor in health behavior and education at the University of Michigan School of Public Health, coined the term “weathering” to describe how the stress of gender and racial discrimination wears down the body over a lifetime.

“That toll is beyond anything that an individual has control over,” Geronimus said. “It’s not something as simple as smoking, or poor diet, or get more exercise.”

As evidence, Geronimus points to her 2010 study, which found that telomeres — chromosomal markers of aging — of middle-age black women were on average seven and a half years older than those of white women. In other words, Geronimus said, the chronic stress of being a black woman in America has a physical effect.

Implicit bias training is an important part of a larger strategy in recognizing bias in health care, Geronimus said. “But on its own, it will not change weathering.”

THE DOULA DIFFERENCE

In 2015, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists wrote a series of recommendations for combating racial and ethnic disparities, which included recruiting racial minorities to become OB-GYNs. (Just 11 percent are black.)

Since then, the organization has suggested standardizing care across states — so all health care providers know exactly what to do if a pregnant woman is hemorrhaging or has hypertension.

Last year, the group also released a statement in support of using doulas — trained birth assistants — during pregnancy and childbirth. Research indicates such support can improve outcomes for women in labor.

Amid concerns that traditional medicine isn't working quickly enough to narrow the disparity, a new movement is training black doulas specifically to serve black women.

Darline Turner is a black physician assistant whose experience with two high-risk pregnancies prompted her to recently create the Healing Hands Community Doula Project, an Austin-based nonprofit that will pair pregnant women of color with black doulas through the first year of their infant's life.

"There was maternal mortality in our grandmothers' and mothers' day, but not the way we're seeing it now," Turner said. "There was hemorrhage back in their day, but there weren't tools to stop it. The fact that we have the tools to stop it and it's still the No. 1 reason why women are dying [during childbirth] in the United States in this day and age is preposterous."

Rivera-Clemente, the Austin mother of three whose OB appointments left her wondering whether she was viewed differently because of her race, is training to be a doula through Healing Hands. Her goal is to make sure other women don't feel the way she did when she was pregnant.

"I feel like everything is about race," she said. "You always feel kind of like a burden."

In White Plains, McCants, the mother who nearly died from a postpartum hemorrhage, has joined MomsRising's Maternal Justice Program, a network of women working to end disparities in maternal health.

Aria and Carter, McCants' twins, are now energetic 3-year-olds who love soccer, dancing and impromptu picnics with their parents. On a sunny morning earlier this week, they sat at their kitchen table in pajamas and Paw Patrol slippers and squeezed too much honey into their oatmeal, as McCants chuckled and softly chided them.

For the twins, it's nothing more than a typical breakfast. For McCants, it's one of many moments that she fears could have been taken from her.

"Bias is in the air," she said. "I didn't realize that this was a systemic problem until after it happened to me."

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HEADLINE	05/12 Disturbing posts prompt Waikiki raid
SOURCE	http://www.hawaiinewsnow.com/story/38173826/police-find-large-weapons-cache-in-waikiki-raid-prompted-by-disturbing-online-posts
GIST	WAIKIKI (HawaiiNewsNow) - The FBI and Honolulu police are investigating after finding a large cache of loaded weapons during a raid of a Waikiki hotel room that sources say was prompted by disturbing posts on social media. The arsenal included a high-powered rifle, hundreds of rounds of ammunition, and an assortment of other weapons.

But the man staying in the room wasn't arrested.

The FBI notified Honolulu police Thursday about a guest in room 803 at the Equus Hotel, saying he was claiming to be a federal agent in disturbing posts on social media.

The 38-year old claimed his mission was to hunt terrorist cells.

When police arrived at the Equus on Ala Moana Boulevard, sources say, they found an arsenal:

- An AR-15, and 15 high-capacity magazines — all loaded.
- A shotgun and two handguns.
- A total of more than 800 rounds of ammunition, plus 18 military styles knives and body armor.

The weapons were legally registered to the man, and having them in his room was also legal.

"There was no danger," said Mike Dailey, manager at the hotel. "The gentlemen was here. He was a guest staying here. He left and then there was an FBI and police investigation."

Sources say that police did find psychiatric medication in the room, allowing them to seize the cache until a mental health evaluation can be completed. He was taken to a hospital for that.

"He had a room here and they're looking at the stuff in his room," Dailey said. "I don't know that there are any weapons. I think you'll have to talk to the police about that."

The man has been living in Hawaii for about three years in a Makiki apartment, but had only been staying a the hotel for a few days.

If he is deemed mentally fit, he could get his weapons back.

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HEADLINE	05/13 Illegal drug stash UK Home Office HQ
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SOURCE	https://www.cnn.com/2018/05/13/europe/drugs-found-uk-home-office-intl/index.html
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GIST	(CNN)A stash of illegal drugs was found last week in the headquarters of the UK's Home Office, the government department tasked with cracking down on illicit drug use. The small quantity of suspected Class A drugs were discovered May 3 in a communal area of the building in central London, a Home Office spokesman said Saturday in a statement. Class A drugs are deemed the most harmful and addictive in Britain and include crack cocaine, cocaine, ecstasy, heroin, LSD, magic mushrooms, methadone and methamphetamine -- more commonly known as crystal meth. The drugs were found by security staff and no suspects have been identified, a London Metropolitan Police spokeswoman told CNN. The Home Office is the lead government agency overseeing national security, immigration and passports, drug policy, crime and counter-terrorism.
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HEADLINE	05/12 'Floating feet' mystery grips Canada
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SOURCE	http://www.theolympian.com/news/nation-world/article211037304.html
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MONTREAL - The mystery has haunted Canadians for more than a decade: One by one, human feet clad in running shoes have floated ashore on British Columbia's southern coast with gruesome regularity.

Last weekend, foot No. 14 was discovered by a man strolling on a beach on Gabriola Island, a sleepy and picturesque enclave, population 4,000, that is known for its captivating sandstone and close-knit artistic community.

This time, the foot, squeezed between a pile of logs, wore what appeared to be a hiking boot, according to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

The 13 feet found previously along the coast since 2007 were in running shoes – Adidas, Reebok and other brands. Each time, the questions arose: Why are the feet ending up in Canada? Where did they come from? And where are the other parts?

The discoveries have fanned speculation, rational or not, that the unattached feet could be the work of a tsunami, a human trafficker, a Mafia hit man, a deranged foot fetishist or a serial killer who had spread body parts out to sea. Others have theorized that the floating appendages could belong to people falling off a ship or killed in a plane crash.

British Columbia, Canada's westernmost province, known for its imposing mountains, exhilarating ski runs and delectable seafood, has grown used to also being known as the destination for what some newspapers have called "the floating feet."

But coroners have taken pains to dampen conspiracy theories and tame overactive imaginations. Barb McLintock, a former coroner at British Columbia's Coroners Service, once called it "the myth of the famous feet."

In 2016, after a hiker found a foot in a sock and running shoe at Botanical Beach, on Vancouver Island, McLintock told the Canadian media that the feet were the work of neither "strange serial killers" amputating victims nor "funny little aliens" scattering the feet along the coastline.

Andy Watson, a spokesman for the Coroners Service, said this past week that foul play had been ruled out in all the previous cases. Coroners have attributed the disembodied feet to suicide or accident – someone slipping and falling into the sea, for example, or a swimmer being swept into the ocean by a huge wave.

Nine of the feet have been identified, two of them from the same person, according to the Coroners Service. Most of the feet were men's. In at least three cases, the shoes were size 12. Not all the remains belonged to Canadians.

In the latest case, Watson said, investigators would use DNA to try to identify its owner.

Despite the official conclusions, the washed-up feet still grip imaginations because of the murkiness of the discoveries and the likelihood that many of the deaths were not witnessed.

The phenomenon has spurred several hoaxes in which pranksters have stuffed animals' feet into shoes to fool officials. One person used chicken bones.

Watson noted that the disarticulated feet had most likely separated naturally in the sea, where the footwear had helped preserve them. Because shoes are buoyant and currents are strong, he said, the remains could have washed in from as far north as Alaska.

In 2012, a foot found in a lake in Port Moody, northeast of Vancouver, was linked to a man whose boat had overturned while he was fishing in the area 25 years earlier.

In December, a Rottweiler discovered a lower left leg and foot with a white ankle sock in a black running shoe on Vancouver's coast. A few months later, using DNA technology, investigators matched the remains

	to a 79-year-old Washington state man. Still, even then, questions remained. The man’s family told the police he had vanished months before after leaving home without his medication.
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HEADLINE	05/11 Navy SEAL leaders in Africa suspended
SOURCE	https://www.cnn.com/2018/05/11/politics/us-navy-seals-alleged-sexual-misconduct/index.html
GIST	<p>(CNN)The commander and the senior enlisted adviser of a US Navy SEAL Team deployed to Africa have been relieved of their duties and sent home due to sexual misconduct allegations regarding multiple fellow US military female service members, a US defense official tells CNN.</p> <p>"Special Operations Command Africa commander Maj. Gen. Mark Hicks suspended the Special Operations Command Forward - East Africa commander and senior enlisted adviser of their duties on May 10 due to allegations of misconduct," Maj. Casey Osborne, a spokesman for Special Operations Command Africa, told CNN.</p> <p>"Gen. Hicks directed both individuals to return to their home station for further adjudication regarding the allegations," Osborne added, while not specifying the nature of the allegations.</p> <p>Many of the Navy SEALs in East Africa conduct operations in Somalia, where they advise Somali forces battling al-Shabaab, the local affiliate of al Qaeda.</p> <p>The two Navy SEALs are being investigated by the Navy's Criminal Investigative Service.</p>
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HEADLINE	05/11 Camas-Washougal FD punished
SOURCE	https://www.king5.com/article/news/camas-washougal-fire-department-punished-after-saving-person-crying-for-help/283-551404557
GIST	<p>CAMAS, Wash. – The Camas-Washougal Fire Department said it was issued a safety violation on Thursday by the Washington Department of Labor and Industries after firefighters chose to save someone’s life earlier this year.</p> <p>KGW first reported about the fire department’s predicament in March.</p> <p>On Feb. 14, two firefighters with the department responded to a house fire on Prune Hill in Camas. When the city standard two-person crew engine arrived, firefighters heard cries for help coming from the garage. By state law, there needs to be three firefighters on scene before they enter a building.</p> <p>But firefighter Adam Brice said the crew really had no choice.</p> <p>“There were two firefighters that entered the structure they shouldn't have gone into,” Brice told KGW in March. “But we're firefighters and you can't send firefighters to a fire and have someone banging on a door and expect us to just sit outside and do nothing.”</p> <p>Brice said the incident underlined a need they’ve been asking the city to meet for years: adding at least one more firefighter per engine. That would amount to staffing 15 more firefighters at a cost of \$1.5 million to taxpayers.</p> <p>Camas city administrator Pete Capell told KGW in March that he commended the actions of the firefighters. He also pointed out that 85 percent of the calls Camas firefighters respond to are medical. Cappell also said house fires reported through 911 calls usually trigger multi-engine responses.</p> <p>Now, the fire department says the City of Camas plans to appeal the safety violation as soon as possible.</p>

“The City is deeply concerned that L&I intends to punish our personnel for heroically saving the life of one of our citizens,” the department said in a news release on Friday. “This is a wide reaching and troubling stance by the state oversight agency. In effect they are stating that all fire departments in the State of Washington are hereafter prohibited from saving a life if they do not have at least 3 personnel on scene. This chilling order could cost Washington fire departments hundreds of millions of dollars and will cause citizens to lose their lives.”

Cappell told KGW in March the issue of firefighter staffing would be a topic of discussion moving forward as the city’s 2019-2020 budget is developed.

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HEADLINE	05/12 Seniors dying from falls at higher rate
SOURCE	https://www.upi.com/Health_News/2018/05/12/US-seniors-dying-from-falls-at-a-higher-rate/3111526069377/?utm_source=fp&utm_campaign=ts_hn&utm_medium=13
GIST	<p>SATURDAY, May 12, 2018 -- The number of seniors dying from falls has increased dramatically over the past decade, U.S. health officials reported Friday.</p> <p>Across the nation, the rate of deaths from falls among those 65 and older increased 31 percent from 2007 to 2016 -- from about 18,000 to nearly 30,000, researchers found.</p> <p>"If deaths from falls continue to increase at the same rate, the U.S. can expect 59,000 older adults will die because of a fall in 2030," said lead researcher Elizabeth Burns. She's a health scientist at the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, which is part of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.</p> <p>Falls are the leading cause of both fatal and nonfatal injuries among adults aged 65 and older, she added.</p> <p>"Falls are a common, serious and growing public health problem," Burns said. "Falls often result in substantial medical expenditures to treat fall-related injuries."</p> <p>As the U.S. population ages, the number of seniors injured and dying from falls is expected to keep rising, the researchers noted.</p> <p>"Falls may be increasing because older adults are living longer with chronic conditions," Burns suggested.</p> <p>"The chance of falling increases with age, and risk is higher with certain chronic diseases, such as a history of stroke, arthritis, diabetes, dementia and Parkinson's disease," she explained.</p> <p>Dr. Gisele Wolf-Klein is director of geriatric education at Northwell Health in Great Neck, N.Y. She pointed out that, in many cases, "seniors are reluctant to admit they have fallen, because they fear it will limit their independence."</p> <p>"It's important to tell your doctor if you've fallen," Wolf-Klein said. "Because if you've fallen, it's likely you will fall again, and falls can cause major problems."</p> <p>The new report covered deaths from falls in 30 states and the District of Columbia between 2007 and 2016. It included both men and women, along with people of all races and ethnic groups.</p> <p>People aged 85 and older were the most likely to suffer a fatal fall. Among these folks, the rate of deadly falls increased nearly 4 percent each year, the investigators found.</p> <p>Wisconsin had the highest rate of fatal falls, at nearly 143 per 100,000 people aged 65 and older, while Alabama had the lowest, at 24 per 100,000, the findings showed.</p>

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HEADLINE	05/12 UN WFP: 'unprecedented' access NKorea
SOURCE	http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-44092623
GIST	<p>The head of the UN's World Food Programme (WFP) believes there is a "sense of optimism" among North Korea's leaders after enjoying what he said was unprecedented access to the country.</p> <p>David Beasley spent two days in the capital, Pyongyang, and two outside it, accompanied by government minders.</p> <p>He said the country was working hard to meet nutritional standards, and hunger was not as high as in the 1990s.</p> <p>"There is a sense of turning a new page in history," he told the BBC.</p> <p>Relations between North Korea and the rest of the world have seen a dramatic shift.</p> <p>Last year the North Korean government carried out a string of nuclear and missile tests.</p> <p>But next month, its leader Kim Jong-un will meet US President Donald Trump, in what would be the first time a sitting US president has ever met a North Korean leader.</p> <p>David Beasley visited North Korea from 8-11 May. The visit included trips to WFP-funded projects - a children's nursery in South Hwanghae province and a fortified biscuit factory in North Pyongyang province.</p> <p>He told the BBC's Radio 4 programme Today that the farming he saw in the countryside reflected the fact that only about a fifth of the land is arable.</p> <p>"One of the most powerful things that I saw was out in the countryside - it's spring, they're planting - there's not mechanisation, you've got oxen pulling ploughs, men and women in the fields," he said.</p> <p>"It's very structured, very organised, every foot and inch of dirt is being toiled with rakes and hoes and shovels and they're literally planting crops up to the edge of the road, down embankments, using every available space, because it is a land that's mostly mountainous.</p> <p>"I didn't see starvation like you had in the famine back in the 1990s, that's the good news. But is there a hunger issue, is there under-nutrition? There's no question about it."</p> <p>Between 1994 and 1998, hundreds of thousands of people are believed to have died in North Korea in a widespread famine.</p> <p>After drought last year, the UN said seven in 10 North Koreans were relying on food aid, while four in 10 were malnourished.</p> <p>Last month the UN requested \$111m in aid funding to help people in North Korea. The US has offered to help rebuild the country, on condition of denuclearisation.</p> <p>South Korea is one of the world's top 20 economies, with GDP of \$1.4tn (£1tn).</p> <p>By contrast, North Korea's GDP is less than \$20bn, placing it well outside the top 100 economies.</p> <p>It has a communist system, but capitalism is creeping into the country.</p> <p>There are things to buy - but only for some people, those who have money. The majority of people in</p>

	North Korea live in poverty. Kim Jong-un has made clear that development is a priority.
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HEADLINE	05/12 UN top nuclear inspector resigns
SOURCE	https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/uns-top-nuclear-inspector-resigns-suddenly-55115460?cid=clicksource_76_4_article%20roll_articleroll_hed
GIST	<p>The U.N.'s nuclear watchdog says its top inspector has quit with immediate effect, just as the agency's work in Iran is once again in focus.</p> <p>The International Atomic Energy Agency didn't give a reason for the sudden resignation of Tero Varjoranta, stating Saturday that it doesn't comment on confidential personnel matters.</p> <p>Varjoranta, who was in the role for almost five years, will be replaced temporarily by Massimo Aparo, an Italian nuclear engineer who was most recently the agency's top inspector for Iran.</p> <p>The move comes just days after U.S. President Donald Trump announced the United States would withdraw from the 2015 Iran nuclear accord designed to keep Tehran's atomic weapons program in check.</p> <p>The Vienna-based nuclear agency says it has no indications Iran is in breach of the accord.</p>
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HEADLINE	05/11 Mistake: Alaska tsunami warning
SOURCE	https://bnonews.com/site/index.php/2018/05/tsunami-warning-accidentally-broadcast-alaska-tv/
GIST	<p>A tsunami warning was accidentally broadcast in Alaska on Friday, causing confusion among local citizens, officials say. It marks the third mistake this year involving the U.S. warning system.</p> <p>The incident happened just after 7 a.m. local time when a message from the Emergency Alert System was aired on radio and TV channels in Alaska, advising that a tsunami warning was in effect.</p> <p>“The National Weather Service has issued a TSUNAMI WARNING for the following counties or areas: Alaska, at 7:02 AM on May 11, 2018,” the message on TV said.</p> <p>The alert caused confusion among local residents. Jennifer Williams, the news director for KSRM, said the radio station was receiving calls from residents who asked about the warning.</p> <p>The mistake happened during an internal test to determine transmission times for the dissemination of tsunami warnings, according to the National Tsunami Warning Center. “We are investigating this issue,” the center said.</p> <p>Friday’s false alert did not affect the entire warning system. The warning was not sent to mobile phones in Alaska and tsunami warning sirens were not activated.</p>
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HEADLINE	05/12 NKorea: will dismantle nuclear test site
SOURCE	https://www.mirror.co.uk/news/world-news/breaking-north-korea-reveals-destroy-12523451
GIST	<p>North Korea has announced when it will dismantle its nuclear test site.</p> <p>The rogue nation will start to take the facility apart on May 23, with international media watching.</p>

	<p>The dismantling will be just less than three weeks before a much-awaited summit in Singapore between President Donald Trump and North Korean dictator Kim Jong-un.</p> <p>This week three Americans held prisoner by the communist country were released and flown back to the USA.</p> <p>The choice of Singapore as the site of the first-ever meeting of a sitting U.S. president and a North Korean leader was as much because it was within reasonable flight time and distance from Pyongyang as because of the island state's political neutrality, a South Korean presidential official told reporters.</p>
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Crime, Criminals

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HEADLINE	05/13 Bellevue police: armed robbery arrests
SOURCE	http://komonews.com/news/local/police-4-arrested-in-beacon-hill-after-armed-robbery-at-bellevue-store
GIST	<p>SEATTLE -- Four men were arrested Sunday evening in Seattle following an alleged armed robbery in Bellevue, according to Bellevue police.</p> <p>A Mercer Island officer spotted the vehicle and stopped it in Seattle near the Mount Baker Tunnel and Interstate 90, Bellevue police said.</p> <p>Bellevue police say a convenience store called The Little Store in the 2800 block of West Lake Sammamish Parkway was robbed Sunday afternoon after one robber showed a pistol.</p> <p>The store's clerk was assaulted, but the extent of the injuries aren't known.</p> <p>Police believe three of the four men entered the store and that the fourth was a getaway driver.</p>
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HEADLINE	05/14 Threat of crime gangs in Scotland
SOURCE	http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-44101927
GIST	<p>"Ongoing feuds, violence and firearms" in the central belt are increasing the threat posed by crime gangs, according to a report.</p> <p>An assessment of organised crime by the National Crime Agency (NCA) has found the number of criminals involved is falling.</p> <p>But the threat they present is rising.</p> <p>The report - written with Police Scotland - said 164 known organised crime groups (OCGs) comprising 3,282 members were under investigation.</p> <p>Police warned that despite increased activity in the central belt and recent firearms seizures, these groups still have ready access to such weapons and some are prepared to use them in public.</p> <p>The shooting of Euan Johnston as he waited in his car at traffic lights in Glasgow was said to have sparked "numerous reported and unreported acts of further violence".</p> <p>The 26-year-old was gunned down in the city's Tradeston area in November 2016, the only shooting murder in police records for 2016/17.</p>

The murder of Euan Johnston inspired "numerous reported and unreported acts of further violence" Last week, David Scott, 33, was jailed for a minimum of 22 years after being found guilty of his murder.

Judge Lady Stacey told him: "The attack was a premeditated, murderous assault involving the use of a lethal weapon. It can be correctly described as an execution.

"It was carried out in a public street."

'Public places'

The NCA report states: "There is a current threat and harm presented by feuds and rivalries between six main OCGs operating in the east and west of Scotland.

"The situation escalated in late 2016 resulting in the shooting and murder of an individual connected to OCGs.

"This then led to numerous reported and unreported acts of further violence. The risk is heightened by access to firearms, including automatic weapons."

Firearms discovered in a concealed compartment at the back of a car in a recent organised crime trial It added: "A number of the attacks have been carried out in public places.

"Despite recent firearms seizures, it is assessed that the OCGs continue to have ready access to firearms that some may be willing to use within public places."

The strategic assessment of serious and organised crime for 2018 states two thirds of organised crime gangs in Scotland are involved in drug trafficking, with Spain, followed by Holland and China, the main non-UK supply areas for illegal drugs heading to Scotland.

Human trafficking

Liverpool is said to be the primary source of drugs supply to Scotland with "significant connections" between criminal gangs in the two areas.

Crime gangs are also involved in human trafficking across Scotland, with sex trafficking said to mainly involve adult women from Romania or Slovakia being exploited by perpetrators from these same countries.

Perpetrators and victims of people trafficking for slave labour in Scotland also tend to share a country of origin, the report states, including Latvia, Vietnam and China.

The report indicates abuse of the Common Travel Area between Loch Ryan and Cairnryan ports in Dumfries and Galloway, with commercial ships said to have been used in relation to human trafficking, immigration abuse and "potential extremist travel".

Roll on/roll off freight ships are said to have been used to enable illegal immigrants and Class A drugs to get into Scotland.

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HEADLINE	05/14 EU spy chiefs warn of hybrid threats
SOURCE	http://www.krqe.com/news/business/european-spy-chiefs-warn-of-hybrid-threats-from-russia-is/1177733946
GIST	BERLIN (AP) - European intelligence chiefs warned Monday that Russia is actively seeking to undermine their democracies by disinformation, cyberattacks and more traditional means of espionage.

The heads of Britain and Germany's domestic intelligence agencies, as well as the European Union and NATO's top security officials, pinpointed Moscow as the prime source of hybrid threats to Europe, citing attempts to manipulate elections, steal sensitive data and spark a coup in Montenegro. They also cited the chemical attack against a former Russian spy in Britain this year that Britain has blamed on Russia.

"Our respect for Russia's people (...) cannot and must not stop us from calling out and pushing back on the Kremlin's flagrant breaches of international rules," the head of Britain's MI5 spy agency, Andrew Parker, told an intelligence gathering in Berlin.

Parker branded the attack on Sergei Skripal and his daughter in Salisbury an act of "criminal thuggery" that was swiftly followed by Russian attempts to divert blame. That resulted in at least 30 alternative theories about the attack being spread by Russian authorities and media.

"Whatever nonsense they conjure up, the case is clear," said Parker, adding there was no doubt about the origin of the attack against Skripal.

Germany's domestic intelligence chief, Hans-Georg Maassen, said his agency, known as BfV, blames Russian authorities for orchestrating a persistent cyberattack aimed at stealing sensitive data so it can be used in future intelligence campaigns, such as what happened with the Democratic National Committee emails leaked during the 2016 U.S. presidential election campaign.

Maassen said authorities are particularly concerned about the possible funding of extremist groups aiming to divide European societies, and he called for greater awareness of hybrid attacks to counter such threats.

Sir Julian King, the EU's security commissioner, warned that social media had "turbocharged" state actors' ability to spread disinformation, citing the recent revelations about Cambridge Analytica's gathering of personal data from Facebook users to help manipulate elections.

King warned of future threats posed by sophisticated fake videos that are undiscernible from real footage, calling it an example of a "deadly weapon of mass disinformation" that societies need to find ways of becoming resilient to.

NATO's assistant secretary general for intelligence and security, Arndt Freytag von Loringhoven, said the price of launching hybrid attacks needs to increase, citing the expulsion of 150 undeclared spies by Britain and its allies in the wake of the Salisbury attack.

Intelligence chiefs also noted the continued threat posed by Islamist extremism and the need to cooperate closely among European agencies, despite Britain's departure from the EU next year.

Parker, whose speech in Berlin was the first by a serving MI5 director outside Britain, said security agencies had thwarted 12 terrorist plots in the U.K. since Parliament was attacked in March 2017.

"We remain unwaveringly and absolutely committed to working together with European partners," he said, calling for security cooperation to be enshrined in future treaties between Britain and the EU.

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HEADLINE	05/13 Claim: fraud fuels suitcases filled w/cash
SOURCE	http://www.fox9.com/news/investigators/millions-of-dollars-in-suitcases-fly-out-of-msp-but-why
GIST	<p>MINNEAPOLIS (KMSP) - For five months, Fox 9 has been investigating what appears to be rampant fraud in a massive state program.</p> <p>This fraud is suspected of costing Minnesota taxpayers as much as a hundred million dollars a year.</p> <p>The Fox 9 Investigators reporting is based on public records and nearly a dozen government sources who</p>

have direct knowledge of what is happening.

These sources have a deep fear, and there is evidence to support their concerns, that some of that public money is ending up in the hands of terrorists.

This story begins at Minneapolis-St.Paul International Airport, where mysterious suitcases filled with cash have become a common carry-on.

On the morning of March 15, Fox 9 chased a tip about a man who was leaving the country. Sources said he took a carry-on bag through security that was packed with \$1 million in cash.

Travelers can do that, as long as they fill out the proper government forms.

Fox 9 learned that these cloak-and-dagger scenarios now happen almost weekly at MSP International. The money is usually headed to the Middle East, Dubai and points beyond. Sources said last year alone more than \$100 million in cash left MSP in carry-on luggage.

The national, go-to expert on what is behind these mysterious money transfers is Glen Kerns.

“What we were interested in is where it was going,” Kerns said.

He is a former Seattle police detective who spent 15 years on the FBI’s joint terrorism task force, until his retirement.

“It’s an outright crime, it’s unbelievable,” he said.

Kerns tracked millions of dollars in cash that was leaving on flights from Seattle.

It was coming from Hawalas, businesses used to courier money to countries that have no official banking system. Some immigrant communities rely on Hawalas to send funds to help impoverished relatives back home.

Kerns discovered some of the money was being funneled to a Hawala in the region of Somalia that is controlled by the al Shabaab terrorist group.

“I talked to a couple of sources who had lived in that region and I said, 'If money is going to this Hawala do you think it is going to al Shabaab?'" said Kerns. "And he said, 'Oh definitely, that area is controlled by al Shabaab, and they control the Hawala there.'”

He said when the money arrives, whether it was intended for legitimate purposes or not, al Shabaab or other groups demand a cut.

As Kerns dug deeper, he found that some of the individuals who were sending out tens of thousands of dollars’ worth of remittance payments happened to be on government assistance in this country.

How could they possibly come up with such big bucks to transfer back home?

“We had sources that told us, 'It’s welfare fraud, it’s all about the daycare,'" said Kerns.

FOX 9 REPORTED ON THE FRAUD FIVE YEARS AGO

To better understand the connection between daycare fraud and the surge in carry-on cash, you have to look at the history of this crime.

Five years ago the Fox 9 Investigators were first to report that daycare fraud was on the rise in Minnesota, exposing how some businesses were gaming the system to steal millions in government subsidies meant to

help low-income families with their childcare expenses.

“It’s a great way to make some money,” Hennepin County Attorney Mike Freeman said.

In order for the scheme to work, the daycare centers need to sign up low income families that qualify for child care assistance funding.

Surveillance videos from a case prosecuted by Hennepin County show parents checking their kids into a center, only to leave with them a few minutes later. Sometimes, no children would show up.

Either way, the center would bill the state for a full day of childcare.

Video from that same case shows a man handing out envelopes of what are believed to be kickback payments to parents who are in on the fraud.

When asked where the money was going, Freeman said, “I don’t know exactly where it went. But it adds up when you begin to look at how many people were involved.”

One recent federal case points to at least some of the money going overseas.

Fox 9 obtained video of Fozia Ali being sworn in as a member of the city of Hopkins Park Board.

“I will support the constitution of the United States,” she said.

As she was taking her oath of office, she was also under investigation for wire fraud and theft of public money.

“So help me God,” she said during the ceremony.

State and federal agents had already raided Ali’s daycare center in south Minneapolis.

The business was suspected of billing the government for more than a million dollars’ worth of bogus childcare services.

“We found records that she was collecting a significant amount of money for a much larger number of children than were actually attending the center,” said Craig Lisher from the FBI. “We are aware that some of the funds went overseas, what she was cashing out, money from the business.”

When asked if he had any idea of what it was going for he said, “I can’t say.” When pressed if he can’t say or doesn’t know he responded, “I can’t say.”

Investigators analyzed Ali’s cell phone to track her activities. She took a two-month trip from Minnesota to Dubai and then Kenya, staying at times in \$800 a night hotel rooms.

She used an app on her phone to bill the state of Minnesota for childcare services while she was out of the country.

Ali pled guilty to the daycare fraud and in March started serving time in a federal prison. She declined Fox 9’s request for an interview.

10 DAYCARES UNDER ACTIVE INVESTIGATION

"We believe that there's a scope of fraud out there that we really need to get our arms around and ensure that those dollars are going to kids that really need them," Acting Commissioner for the Department of Human Services Chuck Johnson said.

He told the Fox 9 Investigators his agency has 10 daycares currently under active investigation for fraud.

Fox 9 has learned dozens more are considered suspicious.

Search warrants obtained by the Fox 9 Investigators show each one of the suspect centers has received several million dollars in childcare assistance funds.

According to public records and government sources, most are owned by Somali immigrants.

When asked if the Department of Human Services has any evidence to suggest this looks like organized crime, Johnson responded, "There's a common pattern in how a lot of these are carried out, but beyond that, not something that I would directly categorize as organized crime."

Sources in the Somali community told Fox 9 it is an open secret that starting a daycare center is a license to make money.

The fraud is so widespread they said, that people buy shares of daycare businesses to get a cut of the huge public subsidies that are pouring in.

Government insiders believe this scam is costing the state at least a hundred million dollars a year, half of all child care subsidies.

"I don't think half sounds credible," Johnson said. "I certainly think that some of the schemes that we're seeing and certainly the ones that we've brought forward already for prosecution involve millions of dollars. I mean this is not a small scale that we're looking at."

TRACKING THE MONEY?

Minnesota started aggressively going after daycare fraud in 2014. Back then, it was easier to track the flow of money.

The state would pay a daycare's bill and within hours of the money showing up in the business's bank account, funds were being wired to the United Arab Emirates.

Those wire transfers stopped after a few centers were busted.

Which brings us back to those mysterious suitcases at Minneapolis-St. Paul International.

In 2015, investigators documented \$14 million in carry on cash. By 2016, it had mushroomed to \$84 million. Then last year, \$100 million.

A trend all too familiar to former terrorism investigator Glen Kerns.

Fox 9 asked him how likely it is that some of the money is going towards terrorism?

"I say absolutely, our sources tell us that. Good sources, from the community leaders," he said. "My personal opinion is we need a nationwide task force to clamp down on this type of fraud."

This crime is spreading. Sources tell Fox 9 fraudsters in other states are now using the Minnesota playbook to rip off millions of public dollars meant to help kids.

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HEADLINE 05/12 DHS: massive passport fraud in Hungary

SOURCE <https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/massive-passport-fraud-in-hungary->

[allowed-dozens-of-people-to-enter-us-under-false-identities-officials-say/2018/05/09/b1ee48be-523a-11e8-b00a-17f9fda3859b_story.html?noredirect=on&utm_term=.51181302c6f1](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/immigration/wp/2018/05/09/b1ee48be-523a-11e8-b00a-17f9fda3859b_story.html?noredirect=on&utm_term=.51181302c6f1)

GIST

U.S. officials have uncovered a fraud scheme that has allowed foreign nationals to enter the United States under false identities, a troubling security breach resulting from a vulnerability in Hungary's passport system, authorities say.

About 700 non-Hungarians have fraudulently obtained authentic Hungarian passports and assumed the identities of the original passport holders, according to a Department of Homeland Security document obtained by The Washington Post.

Of that group, at least 85 tried to travel to the United States, and 65 entered through the U.S. visa waiver program. As of October, 30 remained in the country despite DHS efforts to find and deport them.

U.S. authorities declined to say why these individuals illegally entered the United States or how many remain at large. But experts said the fraudulent use of authentic passports poses a serious threat to the United States and other countries.

"The most obvious risk here is that people are coming to the United States who have a reason to disguise their identity," said Stewart Baker, a former senior DHS official who dealt with transnational threats in Europe and the Middle East.

"Common reasons for doing this are drug smuggling, organized crime or illegal immigration," he added. "The most troubling reasons would be a well-organized terrorist organization like ISIS or al-Qaeda might purchase these documents . . . or the Russian spies we kicked out might fly to Ukraine, buy a Hungarian passport and fly back to the U.S."

DHS officials say they think criminals obtained the authentic passports by exploiting a Hungarian government program that allows ethnic Hungarians who live outside the country to obtain citizenship in an expedited manner. The measure was put in place in 2011 by Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban, who touted the importance of connecting with the Hungarian diaspora scattered across Europe after World War I and World War II.

Citizens of Hungary, a member of the European Union, are eligible for visa-free travel to the United States, making citizenship attractive for ethnic Hungarians living in other countries with more visa requirements, such as Ukraine and Russia.

Since 2011, more than a million people have obtained Hungarian citizenship through the program. U.S. officials think criminals came into possession of some of the passports belonging to new citizens and sold them to customers who then assumed new identities to travel to different countries.

In October, the United States sent a warning to Hungary by downgrading its status on the visa waiver program to "provisional." The highly prized program allows the citizens of 38 countries to travel to the United States for tourism or business for 90 days without having to get visas. The warning called for the implementation of a "cooperative action plan" to be drafted within 45 days.

"DHS is prepared to take further enforcement action if Hungary fails to fulfill its VWP responsibilities," the department's then-assistant secretary for international affairs, James Nealon, said in the document obtained by The Post.

Despite the warning, serious flaws persist in Hungary's passport system. Last month, senior DHS officials traveling to Budapest warned that the country could be suspended or kicked out of the waiver program if the vulnerabilities were not addressed.

The official said Hungary has identified the appropriate "corrective action" but that it remains a work in progress.

	<p>A DHS spokesman, Tyler Houlton, declined to comment on Hungary's progress in resolving the security hole, saying the department's "vulnerability assessments" are classified.</p> <p>Hungary's Ministry of Interior issued a brief statement saying that discussions with DHS are "ongoing" and "specifying data" is part of that.</p>
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HEADLINE	05/14 UK: organized crime threat growing
SOURCE	http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-44102751
GIST	<p>Organised crime affects more people in the UK than any other security threat, says the National Crime Agency.</p> <p>It warns the scale and complexity of organised crime groups is growing, driven by global movements of people and new technologies like encryption.</p> <p>It estimates there are 4,629 crime groups in the UK, with many offences under-reported.</p> <p>It says that more firearms have been arriving as gangs work across borders to smuggle them from Europe.</p> <p>In its annual report, the NCA says the breadth of threats from serious organised crime groups means the police and other agencies must increasingly think differently about how to combat the thousands of gangs.</p> <p>"This year's assessment shows that organised crime groups (OCGs) are exploiting digital technology, for instance using encryption to communicate, and dark web marketplaces to aid their activities," said Lynne Owen, the NCA's director general.</p> <p>"Criminals are continuing to develop international connections to increase the reach of their activity, and to maximise profits.</p> <p>"The increasing sophistication of crime groups, coupled with the changing nature of their geographical reach, demonstrates more than ever the requirement for an increasingly co-ordinated response," she said.</p>
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HEADLINE	05/12 Arrest in 1986 killing of Tacoma girl
SOURCE	https://www.seattlepi.com/news/crime/article/Jennifer-Bastian-1986-tacoma-murder-arrest-killer-12904645.php
GIST	<p>SEATTLE (AP) — In a May 11 story about the arrest of a suspect in the 1986 killing of a girl in Washington state, The Associated Press reported erroneously that 12-year-old Michella Welch was abducted in a south Seattle park. She was abducted in a Tacoma park.</p> <p>A corrected version of the story is below:</p> <p>Suspect in 1986 Washington murder case arrested in Illinois</p> <p>After more than three decades, police have arrested a suspected killer of a 13-year-old Washington girl in Illinois</p> <p>SEATTLE (AP) — A man arrested in the 1986 killing of a Tacoma, Washington, girl came to the attention of police because before she even disappeared, he called them purportedly to give a tip about a different, similar slaying, investigators said in charging documents.</p> <p>Authorities said they arrested Robert Washburn, 60, at his home in Eureka, Illinois, on Thursday, a week</p>

after they received results of a DNA test linking him to the death of 13-year-old Jennifer Bastian. He waived his right to contest extradition during a hearing Friday in Woodford County Circuit Court and was ordered detained pending his return to Washington, the Journal Star newspaper of Peoria reported.

He has been charged with first-degree murder. It was not known if he had obtained a lawyer in Washington.

Bastian disappeared while riding her bike in Tacoma's Point Defiance Park on a summer evening, and her body was found in a wooded area off a trail more than two weeks later, on Aug. 28, 1986.

The death resembled the murder of a 12-year-old girl named Michella Welch, who was abducted in a Tacoma park in March of that year. In May, Washburn called police to say that while jogging in Point Defiance Park, he had seen a man who matched the description of the suspect in Welch's case, Tacoma Police Detective Jared Ausserer wrote in a probable cause statement filed in Pierce County Superior Court this week.

The call made him a suspect in Bastian's case, Ausserer wrote, and by the end of 1986, investigators had questioned him. He told them he often jogged at Point Defiance Park, sometimes twice a day, and he had been there when authorities cordoned it off amid a search for her.

But investigators apparently lacked evidence to make an arrest. Her slaying — and Welch's — remained unsolved.

In the first year after Bastian was killed, a six-person task force put in at least 10,000 investigative hours, police said.

In 2013, the Washington State Patrol Crime Lab was able to develop a DNA profile of the suspect from semen discovered on the bathing suit Bastian had been wearing before she was killed. The profile was checked against a national database of felons, but failed to return a match.

In 2016, detectives came up with a list of suspects whose DNA they needed to compare against the profile the crime lab had developed. Among them, Ausserer wrote, was Washburn.

FBI agents went to his home in Illinois two months ago to collect the sample; Washburn voluntarily provided it, the detective wrote, and on May 3 the results came back with a hit.

Welch's killing is still unsolved. While authorities initially believed the two cases might be linked, DNA analysis performed in 2016 showed otherwise, according to The News Tribune newspaper of Tacoma.

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HEADLINE	05/13 NYPD new crime fighting approach
SOURCE	https://www.nbcnews.com/news/crime-courts/after-stop-frisk-nypd-reinvents-policing-yet-again-n873446
GIST	<p>It's 4 a.m. at an unmarked and unremarkable building in an industrial stretch of Brooklyn, in New York City. Inside a hive of more than 60 NYPD officers and detectives are gearing up to make a series of major arrests that reflect the department's new approach to crime.</p> <p>Deputy Chief Michael Kemper, in a navy suit and slicked back hair, addresses the teams that will soon be kicking in doors and tearing open closets in search of saleable quantities of drugs. He tells them, "We're putting you in a very, very dangerous position."</p> <p>Undercover detectives have spent nearly a year collecting evidence and identifying the suspects. A grand jury has heard the evidence, and 12 people who will be arrested today are already under indictment.</p>

Four squadrons of unmarked vans, cars, and SUVs snake through the pre-dawn streets to four separate locations, and by the time police yell their first “Hands up!” the drone of the NYPD’s Bell helicopters can be heard overhead.

Eleven minutes later the suspects have been cuffed, and the police have seized heroin, crack, thousands in cash and eight cell phones full of communications between alleged drug dealers. Months of police work have disrupted a major drug operation — all without stopping and frisking random members of the public on city streets, the controversial “stop-and-frisk” tactic that sparked mass protests before the NYPD had to scrap it.

It’s what the nation’s largest local police force calls Precision Policing — a fresh take on law enforcement that replaces confrontation with more community engagement and more transparency.

"REACH OUT TO PEOPLE THAT DON'T LIKE YOU."

New York is the nation’s safest big city. During the past 25 years the crime rate has fallen from historic highs to lows not seen since the early 1960s.

But despite that drop in crime, friction between the NYPD and the residents of New York’s tougher neighborhoods, especially teen males, only seemed to get worse. Part of the problem was tactics like “stop and frisk,” which allowed officers to search anyone they believed might commit a crime.

“A lot of people don’t do anything wrong,” said Brooklyn resident Shanasia Maddox, “and they still get harassed by the cops.”

“I mean pulled over, stop and frisk, being patted down, anything the cops would do to stop you.”

Sometimes, she said, it’s “just you looking at them the wrong way.”

The NYPD is trying to change its relationship with the public with a reinvented version of neighborhood policing, as envisioned by the two men who put the program together, Commissioner James O’Neill and Chief of Department Terrence Monahan.

Monahan, who oversees 36,000 uniformed cops, said, “I’ve asked my cops, ‘Reach out to the people in the community that don’t like you.’”

Monahan says the crisis of trust between the police and the people they serve had already taken a hit around 2011 because of stop and frisk. That year saw the highest number of stops of civilians by the NYPD, nearly 700,000.

But things got worse in 2014 after the police shooting of an unarmed man in Ferguson, Missouri, and the unrest that followed, and then the death of Eric Garner in Staten Island, who died after a chokehold by an NYPD officer.

“It all culminated,” said Monahan, “in the assassinations of [Wenjian] Liu and [Rafael] Ramos, two of our police officers sitting in a radio car.” The officers were shot and killed on Dec. 20, 2014, two weeks after a grand jury declined to indict the officer who had held Garner in a chokehold. According to Monahan, a “deranged” man decided to murder Liu and Ramos “only because they wore this blue uniform.”

Monahan said the murders were a turning point. “We had to change the way we policed. Crime had been going down but cop morale was low, communities didn’t have trust in us. We had to come up with a new system of policing to try and change that dynamic.”

Precision Policing — investigations that target the small percentage of offenders who do most of the crime in the city — results in cases that take crime off the street with fewer stops of non-offenders.

Random police stops have plummeted — down 98 percent from their peak.

The overhaul has also included removing cops who cause problems. The NYPD told NBC News that 89 uniformed officers were terminated in 2017 and a total of 216 have been terminated or forced out since 2014.

In the once crime-ridden upper Manhattan neighborhood of Washington Heights, NBC News did a ride-along to see Monahan's vision of neighborhood policing play out.

Neighborhood Coordination Officers or NCO's Natalie Lebron and Amber Guzman visited a local playground filled with kids after school and interacted with them.

Said Lebron, "We want them to know that if something does come up or if there's ever an emergency, they can feel comfortable to call us and contact us. It's not just a stranger who's going to show up to their door."

She says she and her partner Officer Guzman made it a point to meet every business owner along 11 blocks of Broadway in their assigned stretch of the local precinct.

The relationships are important, said Lebron. "People feel a little more at ease. Like, 'Okay, I can file a report,' or, 'I'll file the report, because things are gonna get done.'

"We drive by and they say hi. So it kind of feels natural for everyone to be seen with us, talking."

City Council Member Donovan Richards, who was born and raised in the Queens neighborhood he represents, says the NCO program is a start.

"You can really start to see the change now, but there's still a whole lot more work that has to be done," said Richards.

Richards chairs the council's Committee on Public Safety and had some tough interactions with the police when he was stopped as a 13-year-old.

He said, "At that time I had no idea that you shouldn't go into your pockets, because weapons were drawn on us. And that is an experience I will never forget."

Richards says he's not sure some relationships can be repaired but he says you have to try.

"I think these one-on-one daily interactions with the community are going a long way in repairing a lot of the damage that was done by the NYPD in our communities under prior administrations."

Chief Monahan says the NYPD is committed to making it work.

"It's been said many times, it's hard to hate up close. You may hate just a blue uniform, but when you know that person, know them as a human, it's different."

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HEADLINE	05/11 Oklahoma: suspect dead; 4 troopers hurt
SOURCE	http://time.com/5274522/troopers-oklahoma-shootout/
GIST	(TALIHINA, Okla.) — Four Oklahoma troopers were struck by gunfire or shrapnel while serving a warrant early Friday at a man's home that may have been booby-trapped to spark a large fire, authorities said. The blaze has consumed several buildings in downtown Talihina, a town of about 1,100 people that's about 150 miles (240 kilometers) southeast of Oklahoma.

	<p>The suspect was shot and has been pronounced dead, Oklahoma Highway Patrol Capt. Paul Timmons said. The four troopers are expected to recover.</p> <p>Local authorities had requested help from state troopers to execute a drug-related warrant because the man had a “violent criminal history,” Timmons said.</p> <p>“As soon as they made entry, they were met by gunfire,” Timmons said.</p> <p>A fifth trooper who was wearing a protective vest was also struck in the chest area by gunfire, but escaped any injury because of the vest, Timmons said.</p> <p>Authorities don’t yet know what caused the fire, but Timmons said the blaze broke out instantly after the law enforcement officers tried to execute the warrant.</p> <p>“Right now we suspect that the building may have been booby-trapped with some type of explosive device that maybe started the fire,” Timmons said.</p> <p>Firefighters were still working at midday Friday to contain the blaze.</p>
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HEADLINE	05/11 ‘Savage’ throat-slasher sentenced 32yrs
SOURCE	https://www.heraldnet.com/news/savage-and-senseless-killing-throat-slasher-gets-32-years/
GIST	<p>EVERETT — As the man’s arm came over her head, Janine Shaffer screamed for her mother to run out of the house.</p> <p>He repeatedly slashed at her neck with his knife. Shaffer, then 62, kept fighting him, until the blade severed the tendons in her thumb. Incapacitated, she played dead.</p> <p>The man took off. She found her mother, Barbara Decker, on the kitchen floor. Her throat also was cut. Shaffer tried to stop both their bleeding.</p> <p>When the medics came, she asked them three times why there was no second ambulance. Finally, they told her. Her mother was gone.</p> <p>Decker, 78, was a great-grandmother who raised her children to believe in fairness and kindness, they told a Snohomish County judge on Friday. If she’d known the young man in her Maltby home that day was suffering from addiction, she would have tried to find him help, they said. She saw herself as “everybody’s mom.”</p> <p>Instead, her life was taken. It was “a savage and senseless killing” in the place the women should have felt most safe, deputy prosecutor Adam Cornell said.</p> <p>Shaffer is “incredibly courageous,” Judge Michael Downes said. “She is astounding in her towering strength.”</p> <p>The judge then addressed the killer, John Kuljis Jr. 32. His uncle had been hired to make repairs to the home.</p> <p>“But for the strength of that woman, you would be facing two murder charges here,” he said.</p> <p>He sentenced Kuljis to 32½ years in prison, the higher-range sentence sought by prosecutors. Kuljis’ family had asked for less time behind bars, about 22 years. They said Kuljis was in a drug-induced psychosis during the February 2017 attack. They described a loving son and father who had lost control of his life.</p>

Kuljis had been using heroin and methamphetamine and had underlying mental health problems, according to his public defender, Fred Moll.

He pleaded guilty in April to second-degree murder and first-degree assault.

“Due to extremely unfortunate circumstances, I believe I wasn’t myself at the time ...,” Kuljis said in court Friday. “I severely give my condolences.”

But the drug use was voluntary, Downes said.

“That doesn’t make your actions society’s fault or society’s failing,” he said. “You’re not a normal guy. You’re a convicted murderer.”

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HEADLINE 05/12 Missing McCleary girl remains found

SOURCE <http://mynorthwest.com/986781/missing-mccleary-remains-ellensburg/>

GIST Police confirm that Lindsey Baum’s remains were found about 20 miles west of Ellensburg in a remote area.

The remains were found in September 2017 by hunters, and Baum, who disappeared in 2009, was identified through a DNA match in the follow-up investigation.

Baum was 10 years old when she disappeared while walking home from a friend’s house in the small town of McCleary on the night of June 26, 2009. Her disappearance sparked a nationwide investigation.

In May 2010, the Sheriff’s Office released surveillance video from a Shell gas station in McCleary showing a white truck as well as one of a man who went into the convenience store. It was recorded on the night of Baum’s disappearance. According to the Sky Valley Chronicle.

Police said the man was not a suspect, but they wanted to talk to him as well as the people in the truck, a white Honda Ridgeline, to find out if they saw anything that could help with the investigation.

In October 2011, several search warrants were served at the business, storage unit and home of a man who police said was a person of interest in the case. The man’s business was on the route Baum would have taken to get home the night she vanished.

In 2012, authorities released surveillance video from a McCleary minimart, also recorded on the night Baum disappeared. Sheriff Scott said they had the video since the start of the investigation, but didn’t want to release it until they could investigate further.

In the video, two women are seen in the market talking to the person of interest who had told police he was not in McCleary the night Baum disappeared, though the video showed otherwise. Police identified and interviewed the women, who turned out to be sisters from the McCleary area.

No arrests were made.

Last summer, the sheriff’s office said it was investigating whether three Seattle brothers who police say collected child pornography for decades had any connection to the southwest Washington girl’s disappearance.

Police have not described any connection between Baum and the Seattle brothers.

The search extended to Shelton, about 30 minutes from McCleary, where the brothers also owned a

	<p>property. The Emerys' now-deceased brother remained in the Shelton home until 2016.</p> <p>Sheriff Rick Scott confirmed to KIRO 7 News that a flier about Baum was found in the Shelton home. The property was searched with cadaver dogs and help from the Department of Homeland Security.</p> <p>“When we heard of the link to the Shelton property, and its proximity to McCleary, and the nature of the paper work they found at the [Seattle home] . . . We immediately began to see if there’s anything that would link to our investigation,” Scott told KIRO 7 News last August.</p> <p>So far, no known connection between the brothers and the disappearance of Baum has been found.</p>
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HEADLINE	05/11 Renton combats illegal street racing
SOURCE	https://www.king5.com/article/news/local/renton/renton-combats-illegal-street-racing-by-shutting-down-roads/281-551454589
GIST	<p>In an effort to stop illegal street racing, Renton police are shutting down sections of two major city streets at night on the weekends.</p> <p>The closures will happen along "problem" roads on Fridays and Saturdays from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. starting Friday, May 11 into the foreseeable future.</p> <p>One of the streets is Oakesdale Avenue between SW 16th St. and SW 41st St. The other street is SW 27th St. between Lind Ave. SW and Oakesdale Ave. SW.</p> <p>Street racing has been an ongoing problem for the city. Two years ago, a street race ended in a fiery crash that sent three people to the hospital. A King County Sheriff's Office helicopter captured the crash on video.</p> <p>The city has received a high number of complaints regarding street racing since last year, according to The Renton Reporter. At a meeting in August 2011, a police spokesperson said it was common to see as many as 100 racers take to the streets, and more than 400 on warm, summer days. And they've arrested as many as 218 people in one night.</p> <p>In the past, RPD has tried several tactics to stop the street racing, such as increasing moving and non-moving violations, patrols, criminal arrests, and doing undercover operations, but they were short-term solutions. So they hope this new strategy is a long-term answer.</p> <p>“The goal of the new approach is to make Renton a not-sought-after place for street racing . . . Our goal is to push them out and get (racers) to go and be somebody else’s problem,” Renton Police Department Commander Chad Karlewicz said, according to the Renton Reporter.</p>
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HEADLINE	05/12 BP agent faces fatal shooting retrial
SOURCE	http://www.foxnews.com/us/2018/05/12/us-border-patrol-agent-to-be-retried-in-cross-border-killing-mexican-teen.html
GIST	<p>A U.S. Border Patrol agent will be retried in what is reportedly the first prosecution of a border agent involving a fatal shooting across the border.</p> <p>Agent Lonnie Swartz was previously acquitted of second-degree murder in the 2012 death of 16-year-old Mexican youth Jose Antonio Elena Rodriguez, and jurors deadlocked on lesser counts.</p> <p>On Friday, prosecutors in Tucson, Ariz., said Swartz will now face charges of voluntary and involuntary</p>

	<p>manslaughter, said Cosme Lopez, a spokesman for the federal court handling the case.</p> <p>Luis Parra, an attorney for the teen's family, said he was with them in the courtroom when the retrial decision was announced.</p> <p>The teen, whom authorities say had been throwing rocks, was slain on a street just south of the U.S. border, in Nogales, Mexico.</p> <p>"I'm relieved and very much appreciate the efforts" of the U.S. attorney's office, Elena Rodriguez's grandfather said.</p>
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HEADLINE	05/11 Texas package bomb explosion fears
SOURCE	https://www.cbsnews.com/news/package-bomb-explosion-outside-beaumont-texas-church-sparks-fears/
GIST	<p>BEAUMONT, Texas -- In southeast Texas, federal agents are investigating the bombing of an Episcopal church in the city of Beaumont. No one was hurt, but there are concerns it could possibly be the work of a serial bomber.</p> <p>The Thursday morning blast at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church caused minimal damage, but prompted a big response, with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) and Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) assisting the Beaumont Police.</p> <p>Two weeks ago, a Starbucks employee found an explosive device at the coffee shop, less than two miles away. Law enforcement sources say it was a working bomb, and that there was a note that said "die USA," and referenced the city of Austin.</p> <p>In March, Mark Conditt terrorized the Austin area with a string of bombings that killed two people, and wounded four others.</p> <p>"They don't want to rule anything out," said Robert Elder, the retired ATF special agent in charge for the Houston area. "But you don't know that some person hasn't watched the news and for whatever reason decided that they want to try and mimic what occurred in Austin."</p> <p>Investigators have not confirmed that the two Beaumont incidents are related. But law enforcement sources say they're working on the assumption that they're connected.</p>
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HEADLINE	05/12 Albania: drug trafficking ring busted
SOURCE	https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/police-13-albanians-arrested-alleged-drug-trafficking-55116732?cid=clicksource_76_4_article%20roll_articleroll_hed
GIST	<p>Police in Albania say they have cracked down on an international drug trafficking ring that allegedly smuggled marijuana, heroin and cocaine to European Union member countries.</p> <p>An Albanian State Police statement issued Saturday said officers arrested 13 Albanians and five others have been jailed in Turkey and Macedonia.</p> <p>The statement says the group is suspected of trafficking 7 metric tons of marijuana that police in Greece, Macedonia, Italy and Turkey impounded during the last two years. The crime ring also is believed to be involved in trafficking heroin from Turkey and cocaine from Latin America.</p> <p>Albania has been known as a crossroads for marijuana smuggling. A government crackdown led to a</p>

	significant reduction in the number of cannabis plantations, but regular seizures indicate traffickers still have marijuana stored.
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HEADLINE	05/11 Australia mass shooting; 7 killed
SOURCE	https://bnonews.com/site/index.php/2018/05/7-dead-australia-mass-shooting/
GIST	<p>Seven people, including several children, have been killed in a shooting at a rural property in southwest Australia, police said on Friday, making it the country’s deadliest mass shooting in more than 20 years.</p> <p>The incident happened at about 5:15 a.m. local time when officers were called to a residence in Osmington, a small community near the town of Margaret River, about 225 kilometers (140 miles) southwest of Perth.</p> <p>“Upon arrival, police located 7 persons deceased: four children and three adults,” Western Australia Police Commissioner Chris Dawson said. “The bodies of 2 adults were located outside [and] 5 bodies were located inside a building on the rural property.”</p> <p>Dawson said the victims appeared to have suffered gunshot wounds and two firearms were found at the scene. “It’s still early in this investigation, but based on what we know, this is clearly a tragedy,” he said.</p> <p>Information about a suspect was not immediately released, but investigators suggested that it appeared to be a murder-suicide. Dawson said those killed are believed to have been residents at the property.</p> <p>A death toll of 7 makes it the country’s worst mass shooting since 1996, when a man went on a shooting spree in Port Arthur in Tasmania, killing 35 people and injuring dozens more. It prompted Australia to enact fundamental changes to gun control laws.</p>
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HEADLINE	05/12 Crime tests sheriffs in small towns
SOURCE	https://www.wsj.com/articles/nothing-but-you-and-the-cows-and-the-sirens-crime-tests-small-town-sheriffs-1526122800
GIST	<p>CHILLICOTHE, Ohio—Ross County, with its rolling forested green hills and quaint two-century-old county seat, is an image of idyllic rural America.</p> <p>But as night fell here on a warm Tuesday in May, chaos descended on the Ross County Sheriff’s Office. A neighbor called to report a disturbance, likely a violent domestic dispute, and another called to report a man slumped over the steering wheel of his pickup, likely an overdose. Calls of other suspicious vehicles came flooding in.</p> <p>“It is nothing but you and the cows and the sirens,” said Sgt. Brenton Davidson, a patrol sergeant at the sheriff’s office. “You are seeing more violence, and you never know where your backup is coming from.”</p> <p>The violent-crime rate in rural areas rose above the national average for the first time in a decade, according to the most recently available data from the federal government. Though cities, on average, still have a higher violent-crime rate than rural areas, large metropolitan areas are safer than they have been in decades, while small communities in some states are getting more dangerous.</p> <p>In at least 10 U.S. states, most in the Midwest and Northeast, the rate of violence in rural counties has increased over the past two decades, even as it has fallen or stayed the same in those states’ metropolitan areas, according to a Wall Street Journal analysis of federal crime data.</p> <p>In these less-populated areas, increased drug use and associated crimes, like drug trafficking, prostitution</p>

and theft, as well as domestic violence, are fueling the rise. Dealing with mental health has become part of policing, as deputies find themselves spending hours searching for a free bed in a treatment facility. New crime-fighting strategies are designed for urban policing, and sheriffs who police small towns say they are playing catch-up.

Small departments, where budgets and the number of deputies have remained stagnant, are overwhelmed. The number of sheriff's deputies patrolling 691 square miles in Ross County, which sits some 50 miles south of Columbus, has remained at four over the past two decades. The population over the same period has increased to 77,000 from about 72,000. Starting pay for deputies is \$35,000 a year, compared with the Ohio average of about \$60,000.

"Every year I've asked for more officers—for patrol, for the jail. Every year," said Ross County Sheriff George Lavender Jr.

The county's violent-crime rate has tripled in the past two decades. The jail, built in the late 1980s to house 92 people, routinely holds 200. The sheriff's department has received nearly 3,000 calls this year—more than six times what the number would have been at the same point in the year a decade ago.

Violent-crime rates in rural counties tripled in New Hampshire and doubled in West Virginia and Iowa since 1996. The murder rate in West Virginia's rural counties is now higher than in its metropolitan areas.

In Tennessee, urban gangs are moving out into the country to be closer to their rural customers, said TJ Jordan of the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation.

"They start pushing their wares out into the rural areas," said Mr. Jordan. "Drugs breed guns, guns breed violence."

Mr. Jordan's agency recently got funding for 10 new agents to respond to rural crime problems that local police are struggling to contain. He had asked for 25.

In Ross County, law-enforcement officers are encouraged by a small drop in fatal overdoses from heroin and fentanyl, as addicts are mandated by courts to go through Vivitrol programs, a drug that blocks the high from opioids and deters addiction. But the program doesn't work for methamphetamines, which are flooding the market again here and in rural counties across the country.

Patrol sergeants say that meth makes addicts far more volatile and unpredictable and more prone to violence than opioid addicts.

"You are going from people who were basically zombies to people who think they have superhuman strength and energy," said Ross County's Sgt. Davidson. "They're bouncing off the walls, and they'll do all kinds of crazy things."

Law-enforcement officers play the role of EMTs because firefighters and ambulance squads are mostly staffed by volunteers. Sheriff's deputies across states like Iowa, Ohio and Kentucky spend hours searching for a free hospital bed in their area, which can take them off their regular jobs for an entire day.

Recruitment in small communities is challenging. Just one candidate of 15 who apply is able to clear a background check that mandates they be clean from drugs for two years, said Capt. Mike Preston, staff captain at the Ross County Sheriff's Office. "It is just two years, and you can't even keep them clean for two years."

In recent years, Sheriff Lavender has piloted a series of programs for the jail inmates, including GED courses and anger-management programs that incorporate cognitive behavioral training—borrowing ideas from his big-city counterparts. A former junk storage room in a corner of the jail now serves as a training room.

	<p>The sheriff's office has also formed a post-overdose response team with the Chillicothe police department. Every week, the group, which includes social workers, visits people who have overdosed in the past seven days, providing materials on treatment, offering to bring them to the hospital and underscoring that their addiction could lead to death.</p> <p>A visit in early May included dropping in on homeless addicts, living out of a corrugated metal shack in the middle of the woods and sleeping on a garbage bag tied between two trees.</p> <p>"We did this by the seat of our pants," said David Weber, a deputy at the sheriff's office, noting that they had little training on how to approach the addicts in a warm way and convince them of the merits of treatment—the opposite of harsh policing tactics of the past. "It is a completely different capacity than we've ever dealt with before," he said.</p>
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HEADLINE	05/12 India: teen dies in rape, burning case
SOURCE	https://www.cnn.com/2018/05/12/asia/india-rape-burning-third-case-intl/index.html
GIST	<p>New Delhi (CNN) — Police in the central Indian state of Madhya Pradesh are investigating the death of 16-year-old-girl who was allegedly raped and set on fire, in the third such case reported in India this month.</p> <p>The attack is alleged to have been carried out by a 28-year-old man, Sagar district Superintendent of Police Satyendra Kumar Shukla said.</p> <p>The girl's family allege that she was raped and set on fire at her home in Jhujharpura village on Thursday after her cousin informed the man accused of the crime that the victim was home alone, police said.</p> <p>The girl's cousin and the 28-year-old have been arrested. Police are waiting for a medical report before filing charges.</p> <p>Two other unrelated instances in which a teenage girl was raped and set ablaze, both in the eastern Indian state of Jharkhand, are still under investigation.</p> <p>The first reported attack in Jharkhand took place on May 4. The victim, a 16-year-old girl, is alleged to have been burned to death in an apparent revenge attack carried out after she reported a previous gang-rape attack to village chiefs, investigators said.</p> <p>The second victim in Jharkhand, a 17-year-old girl, was being treated in a local hospital Monday afternoon after suffering burns to 70% of her body, a police superintendent said.</p> <p>Thousands of people took to the streets across the country last month in response to earlier incidents of sexual violence against women and girls.</p>
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HEADLINE	05/12 Boy arrested in Calif. school shooting
SOURCE	https://www.cnn.com/2018/05/11/us/california-school-shots-fired/index.html
GIST	<p>(CNN) — Authorities say they are trying to figure out why a 14-year-old boy went to his former high school Friday morning and began shooting a semiautomatic rifle shortly before classes were scheduled to begin.</p> <p>A 15-year-old male student who was struck in the shoulder by gunfire was in surgery Friday afternoon but expected to recover fully, officials said.</p>

The shooting happened on the campus of Highland High School in Palmdale, California, around 7 a.m. PT, even as some students still were arriving at school.

The former student, who transferred in recent months, took out an SKS-style carbine and fired about 10 shots, video of the incident appears to show, according to Los Angeles County Sheriff Jim McDonnell.

The gun was found later at an open field west of the school, the sheriff's office said.

It is unclear what the suspect was aiming for, the sheriff said, adding that it is early in the investigation.

The suspect called his father after the shooting, telling his dad he fired the gun in the air. The father called a family friend who is a deputy and that person, who was off-duty, went to the grocery store near the shooting scene and detained the suspect.

The father also said the boy's mother had called him earlier to say he ran away from the house.

The sheriff said the boy is accused of attempted murder.

The incident is the 21st school shooting in the United States this year.

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