

Washington State Fusion Center
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WEDNESDAY – 6 JUN 2018



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Event Calendar

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Events, Opportunities

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| HEADLINE | 06/05 Iran launches plan to boost enrichment |
| SOURCE | http://time.com/5302600/iran-centrifuge-enrichment-plant-natanz/ |
| GIST | <p>Iran announced it was building a new centrifuge production plant at its Natanz nuclear facility, indicating a possible future restart to enrichment activity following the U.S.'s withdrawal from the 2015 nuclear agreement.</p> <p>Iran has vowed to limit enrichment of nuclear material to sub-weapons grade levels under the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), but the new plant suggests that the country could be bolstering its ability to ramp up nuclear activity should the agreement collapse further, according to the New York Times.</p> <p>President Donald Trump confirmed that the U.S. would abandon the deal last month, calling it "defective at its core" and reimposing sanctions on Iran's central bank chief. Trump also warned Iran against restarting its nuclear program, threatening "very severe consequences." Other signatories, including Germany, France, and the U.K., are now trying to salvage the deal.</p> <p>Ali Akbar Salehi, the head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran, told Iranian state television that the new centrifuge facility remained "in line with our safeguard commitments" under the deal, according to the Times. In a speech Monday, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Iran's supreme leader, called on the country's atomic agency to begin preparations to increase uranium enrichment capacity, reports the Tehran Times. Though he reiterated that the country would abide by the accord's constraints, which limits uranium enrichment to 3.67%.</p> <p>Iran's nuclear facilities are regularly monitored by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) under the 2015 agreement.</p> <p>It remains unclear if or when the facility will begin making new centrifuges. An IAEA spokesperson said Tuesday that they received a letter from Iran declaring a "tentative schedule" to start production of uranium hexafluoride, the raw material for the centrifuges, the BBC reports.</p> |
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| HEADLINE | 06/06 India's water taps running dry |
| SOURCE | http://time.com/5302661/water-crisis-drinking-india-drought-dry/ |
| GIST | <p>Towards the end of May, one of India's most popular summer retreats nearly ran out of water.</p> <p>Shimla, a historic hill town in the northern state of Himachal Pradesh, is the latest addition to a list of Indian towns and cities that are starved for water. Earlier this year Bangalore, home to the country's information technology sector, made it to a list of world cities most likely to run out of drinking water. It joins other parched metropolises like Cape Town, Jakarta and Sao Paulo.</p> <p>Residents of Shimla had to wait nearly four days to get water, with many lining up with buckets to collect water from tankers. The situation worsened over the following week, pushing authorities to close state</p> |

schools for five days and to ask tourists to stay away.

India is reeling under a sustained water crisis that shows no signs of abating. Excessive demand coupled with mismanaged water resources, erratic weather patterns and climate change have led to a sad state of affairs.

Water disputes abound within the country and among its neighbors. Six Indian states are involved in battles over the river waters of the Yamuna in the north, the Narmada in the midwest and the Cauvery in the south. Meanwhile, India is also dealing with Pakistan and Bangladesh over water usage.

There is not a single Indian city that can provide potable water from its taps. In fact, a 2018 report from global advocacy group WaterAid put India at the top of its list of countries with the worst access to clean water close to homes—163 million Indians live this way.

The country's dependence on agriculture, which forms a significant part of its economy and employs about 800 million people, cripples water management even further—especially given the unpredictable monsoons.

With the rainy season just beginning in India, here's a look at the water crisis in the world's second most populous country.

How bad is it?

According to government data, the average annual per capita water availability fell 15% between 2001-2011. It's predicted to fall another 13% by 2025 and 15% again by 2050, which means that in another 30 years each Indian household will have about 1.1 million liters of water per year, down from 1.8 million liters in 2011. (A country is considered to be suffering from water scarcity when availability is less than 1 million liters per capita per year.)

The news doesn't get better when you consider that India's burgeoning population could grow to 1.8 billion, if current fertility rates continue, and that agriculture is a major part of the Indian economy.

Already farmer suicides are a common occurrence. Farmers usually take heavy loans to purchase seed for sowing and many take their lives when they are unable to pay their debtors if their crops fail. A common cause of this is drought and lack of access to irrigation facilities. A 2017 study found that nearly 60,000 farmers had committed suicide in the past three decades due to climate change. The study found that even a 1cm increase in rainfall led to a 7% drop in suicides.

Drastic measures are being taken to deal with the crisis. In the past, armed guards have been stationed at reservoirs to prevent water theft and trains have been used to transport water to suffering areas. In March this year, the state of Gujarat stopped the supply of irrigation water from a major dam to ensure there was enough for drinking purposes.

Unfortunately, unchecked pollution has turned thousands of water sources into bodies of filth and disease. The Ganges, one of India's most famous and important rivers, is in such a terrible state that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has set up a special task force to clean it up. In the south, Bangalore's Bellandur Lake is so toxic that methane fires are often seen on its surface.

Why is it so bad?

To put it simply, there's too much demand and not enough supply. India's burgeoning population woes aside, climate change is seen as a major factor in the country's water crisis. Scorching summers and shortened winters have resulted in reduced snow cover and retreating glaciers in the Himalayas—the ice melt from these areas is what feeds the country's northern rivers. Add to that fickle monsoons that threaten to disrupt long-established crop patterns and you have a recipe for disaster in many parts of the country.

Then there's agriculture, which, by some estimates, accounts for 90% of India's water consumption. Farmers are sometimes slow to change what they sow and continue to grow thirsty crops like rice and

sugarcane in parched regions. They meet these irrigation demands by indiscriminately extracting groundwater, which some say accounts for a quarter of the world's groundwater usage.

This has led to a substantial drop in the levels of India's water table, which is a major concern. There has been a 61% decline in the country's water levels from 2007 to 2017. Rajendra Singh, a well-known water conservationist nicknamed "India's waterman," has said that over 70% of the country's groundwater is in "overdraft", implying that more water is consumed than is replenished.

Water pollution and poor resource management have also contributed to limited availability. A study of Delhi's piped water systems a few years ago found that 40% of the city's water is lost due to pipe leaks and thefts via unauthorized connections.

What's the solution?

For starters, India can look to Israel and Singapore.

Israel is a poster child for sustainable water consumption in the world. The largely arid country has implemented a centralized water management system, set up desalination plants, encouraged the use of treated waste water for farming and propagated the idea of drip irrigation, which involves dripping water onto the roots of crops rather than flooding entire fields.

Similarly, Singapore has been very smart about meeting its water needs efficiently. In addition to desalination and the use of recycled waste water, the city-state gives priority to building reservoirs and catchments to collect as much natural water as possible. According to the government, water catchment areas now cover two-thirds of Singapore's surface area, up from half in 2011.

It might also be time to reconsider what is grown and investigate if there are better ways to cultivate those crops. Many of India's important agricultural products, such as rice, wheat, sugarcane and cotton, are incredibly water-intensive, but their propensity for a high yield makes them more popular than other environmentally friendly options.

Steps are being taken to alleviate water problems. Last year, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced an \$87 billion plan to link 60 rivers across India in an attempt to provide better irrigation sources and reduce flooding, though its efficacy remains to be seen. Some Indian states, like Maharashtra—the home state of Mumbai—have chosen to implement Israel's drip irrigation method for entire crops like sugarcane. In the same state, cultivators have dug "farm pools" to harvest rainwater for sustained irrigation purposes in small areas.

There is some cause for optimism. WaterAid, the NGO that ranked India among the worst country for household drinking water access, has also ranked it one of the most-improved nations in terms of the numbers of people able to access clean water as a result of initiatives made since 2000. But major changes need to be made to save the world's second most populous nation from running dry.

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| HEADLINE | 06/05 Recall: Naloxone injection |
| SOURCE | https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2018/jun/5/fda-issues-recall-naloxone-injection-hospitals/ |
| GIST | <p>A recall for naloxone was issued by the Food and Drug Administration over fear that products from the company Hospira Inc. contain potentially dangerous loose particles.</p> <p>The company said in a statement that the threat of harm from ingesting the particles is low, as directions for use require checking syringe solution before being administered, but adverse effects can include irritation, allergic reaction, toxicity, among others.</p> <p>The product, a syringe injection, was distributed to hospitals and institutions across the U.S., Puerto Rico and Guam between February 2017 to February 2018.</p> |

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| | <p>The recall comes at a time where naloxone stocking is of the utmost importance in the battle against deaths from opioid overdoses. A few states have made it mandatory that first responders carry the overdose reversal medication, as deaths climbed over 64,000 in 2016 with many from opioids and illicit drugs.</p> <p>Police officers, firemen, school teachers and everyday citizens are also being urged to carry the overdose reversal medication. Narcan, a naloxone nasal spray, is developed by the pharmaceutical company ADAPT Pharma and was not involved in the recall.</p> |
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| HEADLINE | 06/05 Social Security running deficit; insolvency |
| SOURCE | https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2018/jun/5/social-security-now-running-deficit/ |
| GIST | <p>Social Security will spend more than it collects this year, the program’s trustees said Tuesday, marking the first time in more than 35 years that it will run an annual deficit as it slides toward insolvency by 2034.</p> <p>Medicare’s main trust fund is in even worse shape, scheduled to hit insolvency in 2026 — three years earlier than last year’s estimate, the trustees said.</p> <p>The twin warnings add even more pressure to a budget already strained by last year’s tax cuts and this year’s deal to boost spending on defense and basic domestic needs, leaving few bright spots in the federal fiscal picture.</p> <p>The news also produced the usual finger-pointing among Democrats and Republicans, but budget watchdogs said the news was so grim that it should cut through the bipartisan bickering.</p> <p>“It would be a nice change if this year Congress and the president actually took these warnings seriously enough to do something,” said Robert L. Bixby, executive director of the Concord Coalition.</p> <p>Social Security has been struggling for years and turned cash-negative this decade, meaning the government paid out more in benefits each year than it collected from the payroll tax.</p> <p>But some analysts had said it was still running a surplus because of interest on the money credited to the trust fund. Now, even that crutch is gone, as even with interest revenue included the program will pay out more this year than it collects.</p> <p>It’s the first time since 1982 that the program has shown an overall annual deficit.</p> <p>The program is slated to take in \$828.2 billion this year, with most of that coming from payroll taxes. It will pay out \$853.6 billion in benefits and administrative costs. That will cut the cumulative trust fund from \$2.820 trillion to \$2.795 trillion — a small but symbolic slide.</p> <p>The Old-Age and Survivors Insurance program, the main part of the trust fund, will have its assets depleted in 2034, at which point benefits will have to be cut by more than 20 percent, the trustees said.</p> |
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| HEADLINE | 06/05 Mexico details list of retaliatory tariffs |
| SOURCE | https://www.wsj.com/articles/mexico-details-its-list-of-retaliatory-tariffs-against-u-s-adds-bourbon-1528217507 |
| GIST | <p>MEXICO CITY—The Mexican government published Tuesday its detailed list of U.S. goods that will face import tariffs in retaliation for the U.S. decision to place duties on Mexican steel and aluminum, including American staples such as cranberries, apples and bourbon.</p> |

The Economy Ministry said the tariffs will remain in effect as long as the U.S. continues to charge duties on Mexican steel and aluminum, and that Mexico could at any time modify the list of products targeted. The ministry estimates the value of the tariffs at about \$3 billion, representing close to 1.5% of annual trade between the two countries.

The administration of U.S. President Donald Trump last week ended the exemptions to the steel tariffs for Mexico, Canada and the European Union, prompting them to threaten tit-for-tat measures while challenging the U.S. tariffs at the World Trade Organization.

The U.S. tariffs went into effect after negotiations with Mexico and Canada to redraw the North American Free Trade Agreement that snags over content rules for the auto industry, and over controversial U.S. demands to eliminate dispute settlement mechanisms in the pact and introduce a so-called sunset clause under which Nafta would expire in five years unless explicitly renewed by its members.

Mexico on Tuesday slapped a 25% import tariff on a wide range of steel products from the U.S., matching the U.S. steel duty. The retaliatory measures also include 20% on pork products, 20% and 25% duties on cheeses, and a 25% duty on bourbon. Cranberries made the list, as did U.S. apples, with a 20% duty.

Economy Minister Ildefonso Guajardo said last week in a televised interview that some targeted goods come from U.S. districts that have key lawmakers who have been pointing out to the Trump administration the need to be careful in handling such trade decisions.

“Somehow it’s sending a clear message that this sort of thing benefits no one, and affects all of us,” he said.

Fearing an influx of steel into Mexico from world suppliers affected by the U.S. tariffs, Mexico also raised duties it had imposed between 2015 and 2017 on steel imports from countries with which it doesn’t have free trade agreements.

Those tariffs, which aimed to counter damage suffered by the Mexican steel industry from cheap Asian imports, were also seen discouraging triangulation of steel through Mexico into the U.S. under Nafta. The tariffs led to greater steel imports from countries with which Mexico has free trade agreements, and less from countries with which it doesn’t, the government said.

Mexico ran up a \$3.6 billion steel trade deficit with the U.S. in the past two years, according to the local steel industry chamber.

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| HEADLINE | 06/05 Nicaragua descends into violence |
| SOURCE | https://www.wsj.com/articles/nicaraguas-political-crisis-descends-into-dark-days-1528235963 |
| GIST | <p>MANAGUA, Nicaragua—A surge of violence has snuffed out economic activity and dimmed prospects to peacefully resolve a political crisis here that began as a protest against tax increases and turned into a revolt against Nicaragua’s longtime leader Daniel Ortega.</p> <p>Since mid-April, more than 100 people have been killed in confrontations with police during mass protests and what human-rights groups say are paramilitary gangs aligned with Mr. Ortega’s government.</p> <p>Among them were 15 people killed at a peaceful Mother’s Day protest march last month in Managua and 11 people by paramilitary groups and police in the predominantly indigenous city of Masaya this past weekend, including a 15-year-old protester who witnesses say was executed by a policewoman.</p> <p>On Tuesday, violence flared in the quaint colonial city of Granada, home to hundreds of American retirees.</p> |

“We are going through very dark days,” said Humberto Belli, a former education minister. “The people are out in the street demanding that Ortega leave, but he has shown an unexpected ability to kill. We see more blood every day—three, four, five people killed on a daily basis. This has no end.”

The Organization of American States on Tuesday approved a mildly worded resolution calling for an immediate end of the violence and asking all parties to participate in peaceful dialogue. The resolution, co-sponsored by the U.S. and Nicaragua, was much weaker than declarations made Monday by Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, who accused Nicaraguan police and armed pro-government groups of killing dozens of protesters.

“It was a wishy-washy resolution, Nicaragua demands more urgent attention from the OAS than it’s gotten,” said Michael Shifter, president of the Inter-American Dialogue, a Washington-based think tank.

The U.S. ambassador to the OAS, Carlos Trujillo, said the OAS declaration marks the beginning of the organization’s engagement with “the grave situation” in Nicaragua. He blasted the government, saying it “has committed grave crimes” against peaceful protesters.

Nicaragua’s government denies links to paramilitary groups and says the unrest is the result of an opposition plot to overthrow it. Police haven’t addressed the alleged police shooting of the teen.

Nicaragua “is committed to stability amidst this wave of criminal violence generated by certain groups of the opposition which conspire from the darkness...to terrorize families,” Luis Alvarado, Nicaragua’s representative to the OAS, said Monday.

Mr. Ortega, a former guerrilla leader who played a central role in the overthrow of the Somoza family dictatorship in 1979, was re-elected by a landslide in 2016 after 16 years out of power. He ran largely unopposed after maneuvering to ban any real contenders.

Until the recent spate of violence, Nicaragua had enjoyed far lower levels of violent crime than its Central American neighbors El Salvador and Honduras. Mr. Ortega also had been able to deliver high economic growth and apparent political stability. Most Nicaraguans appeared content or resigned to the quid pro quo—until now.

But many Nicaraguans say they are fed up with Mr. Ortega and his wife, the unpopular Vice President Rosario Murillo, who they say have usurped democratic institutions and snuffed out political opposition. Government plans to confiscate large tracts of land to build a commercial waterway to rival the Panama Canal have cost the Ortegas rural support.

The country’s capital of Managua, a sprawling city of modest malls, street vendors and office towers mixed with open pastures, is now largely deserted. Shops are closed and vandalized. Few people venture out at night. Walls are covered with graffiti calling Mr. Ortega a murderer. A group of police officers stand guard by a monument to the late Venezuelan leader Hugo Chávez, erected by Mr. Ortega, after protesters tried to knock it down during recent demonstrations.

Throughout Nicaragua, barricades have sprung up, blocking roads and snarling traffic, and making the key Pan American highway that links many of the country’s cities impassable. Tourism has been hit hard, hotel managers say, with occupancies at major hotels plunging and some international airlines paring back flights.

Analysts say the surge in violence has set back any hope of a peaceful resolution. A dialogue between Mr. Ortega’s government and the opposition, sponsored by the influential Catholic Church, has been shelved. Nicaragua’s business class, which until recently worked closely with Mr. Ortega, is demanding new elections.

“My sense is that the situation will continue to deteriorate and the government will continue its repression,” said Eric Farnsworth, who heads the Washington office of think tank Council of the

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| HEADLINE | 06/05 Delaware cashes-in on sports betting |
| SOURCE | https://www.wsj.com/articles/delaware-cashes-in-on-sports-betting-1528243389 |
| GIST | <p>WILMINGTON, Del.—Shortly after 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, professional sports handicapper Tom Barton slapped down \$1,000 at the Casino at Delaware Park here, making him among the first people in the state to take advantage of a recent U.S. Supreme Court decision legalizing sports betting.</p> <p>“One thousand dollars on the New York Yankees to win the World Series,” Mr. Barton shouted, drawing whoops from a casino teller wearing a striped referee jersey.</p> <p>Delaware became the first state outside Nevada to allow bets on individual sports games, as its three casinos simultaneously launched full-scale sports gambling.</p> <p>Several other states are expected to follow, hoping to tap new gambling revenue in a saturated casino market. The rush to cash in on sports wagering comes after the high court ruled last month in favor of New Jersey, which had challenged a 1992 federal law that had prohibited wagers on individual sports games in all states except Nevada.</p> <p>The betting offered Tuesday in Delaware included single-game and championship wagering on professional baseball, football, basketball and soccer. Delaware Park drew dozens of bettors, many clutching paper betting sheets and scrutinizing the odds board that fills a wall next to a snack bar.</p> <p>Several people said they had previously taken part in Delaware’s limited sports betting, which was restricted to wagers on three or more NFL games at a time.</p> <p>Mr. Barton, managing director at the firm Sports Garten, said it was a welcome change. Before, he said, “anyone that’s a serious sports bettor had to fly to Vegas, or risk your nose with Tony down the street, or do offshore sports betting, which is not the most reputable.”</p> <p>Despite the hype, casino operators say expectations are modest. William Fasy, president of Delaware Park, said sports betting wasn’t likely to be a big moneymaker. Still, he said he was “super excited” because of the potential to entice more people to the casino and horse track.</p> <p>The World Cup should attract a younger, more ethnically diverse crowd, he said. “And college football? It’s going to be nuts on a Saturday” in the fall, he said, adding that he hopes those visitors will also play slots and bet on horse races.</p> <p>The casino industry could use a boost. Delaware, like other East Coast states that were early to adopt casino gambling, has been hit hard by more recent competition from other states such as Pennsylvania and Maryland. Mr. Fasy said Delaware Park’s slots revenue was 40% of what it was in 2006.</p> <p>Baye Larsen, vice president-senior credit officer for Moody’s Investors Service, said revenue would depend on whether states were able to lure people away from underground gambling, which is estimated to be a \$150 billion market. The major factors will be how expensive it is for people to place legal bets, which will depend on the tax rates states set, as well as how easy it is for gamblers to place wagers, she said.</p> <p>In New Jersey, lawmakers are set to hold final votes Thursday on legislation to regulate sports wagers. In-person betting could start immediately after the bill is signed into law, and online betting within 30 days, said Assemblyman John Burzichelli, a Democrat. New Jersey Treasurer Elizabeth Muoio told lawmakers that sports betting would likely generate \$13 million in additional revenue for the state next fiscal year.</p> |

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| | <p>Other states, including Mississippi and West Virginia, passed sports-betting legislation ahead of the Supreme Court decision, and officials in those states said they were working now to get regulations in place so operators could begin accepting wagers in time for football season.</p> <p>West Virginia will allow people located within the state to wager online and via smartphone apps in addition to in-person at its five casinos. State lawmaker Gary Howell said he expected an influx of gamblers to cross the border to place bets. “I think it’s going to bring a lot of revenue into the state, especially until other states come online,” he said.</p> <p>Danielle Boyd, managing general counsel for the West Virginia Lottery Commission, said conservative estimates projected \$5 million in revenue for state in the first year.</p> <p>In Mississippi, sports betting could begin in late July or early August, according to Allen Godfrey, executive director of the Mississippi Gaming Commission.</p> <p>Lawmakers in other states are beginning discussions on legalizing sports betting. In Connecticut, Gov. Dannel Malloy has been negotiating with the Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan tribes to allow sports betting at their casinos without violating a slot-revenue sharing agreement between the tribes and the state. State lawmakers would then have to pass legislation permitting sports betting.</p> |
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| HEADLINE | 06/05 Wildfire burns through Hanford complex |
| SOURCE | http://mynorthwest.com/1009707/wildfire-burns-through-hanford-nuclear-complex/ |
| GIST | <p>RICHLAND, Wash. (AP) — A wildfire burned about 4.4 square miles (11.4 square kilometers) of the decommissioned Hanford nuclear production complex in Washington.</p> <p>The Tri-City Herald reports Rae Moss, spokeswoman for Mission Support Alliance, the Hanford contractor in charge of the Hanford Fire Department, says no radiologically contaminated areas or buildings were burned.</p> <p>Officials say the fire was spotted around 6:45 p.m. Sunday. It apparently was caused by a lightning strike.</p> <p>The fire burned between Route 4 South and Route 2 South, which come together to form a “V” near the secure entrance. Officials say the roads helped keep the fire from spreading farther.</p> |
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| HEADLINE | 06/05 Mexico slaps 20% tariff US apples |
| SOURCE | http://mynorthwest.com/1009709/mexico-slaps-20-percent-tariff-on-us-apples/ |
| GIST | <p>SPOKANE, Wash. (AP) — The Washington Apple Commission says Mexico will immediately slap a 20 percent tariff on apples from the United States in response to the Trump administration’s tariffs on aluminum and steel.</p> <p>The commission said Tuesday that Washington state is the nation’s leading apple producer and Mexico is their biggest export market.</p> <p>The state’s 1,300 growers are the source for almost all the U.S. apples sent to Mexico.</p> <p>Last year, Washington growers shipped 13.7 million 40-pound cartons valued at more than \$215 million to Mexico.</p> <p>During the current season, shipments have been 13 percent ahead of last year and were on track to exceed 15 million bushels.</p> |

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| | The Apple Commission says the new tariff puts that goal in doubt. |
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| HEADLINE | 06/05 More severe western Wash. wildfires |
| SOURCE | http://mynorthwest.com/1010019/western-washington-wildfire/ |
| GIST | <p>Eastern Washington traditionally receives the bulk of attention during wildfire season. But state officials are focusing more on the wildfire season in Western Washington this summer, as the region’s fires are expected to dramatically increase.</p> <p>Following one of the driest Mays on record, the state is shifting the way it prepares for Western Washington wildfire season. Aaron Schmidt with the Department of Natural Resources explains as much in a Facebook video with Commissioner of Public Lands Hilary Franz. He says DNR is staging three helicopters west of the Cascades — a move that has never been needed before.</p> <p>“Historically, Western Washington has had really benign fire activity. In the last five years, that’s been a categorical shift,” Schmidt said. “So much so that we are staging three helicopters in Western Washington this year.”</p> <p>Schmidt says there are a number of things contributing to the rise in wildfire activity in Western Washington.</p> <p>“Western Washington is seeing drier fuel conditions, we are seeing different onshore flows, our marine moisture layer is not there like it usually has been,” Schmidt said. “We are seeing multiple 100-acre fires in southwest Washington, and northwest Washington, which is very atypical. It lends itself to a changing fire environment.”</p> <p>Commissioner of Public Lands Hilary Franz said that wildfires in Washington are evolving and becoming more severe.</p> <p>“Washington state, like many of our states across the United States, is seeing more significant wildfires,” Franz said. “We’ve seen on our landscape, especially starting from 2014 through 2016, a longer and larger fire season than historically.”</p> <p>In 2014-16, Washington burned more than 1 million acres which cost the state more than half a billion dollars, Franz said. There was progress last year with officials keeping most fires below 10 acres. But Franz notes that Washington has about 2.7 million acres of forests in “poor health” and the fires are getting worse.</p> <p>“The fires we see today are nothing like we had 20 years ago, and we know that 20 years from now we’re likely to see even more significant fire landscapes,” Franz said. “We’re not only seeing fire on our landscape in the eastern and central part of our state, which has been more traditional, we are seeing it more significantly on our west side.”</p> |
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| HEADLINE | 06/05 UN tells US: stop separating families |
| SOURCE | https://www.cbsnews.com/news/un-calls-on-u-s-to-stop-separating-migrant-families/ |
| GIST | <p>The U.N. human rights office is calling on the Trump administration to "immediately halt" its policy of separating children from their parents after crossing U.S. border with Mexico.</p> <p>Rights office spokeswoman Ravina Shamdasani scolded the U.S. for its "zero tolerance" policy in which some families have been separated after migration across the border.</p> |

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| | <p>The rights office said in a statement that "children should never be detained for reasons related to their own or their parents' migration status. Detention is never in the best interests of the child and always constitutes a child rights violation."</p> <p>Shamdasani told a U.N. briefing Tuesday that the practice of separating families amounted to an "arbitrary and unlawful" interference in family life, calling it a "serious violation" of the rights of children.</p> |
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| HEADLINE | 06/05 Court: Puerto Rico release death data |
| SOURCE | https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/court-orders-puerto-rico-release-storm-related-death-55659313? |
| GIST | <p>A court in Puerto Rico has ordered the government to release all death certificates issued after Hurricane Maria and other information it compiled after the Category 4 storm hit the island.</p> <p>The court decision released Tuesday says the information should be made public within a week and that the government doesn't have any pressing interest to deny access to it. Gov. Ricardo Rossello and other government officials have withheld certain information, saying they need to protect people's privacy.</p> <p>It is unclear whether the government will appeal. A spokeswoman for the island's Justice Department did not immediately return a message for comment.</p> <p>The ruling responds to a lawsuit filed by CNN and Puerto Rico's Center for Investigative Journalism.</p> <p>Critics maintain that the official death toll of 64 is severely undercounted.</p> |
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| HEADLINE | 06/05 EU nations split over asylum |
| SOURCE | https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/germany-arrests-syrians-suspected-human-trafficking-55652902? |
| GIST | <p>European Union countries remained deeply divided Tuesday over how to reform EU rules for managing the influx of refugees and migrants, as U.N. agencies reported that an estimated 112 people died over the weekend when a smuggler's boat sank as it tried to reach Europe.</p> <p>The estimated toll made the shipwreck off Tunisia the deadliest this year in the dangerous route from North Africa across the Mediterranean Sea to Europe.</p> <p>EU migration ministers, meeting in Luxembourg, were pessimistic that new proposals to update the bloc's asylum system would be accepted by many of the 28 member states.</p> <p>Well over 1 million people, mostly Syrians fleeing war at home, entered Europe in 2015, overwhelming Greece and Italy and surprising Germany, which took in hundreds of thousands of refugees. Their arrival strained relations among EU neighbors and fueled anti-migrant sentiment, especially in central and eastern Europe.</p> <p>EU leaders have insisted that the deadlock over how to handle migrants and refugees must be broken this month.</p> <p>In his first policy address, Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte declared Europe's immigration policy a "failure" and demanded that it be renegotiated. Italy has been the primary entry point for thousands of migrants to Europe via the Mediterranean this year.</p> |

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| | <p>Conte insisted the rest of the EU must take on a greater burden of accepting refugees, as well as negotiating with migrants' home countries to return those who don't qualify for asylum.</p> <p>Germany's deputy interior minister, Stephan Mayer, said "there are still considerable deficits" in the proposals to overhaul EU immigration, while Dutch Migration Minister Mark Harbers said there are "a lot of member states that still have points of discussion."</p> <p>"First we have to fix the front door, fix the back door," Belgian Migration Minister Theo Francken told reporters. "Then we can find a compromise on who's doing what. When we don't have a solution for the massive influx of illegal aliens in our Europe, Europe will end, and we will never get out of this crisis."</p> <p>Denmark's prime minister, however, predicted that a new European asylum system could be in place as soon as next year and said asylum-seekers whose applications have been rejected could be sent to a country "that is not on the migrant's wish list."</p> <p>Prime Minister Lars Loekke Rasmussen gave no further details Tuesday besides that fact that several European countries have discussed the plan.</p> <p>Most of the disagreements focus on who should look after the migrants when they arrive and for how long. Under current rules, people must register for asylum in the European country they first arrive in. This has meant that Greece and Italy have carried most of the burden. But some nations — Hungary and Poland notably — have refused to honor any migrant quotas shared among European nations.</p> |
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| HEADLINE | 06/05 Fire dept. warns: hoses in summer |
| SOURCE | http://q13fox.com/2018/06/05/fire-department-warns-of-hoses-in-summer-posts-photo-of-baby-scalded-by-water/ |
| GIST | <p>LAS VEGAS – Las Vegas Fire Rescue posted pictures of a burned baby Monday, warning residents of the hazards of using garden hoses during hot weather.</p> <p>“Here in Las Vegas, a garden hose exposed to direct sunlight during summer can heat the water inside the hose (not flowing) to 130-140 degrees,” fire rescue wrote, “which can cause burns, especially to children & animals. Let the water flow a few minutes to cool before spraying on people or animals.”</p> <p>The department posted a picture of an infant with burns from a garden hose... The photo was apparently shared in the past by a mother living in a different city who wanted to warn others.</p> <p>“It’s a file photo, we use it every year to show just how serious a burn can occur to a toddler,” Las Vegas Fire Rescue Public Information Officer Tim Szymanski said. “We got a ton of tweets back from people (saying) ‘I never thought about that,’ and that’s why we do it.”</p> <p>Fire and Rescue sent out the tweet during an excessive heat warning in Las Vegas, when temperatures were expected to rise above 106 degrees.</p> <p>“Sometimes the people don’t realize that for the length of the hose all that water is going to be hot water,” Szymanski said.</p> <p>He warned that it takes just seconds to cause a bad burn on a child or animal, and people should take care to let the water run cold during the summer.</p> |
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| HEADLINE | 06/05 Seattle-area home prices record highs |
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| SOURCE | https://www.seattletimes.com/business/real-estate/seattle-area-home-prices-reach-record-highs-but-increasing-inventory-offers-a-ray-of-hope/ |
| GIST | <p>Single-family home prices continue to reach new highs despite increasing inventory in May, according to monthly home-sales data released Tuesday by the Northwest Multiple Listing Service.</p> <p>The median price of a single-family home in King County was \$726,275 in May, surpassing the record high of \$725,000 set in April and up 15 percent compared to the previous year.</p> <p>Seattle’s median home price of \$830,000 is up 14 percent from a year ago and sets a new record after holding steady at the previous high of \$819,000 in March and April.</p> <p>Another record was established on the Eastside with a median home price of \$960,000, eclipsing the previous high of \$950,000 reached in February and up 10 percent year-over-year.</p> <p>The news isn’t all bad for home buyers, however, as total active listings in King County went up for the second month in a row after years of declining inventory, increasing 36 percent in May compared to the previous year. The Northwest Multiple Listing Service said the increase in listings marks only the third time since October 2016, and the first time since last September, that King County has more than a month’s supply of homes (meaning the number of listings is greater than the number sold in a month).</p> <p>While the increase in inventory may provide some minor relief, it isn’t enough to substantially ease competition among buyers and is still well below the five months of inventory needed for a balanced market, said Mike Grady, president of Coldwell Banker Bain.</p> <p>“The job market in Seattle continues to push higher demand for homes than what we have in inventory being formed,” Grady said. “There’s a little relief, meaning buyers don’t have to write an offer within the first hour.</p> <p>“Now they have maybe a day.”</p> <p>Grady said he doesn’t see inventory even coming close to meeting demand in the next two years.</p> <p>The story is the same in other areas, with both Pierce and Kitsap counties reaching new record highs in May. The median home price of \$355,000 in Pierce County surpassed its previous high of \$350,000 set in March and was up 15 percent over the previous year. And Kitsap County surpassed its previous high of \$341,000 set in March with a median home price of \$360,000, up 16 percent from a year ago.</p> <p>Snohomish County came in slightly below its record high of \$506,000 in April, but the median home price of \$500,000 in May still represents an 11 percent year-over-year increase.</p> <p>The ever-increasing home prices continue to complicate the buying process with a high rate of bidding wars and a median down payment that has surpassed \$100,000 in King County.</p> |
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| HEADLINE | 06/06 Marking 74yrs since D-Day landings |
| SOURCE | http://www.foxnews.com/world/2018/06/06/veterans-families-mark-74-years-since-allied-d-day-landings.html |
| GIST | <p>COLLEVILLE-SUR-MER, France – U.S. and other allied troops have joined veterans of the D-Day invasion and families of fallen soldiers to mark 74 years since the massive military operation that change the course of World War II.</p> <p>Amid fog and wind, ceremonies were held Wednesday at the American military cemetery at Colleville-sur-Mer and along the Normandy beaches and cliffs where Allied forces landed in Nazi-occupied France.</p> |

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| | <p>Thousands of U.S., British, Canadian and French troops launched a combined naval, air and land assault as dawn was breaking on June 6, 1944. The invasion weakened the Nazis' hold on Western Europe after they suffered a punishing defeat in Stalingrad in the east.</p> <p>Wednesday's ceremonies were relatively low-key, while bigger events are planned for the 75th anniversary next year.</p> |
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| HEADLINE | 06/06 South America economies sputtering |
| SOURCE | https://www.bloombergquint.com/global-economics/2018/06/05/south-american-economies-dive-south-as-growth-outlook-dims |
| GIST | <p>(Bloomberg) -- Pro-business leaders in South America's largest economies are struggling to spark growth as their policies run head-on into domestic crises and emerging market turbulence.</p> <p>Brazil and Argentina have seen their 2018 growth estimates cut from around 3 percent earlier this year to 2.2 percent and 1.3 percent, respectively, according to economists surveyed by their central banks. More downside revisions are on tap, with JPMorgan Chase & Co. recently lowering its Brazil call to a mere 1.2 percent this year. Some analysts say Argentina may even fall into a brief recession.</p> <p>Brazil and Argentina were expected to regain momentum this year after emerging from recession in 2017 under the market-friendly policies of presidents Michel Temer and Mauricio Macri. But their fortunes were reversed when global market volatility exacerbated their domestic problems. An unsustainable budget deficit forced Argentina to seek help from the IMF while political uncertainty is on the rise in Brazil ahead of its election in October.</p> <p>On top of that, a severe drought made things worse for Argentina, while a massive trucker strike paralyzed the Brazilian economy. The Argentine peso has slid more than 20 percent so far this year, even after the central bank raised rates to 40 percent, while the Brazilian real has accumulated losses of more than 10 percent.</p> <p>"We expect the Argentine economy to continue to decelerate markedly in the coming months," Itau economists Juan Carlos Barboza and Diego Ciongo wrote in a note to clients, citing the impact of the drought, tighter macro policies and lower real wages. "The international environment, including Brazil's growth and financial conditions, is also less supportive."</p> <p>Other South American economies are faring better so far. Chile grew at its fastest pace in more than five years in April, buoyed by the return of market-friendly President Sebastian Pinera. The Colombian economy is also seen accelerating toward a 3 percent growth rate in 2019.</p> <p>Still, that may not be enough to overcome the drag from the region's largest economies.</p> <p>"The impact on the region is significant as Brazil and Argentina account for more than half of South America's economy," said Pedro Tuesta, senior economist with 4Cast Ltd consultancy in Washington.</p> |
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| HEADLINE | 06/05 Kitsap Co. deputy saves 7 from fire |
| SOURCE | http://komonews.com/news/local/quick-acting-deputy-saves-7-lives-from-kitsap-co-house-fire |
| GIST | <p>PORT ORCHARD, Wash. - A Kitsap County sheriff's deputy on routine patrol jumped into action and saved the lives of seven people early Tuesday after he spotted a home on fire.</p> <p>The drama unfolded at about 5:10 a.m. as Deputy B. Harrin was patrolling in the 1600 block of SE Holman Road in south Kitsap County.</p> |

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| | <p>He saw flames and smoke billowing from the home and immediately ran there, waking up the residents and helping them to escape the fire.</p> <p>In all, seven residents were rescued from the home, including one person with disabilities.</p> <p>Crews from the South Kitsap Fire District arrived on scene and extinguished the blaze, but the damage was extensive and the home was declared a total loss.</p> <p>The cause of the fire is under investigation.</p> |
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| HEADLINE | 06/04 Seattle breaks up homeless camp clusters |
| SOURCE | https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/homeless/42000-pounds-of-garbage-seattle-quietly-cleaning-up-clearing-out-hot-spots-for-people-living-in-vehicles/ |
| GIST | <p>The city of Seattle has launched a new effort to clean up, and potentially break up, clusters of homeless vehicle campers with trash bags and, if necessary, tow trucks.</p> <p>The program, which quietly started in mid-May, has resulted in the collection of almost 42,000 pounds of garbage and waste from cleanups around RVs and other vehicles parked in Sodo, Georgetown, Ballard and the Central District.</p> <p>But in the meantime, residents of these vans and RVs continue to play a cat-and-mouse game with the city to avoid getting towed. At a cleanup in Sodo last week, several RV and camper residents simply moved a few blocks away from where they had originally parked.</p> <p>The new initiative comes as King County’s annual homeless Point in Time count found, once again, that homeless vehicle camping outpaced homeless people sleeping in tents. The snapshot count found more than 3,300 people sleeping in vehicles in the county, a 46 percent increase from the previous year.</p> <p>The cleanup program started on a smaller scale in Sodo in November but has been expanded citywide, in an effort to address serious public-health hazards around vehicles doubling as people’s homes.</p> <p>Until this program, that was largely done on a case-by-case basis, said Stephanie Formas, communications director for Mayor Jenny Durkan.</p> <p>City officials reiterated they aren’t trying to force people out of their vehicles or make them move out of a neighborhood. The concern is trying to address the vehicles that are generating large amounts of waste and other public-health hazards.</p> <p>In eight cleanups planned since May 11, Seattle has towed seven vehicles, while 101 others left voluntarily. In fact, the city canceled two of those cleanups because all the vehicles had pre-emptively moved and left behind no trash, Formas said.</p> <p>One person living in a towed vehicle moved into a tiny-house village, the city said.</p> <p>Seattle has struggled for years to address the needs of people living in vehicles — caught between businesses and neighborhood leaders who want the city to consistently enforce parking laws, and advocates for homeless people who say those vehicles are a last resort in a city with increasingly high rents and home prices.</p> <p>Currently, Seattle has just one lot where the city allows a handful of vehicles to park long-term without fear of being ticketed or towed.</p> <p>Formas, with the mayor’s office, emphasized the new cleanup program is separate from the city’s strategy</p> |

to deal with vehicle residency. Durkan said last week she's studying safe-parking programs in other cities, including a program in San Diego featured in a recent Seattle Times story.

The tension over vehicle residency was highlighted in a King County Superior Court ruling in March, when a judge said that, because a vehicle can be defined as someone's home, imposing high towing fees and attaching a lien to the vehicle violated the U.S. Constitution and the state homestead act. Seattle is appealing.

By 9 a.m. last Wednesday morning, police officers, public-utilities workers and cleanup crews had gathered near the intersection of Sixth Avenue South and South Snoqualmie Street, a spot where vehicle campers had been living for months.

Five days earlier, the city had posted a notice there announcing an area cleanup. Vehicles that had been parked on the block for more than 72 hours, in violation of a city parking rule, were tagged with orange stickers, warning them to move by the day of the cleanup. Otherwise, they'd be towed.

The pilot program, a city blog post said, is designed to "engage RV occupants to voluntarily move their RVs," allowing city crews to remove trash and "immobile vehicles left behind." The post, however, does not explicitly say that vehicles could be towed as part of the program.

"The goal is to encourage cleanup around the vehicles," Formas said. "This is also to make sure people's belongings aren't improperly cleaned up," and they have time to move their possessions. Anything left behind, she said, is assumed to be garbage.

Sites are selected based on the number of vehicles clustered in the location, and "safety" and "health" conditions, including fire-damaged RVs, documented criminal activity in the area, needles, rats or the presence of human or chemical waste.

These are similar to rules set by Seattle to justify cleaning up unsanctioned tent encampments. Unlike residents of tent camps, there is no requirement that vehicle residents be offered shelter.

And also, unlike tent camps, the city's Navigation Team — a collection of outreach workers and police officers who connect campers to shelter — isn't involved in the vehicle cleanups unless there are tents nearby, the city said. Instead, Seattle police officers will do outreach at the sites.

At Wednesday's cleanup, most vehicles parked along Sixth Avenue were gone when city workers from an alphabet soup of departments — utilities, parks, police, transportation and administrative services — showed up.

For the few campers that remained, it was a race to get their RVs running before tow trucks arrived.

One man with a beat-up green minivan helped tow away two of his friends' RVs. Another couple got help from a friend who hitched up their blue and white camper to his pickup. Down the block, two men used jumper cables to help another man get his RV started.

"If people would keep their area clean, we probably wouldn't have as bad a problem as we have," said a woman who asked to be referred to only by Sheila, whose RV was towed out by the man in the green minivan.

"We all move in the same area. We all stay together. We all help each other out," Sheila said.

Many of the vehicles simply relocated farther north along Sixth Avenue, finding another curb along which to park.

Just before 11 a.m., the first Lincoln Towing truck arrived.

Calvin Hawk had been living in a Chevrolet Astro minivan along Sixth for the last two months. But the battery was dead and the van had a steering-wheel problem. He was out of luck.

Getting it back was unlikely. His sister gifted him the van. He didn't have the title.

Vehicles that are towed can be retrieved after the owner pays impound and storage fees, but that requires proof of ownership. Often people living in the vehicles don't actually hold the titles, buying them in under-the-table deals.

"I knew they were coming today," Hawk said of the cleanup. "I didn't know exactly when. I didn't know if someone was going to help me move it. So I didn't have all my stuff prepared."

A worker with Seattle Public Utilities stood beside him, trying to help him find shelter and decide what items he wanted to keep or discard. He shrugged. Maybe he'd just abandon all of it, he said.

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| HEADLINE | 06/05 Seattle PD change tactics w/protesters |
| SOURCE | https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/crime/slaying-the-sleeping-dragon-seattle-police-change-tactics-to-counter-traffic-blocking-protesters/ |
| GIST | <p>In March, opponents of King County's new juvenile detention center were able to bring Friday traffic to a grinding halt for about six hours and shed light on their cause by <u>simply lying down</u> in the middle of a downtown Seattle intersection.</p> <p>They resisted easy arrest by employing a tactic called the "sleeping dragon," in which participants form a human chain, hand to hand, with arms linked while inside a piece of PVC tubing.</p> <p>Sometimes protesters in sleeping dragons are handcuffed to one another inside the tubing, which can be encased in concrete — or wrapped in chicken wire and duct tape, as was the case on Tuesday morning <u>when people opposing immigration policies employed the technique while lying in the street at Second Avenue and Madison Street.</u></p> <p>Simply cutting off the tubing runs the risk of injuring protesters, slowing the removal.</p> <p>"Removing these devices is slow, deliberate work." Seattle police tweeted during Tuesday's protest. "The safety of all involved is paramount."</p> <p>But members of the department's new Apparatus Removal Team (ART) were able to separate the nine protesters and take them into custody in about an hour and a half.</p> <p>Seattle police spokesman Sgt. Sean Whitcomb said creation of the team was in direct response to the earlier protest. "The March demonstration was new to us," he said Tuesday. "So we provided traffic management and supported the event as it unfolded, planning for it to end by the evening commute.</p> <p>"We learned from that experience and have adapted accordingly," he added. "As they change their tactics, our training, tactics and equipment change, too."</p> <p>Seattle police typically handle about 300 demonstrations a year. Most are non-disruptive and peaceful, but in the past couple of months, Whitcomb said protesters have employed sleeping dragons to slow their dispersal and disrupt the rush-hour commute.</p> <p>He said members of ART are specially trained officers who have the knowledge, experience and equipment to cut through plastic and metal without hurting protesters. Because sleeping dragons vary in composition, the team relies on different tools, he said.</p> |

Whitcomb was cautious about revealing too many details about the tools and tactics used by officers on the ART.

On Tuesday, a lieutenant first gave the immigration protesters with the Northwest Detention Center Resistance and activist group Mijente a two-minute warning to disperse and clear the road or face arrest. When the six men and three women ignored the order, members of the team then used large pliers and a Dremel rotary tool to cut into the sleeping dragon.

Police say once they cut into the tubing they slip a brightly colored piece of plastic inside so it rests against the protesters' skin. When they continue to cut or drill into the tubing the plastic shavings alert officers when they are getting close to skin.

Once the officers had the protesters separated into one- or two-person sections, they were carried off the street and onto the sidewalk. There, officers worked more slowly and carefully to disconnect each individual as street traffic resumed.

The nine were booked into the King County Jail for investigation of pedestrian interference. They selected the site because the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Immigration and Customs Enforcement and immigration court is housed at 1000 Second Ave.

“Although Seattle and King County claim to be “sanctuaries” for immigrants, the Seattle Police Department and the King County Sheriff actively collaborate on joint task forces with this branch of ICE leading to prosecutions and deportations. These collaborations must end,” Mijente said in a news release. Organizers of the No New Youth Jail Coalition, which staged the March protest, have acknowledged that their strategy includes disrupting traffic to bring attention to their cause.

“We have won so much today,” coalition organizer Julianna Alson said in March. “We shut down the streets, we shut down business as usual, we shut down rush hour, we shut down the status quo.”

Whitcomb said the ART officers will be busy as long as the sleeping dragon is used in protests.

“This is fundamentally civil disobedience. They recognize they may be arrested but they didn't sign up to be injured,” he said of protesters. “We want to get them out of the road, but we have to be a very careful and methodical dismantling these devices.”

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| HEADLINE | 06/05 No charges NJ officers beach beating |
| SOURCE | https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation-now/2018/06/05/beach-punch-video-new-jersey-officers-wont-face-charges/675851002/ |
| GIST | <p>Three police officers who were videotaped arresting a Philadelphia woman at a New Jersey beach, one of whom was filmed punching her in the back of the head, <u>will not face criminal charges</u>, prosecutors announced Tuesday.</p> <p>A video of the May 26 arrest, which only captured part of the encounter and included a Wildwood officer apparently punching 20-year-old Emily Weinman, went viral shortly after the arrest. Body camera footage that city police later released appeared to show Weinman backing away from an officer who tried to handcuff her, then shove him in the torso.</p> <p>The Cape May County Prosecutor's Office determined the officers had not broken any state laws governing use of force and referred the investigation back to the city police department's internal affairs office, prosecutor Jeffrey H. Sutherland wrote in a prepared statement. The prosecutor's office's Professional Standards Unit will monitor the city investigation.</p> <p>Police officers had originally questioned Weinman about alcohol when they approached her on the beach.</p> |

They administered a breath test and one officer can be heard saying in part of the body camera footage that they would have Weinman or her group pour out alcohol at the scene. The officers changed their minds at some point and decided to take Weinman into custody.

In a prepared statement at the time police released their footage, Wildwood Police Chief Robert N. Regalbuto said that Weinman "forcibly struck" an officer trying to arrest her, turning off his body camera, but that the camera reactivated as a struggle ensued. The three officers involved in the arrest — Thomas Cannon, John Hillman and Robert Jordan — were put on administrative duty pending the outcome of the internal affairs investigation, police announced the day after the incident.

"As county prosecutor, I recognize that the video footage has raised a lot of questions regarding the officers' actions. A decision such as this is not based on emotion; it is based upon applying the proper laws, policies and directives that govern law enforcement," Sutherland wrote in his statement. "Members of the public should understand that no matter what your opinion is regarding the subject event, it is not based on a full review of the evidence."

Weinman's attorney, Stephen P. Dicht, took a different view.

"My only comment is, of all the participants in that scuffle, OK, the only one that was charged was the one who was beaten on the head," Dicht told the Asbury Park Press in a phone interview.

Police charged Weinman with two counts of aggravated assault on a police officer, aggravated assault by spitting bodily fluids at or on a police officer, disorderly conduct, resisting arrest, obstruction and underage possession of alcohol, they announced May 27. Her attorney said she intended to fight the charges in court.

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| HEADLINE | 06/05 Groups decry beating by Oregon deputy |
| SOURCE | http://sanfrancisco.cbslocal.com/2018/06/05/oregon-deputy-suspect-beating-caught-camera/ |
| GIST | <p>Civil rights groups in Oregon are calling for an investigation after a video showed police punching a prone man in the head at least 16 times.</p> <p>The video shows four officers converging on a man standing on a street, then pulling him to the ground, with three officers holding his limbs and one straddling his back. As one officer appears to struggle to force one of the man's arms behind his back, another begins punching him in the head.</p> <p>Through the punches, the man, identified as 28-year-old Kevin Straw, repeatedly shouts "I am not resisting." The video was shot by Portland, Oregon, TV station KGW.</p> <p>The American Civil Liberties Union and the state chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations both called for investigations.</p> <p>The Marion County Sheriff's Office said the arrest happened Monday after Straw repeatedly shouted at officers involved in the search for two missing fishermen in the Detroit, Oregon, area. The sheriff's office said it's reviewing the officers' use of force, and that an outside agency would perform an additional review.</p> <p>The release also said Straw had been contacted earlier by crisis intervention specialists after reports he had been yelling at passers-by in the area.</p> <p>In the video, an officer forces Straw's right arm behind his back, and another grabs his left arm. But as the officers together lower the man toward the ground, face down, Straw extends his left arm in front of himself. As Straw is punched, an officer can be heard saying, "get your hand behind your back."</p> |

After the punches are delivered, a fifth officer jogs to the scene and puts his knee on Straw's head. Aside from extending his arm, Straw does not appear to struggle in the video, and is eventually handcuffed.

In a later release, the sheriff's office identified the five deputies involved in the arrest and said one, Jake Thompson, had been reassigned to non-patrol duties pending the outcome of the review.

David Rogers, head of the American Civil Liberties Union in Oregon, said it wasn't clear why officers used force on the prone man.

"It looked like they were in pretty complete control, and yet a deputy proceeded to punch this man in the face 14 or 15 times," Rogers said. "It was incredibly disturbing."

Amy Queen, a spokeswoman for the Marion County district attorney said the office is consulting with the sheriff's office, but is not independently investigating the incident.

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HEADLINE 06/06 Guatemala volcano death toll rises

SOURCE <https://www.cnn.com/2018/06/06/americas/guatemala-fuego-volcano-eruption/index.html>

GIST (CNN)Explosions are intensifying at Guatemala's Fuego volcano as emergency crews continue the search Wednesday for nearly 200 people reported missing.

More pyroclastic flow -- a nasty mix of ash, rock and volcanic gases that can be much more dangerous than lava -- is streaming down the volcano once again threatening villages southeast of the volcano, Guatemala's National Institute of Seismology, Vulcanology, Meteorology and Hydrology (Insivumeh) said in a statement.

"The conditions are extremely critical at this moment," the agency's director Eddy Sanchez said in a televised press conference on Tuesday.

Search and rescue operations were temporarily suspended Tuesday when rescuers, police officers and volunteers were forced to evacuate as strong explosions in the volcano began.

Some explosions sent ash plume 16,405 feet into the sky, according to Insivumeh.

The volcano is about 25 miles southwest of the capital, Guatemala City, and near the colonial city of Antigua.

Three days after the Fuego volcano exploded, several towns remain covered in thick ash and rescuers scramble navigating the steaming debris.

At least 192 people remain missing and at least 75 have died, according to Sergio Cabañas, the executive secretary of Guatemala's National Coordination for Disaster Reduction.

Only 23 victims have been identified, including two girls ages 3 and 6, Guatemala's National Institute of Forensic Sciences (INACIF) said in a statement.

It's unclear whether some of the people missing are among the unidentified bodies, Cabañas said.

"We are not only talking about what has been described as the volcano's biggest eruption since 1974. We are talking about a tragedy, a national mourning," Guatemala President Jimmy Morales said.

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| HEADLINE | 06/06 China removed missiles disputed island? |
| SOURCE | https://www.cnn.com/2018/06/06/asia/south-china-sea-missiles-satellite-intl/index.html |
| GIST | <p>Hong Kong (CNN)Beijing may have removed missile systems from a disputed island in the South China Sea even as it accused the US of sending "attacking weapons" to the region.</p> <p>The deployment of a number of missile systems to the Spratly and Paracel Islands in May sparked an angry rebuke from Washington about Beijing's "militarization" of the sea, almost all of which is claimed by China.</p> <p>It was followed by a B-52 bomber flyover of the Spratlys this week, which the US said was part of a "routine training mission."</p> <p>New analysis from Israeli intelligence firm ImageSat International (ISI) suggests the Chinese missile systems may have been removed or relocated.</p> <p>On Wednesday, Beijing said it was the US, not China, which was militarizing the region.</p> <p>"I hope the US can explain to everyone: Isn't it militarization when you send attacking weapons like the B-52 bombers to the South China Sea? Were the B-52s there for freedom of navigation and overflight? If someone frequently flexes his muscles or snoops around near your house, shouldn't you raise your alertness and improve your defense capabilities?" Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said at a regular press conference.</p> <p>"China will not be intimidated by any planes or ships. We will only be firmer in our resolve to take all necessary measures to safeguard our sovereignty and security as well as maintain peace and stability in the South China Sea."</p> <p>Previous satellite imagery showed a number of missile launchers and a radar system on the shore of the disputed Woody Island in the Paracel chain, covered by camouflage netting.</p> <p>Those have now disappeared, in what ISI said could indicate a decision by Beijing to remove them, or redeploy them to other parts of the South China Sea.</p> <p>"On the other hand, it may be a regular practice," the firm said. "If so, within the next few days we may observe a redeployment in the same area."</p> |
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| HEADLINE | 06/06 US bombers fly near contested islands |
| SOURCE | https://www.cnn.com/2018/06/04/politics/us-b52-spratly-flyover/index.html |
| GIST | <p>Washington (CNN)Two US B-52 bombers flew within the vicinity of the contested Spratly Islands in the South China Sea on Tuesday, according to a statement from US Pacific Air Forces, which oversees air operations in the region.</p> <p>The flyover came days after Secretary of Defense James Mattis called Beijing out over its militarization of the islands, accusing China of "intimidation and coercion" in the Indo-Pacific, making clear the US has no plans to leave the region and prompting a furious Chinese response.</p> <p>Beijing claims the Spratly Islands, but those claims aren't recognized by the US or by China's neighbors -- Malaysia, Vietnam, the Philippines and Taiwan -- which also say the islands are theirs. China has used geographic features in the Spratlys to build man-made islands, some of which it has equipped with military facilities, including anti-ship and anti-aircraft missiles.</p> <p>A US defense official who has knowledge of the mission's original flight plan said it called for the nuclear capable B-52 bombers to fly about 20 miles from the islands.</p> |

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| | <p>A spokesman for the Pentagon said the mission involved the Guam-based bombers conducting "a routine training mission," flying from Andersen Air Force Base in the US territory of Guam "to the Navy Support Facility" in the United Kingdom's Indian Ocean territory of Diego Garcia.</p> <p>On Tuesday, the bombers flew from Diego Garcia and conducted "training" in the vicinity of the South China Sea, returning back to Diego Garcia the same day, according to the statement from US Pacific Air Forces.</p> <p>CNN initially reported that the flyover took place Monday, based on information from the US defense official who later clarified that the flyover took place Tuesday and not during the initial leg of the aircraft's journey Monday from Andersen to Diego Garcia.</p> <p>Both flight operations were part of US Pacific Command's "Continuous Bomber Presence" missions, which the military says are intended to maintain the readiness of US forces.</p> |
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| <p>HEADLINE</p> | <p>06/05 Hawaii: 12,000 quakes in 30 days</p> |
| <p>SOURCE</p> | <p>https://www.cnn.com/2018/06/05/us/hawaii-volcano-by-the-numbers/index.html</p> |
| <p>GIST</p> | <p>(CNN)From earthquakes to seeping lava, Hawaii's Big Island has seen plenty from nature since the first eruptions of Kilauea volcano. And the lava keeps spewing, swallowing homes and igniting fears of more destruction to come.</p> <p>Here's what the disaster looks like, by the numbers:</p> <p>12,000 earthquakes Since May 4, there have been more than 12,000 earthquakes, according to US Geological Survey geologist Janet Babb. The quakes can be felt right near the Kilauea summit, Babb said. The Big Island usually gets its fair share of quakes. But activity in the last 30 days has far outpaced its historical monthly average of 1,000. The biggest was a 6.9-magnitude temblor on May 4.</p> <p>30,000 feet The tallest ash plume at the summit of Kilauea volcano reached 30,000 feet above sea level, the USGS says.</p> <p>'Hundreds' of homes At least 117 homes had earlier been reported destroyed in the four weeks since lava began flowing, according to Hawaii Civil Defense Administrator Talmadge Magno. Overnight Monday, "hundreds" more were destroyed in Kapoho Beach Lots and Vacationland, said Janet Snyder, a Hawaii Civil Defense Service spokeswoman. The number is sure to grow because assessments aren't finished, Magno said.</p> <p>7.7 square miles About 7.7 square miles are covered by lava, which is about 0.2% of Hawaii Island, according to the USGS.</p> <p>250 feet The highest lava fountain measured so far has reached 250 feet. That's a lot of lava, but flow volumes can be extraordinarily difficult to measure, the USGS said.</p> |
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| <p>HEADLINE</p> | <p>06/05 More open jobs than job seekers</p> |
| <p>SOURCE</p> | <p>https://www.cbsnews.com/news/the-u-s-now-has-more-open-jobs-than-job-seekers/</p> |

WASHINGTON - For the first time on record, the number of job openings in the U.S. exceeds the number of unemployed Americans -- a trend that may soon give workers more leverage to demand pay raises.

With employers struggling to fill openings, the number of available jobs in April rose 1 percent to 6.7 million from 6.6 million in March, the Labor Department said Tuesday. That's the most since records began in December 2000.

The figures underscore the consistent strength of the nation's job market. The unemployment rate has reached an 18-year low of 3.8 percent. Employers have added jobs for a record 92 straight months. And the abundance of openings suggests that hiring will continue and the unemployment rate will fall even further. Not since December 1969, when the rate was 3.5 percent, has unemployment been lower than it is now.

Employers appear confident about the economic outlook and growth. Analysts expect faster consumer spending to help accelerate growth to roughly a 3.5 percent annual rate in the April-June quarter, after growth had lagged slightly in the first three months of the year.

In July 2009, just as the Great Recession was officially ending, there were on average 6.7 unemployed people for each job. Now, that figure has fallen to just 0.95 jobless people per opening.

The sharpest increase in openings in April was in a category called professional and business services, which includes a range of occupations such as accountants, architects and engineers. Increased openings were also especially evident among manufacturers and at hotels and restaurants.

Regionally, the largest increases in available jobs in April were in the Midwest and West. Open jobs in the Northeast and South barely changed.

Yet it's not clear that employers are trying very hard to fill all their open jobs. Online job boards and software that makes it easier to scan resumes for keywords also make it easier for employers to post openings and initially screen applications, even if they're not actually prepared to hire.

The surest sign that employers were scrambling for workers would be steady pay gains, as businesses bid higher for the workers they need. Yet wage increases remain sluggish, compared with previous periods when the unemployment rate was this low.

Hourly pay rose 2.8 percent in May on average for all workers, excluding managers, compared with a year earlier. In April 2000, the last time the unemployment rate was as low as it is now, hourly pay jumped nearly 4 percent from the previous year.

That may indicate that employers aren't as desperate to hire as the robust number of job openings would suggest. For example, data from the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta show that workers who switch jobs are starting to enjoy healthier pay gains. That's a sign companies are willing to pay more to lure workers from other companies.

But by historical standards, pay increases are relatively low -- even for job-switchers. In April, wages for job-switchers rose 4 percent, on average. But in December 2000, near the peak of the late 1990s boom, they were receiving raises of 6.5 percent.

Martha Gimbel, director of economic research at job-listing site Indeed, points out that pay increases for Americans who remain in their jobs are actually falling. Wages for job-stayers were up just 2.9 percent in April, compared with 3.7 percent six months earlier.

Separate research from the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City, released last month, shows that 14.5 percent of people who remained in their jobs in early 2018 received no pay increase from a year earlier. That figure was just 11 percent before the Great Recession began in late 2007.

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| | "That is really astonishing to me at this point in the recovery," Gimbel said. "That just signals that employers are not worried about their employees being poached." |
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| HEADLINE | 06/05 Separated migrant kids stuck at border |
| SOURCE | https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/hundreds-migrant-kids-separated-parents-are-stuck-border-stations-n878696 |
| GIST | <p>WASHINGTON — Border agents and child welfare workers are running out of space to shelter children who have been separated from their parents at the U.S. border as part of the Trump administration's new "zero tolerance" policy, according to two U.S. officials and a document obtained by NBC News.</p> <p>As of Sunday, nearly 300 of the 550 children currently in custody at U.S. border stations had spent more than 72 hours there, the time limit for immigrants of any age to be held in the government's temporary facilities. Almost half of those 300 children are younger than 12, according to the document, meaning they are classified by the Department of Homeland Security as "tender age children."</p> <p>The stations, run by the Border Patrol and meant only as the first stop for children detained at the border, often lack adequate bedding or separate sleeping rooms for children.</p> <p>"It would be highly inappropriate and even unsafe to hold children for extended periods in these short-term border facilities because they often lack the adequate medical and nutritional resources for these young people," said Greg Chen, director of government relations for the American Immigration Lawyers Association. "It would place these children at risk of harm if they are housed with adults without the proper privacy that children should have."</p> <p>A spokesman for DHS did not respond to a request for comment.</p> <p>The overstays at border stations are a result of a backlog at U.S. Health and Human Services (HHS), the agency responsible for sheltering migrant children longer term and matching them with relatives or foster parents in the U.S. The agency's Administration for Children and Families has 11,200 unaccompanied children in its care and takes 45 days on average to place a child with a sponsor, according to a spokesperson.</p> <p>HHS officials will soon tour military installations near the border in Texas as they search for more space to house children while they wait for placement. The officials will tour Dyess Air Force Base, Goodfellow Air Force Base, and Fort Bliss, the spokesperson said.</p> <p>"HHS will make the determination if they will use any of the three sites for UAC (unaccompanied alien children) operations," the spokesperson said.</p> <p>A Defense Department spokesperson said HHS was the lead agency and referred NBC News to HHS.</p> <p>Military bases have been used to house migrant children in the past, but only as a last resort, according to an Obama administration official.</p> <p>In May, the Trump administration began enforcing a "zero tolerance" policy on the southern border, prosecuting any adult who entered the country illegally in order to crack down on the surge in the number of immigrants crossing the border.</p> <p>Parents traveling with children are separated from their kids while they face legal proceedings. Two U.S. officials said HHS was not given proper warning of the new policy and was caught unprepared at the influx of children.</p> <p>"What's happening now is a broad indication of a total lack of planning or forethought for the policy they</p> |

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| | <p>enacted," said Peter Boogaard, a former DHS and White House official in the Obama administration who is now a spokesman for the immigration reform group FWD.us. "They didn't think this through at all — what it would mean for kids, for their parents and for the operational challenges."</p> <p>"Instead of having Border Patrol agents at the border, you have them taking care of kids at border stations."</p> |
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| HEADLINE | 06/05 US warns against financial deals w/Iran |
| SOURCE | https://www.nbcnews.com/news/world/u-s-warns-allies-against-financial-dealings-iran-n880311 |
| GIST | <p>WASHINGTON — The United States warned governments and the private sector on Tuesday to crack down on what it described as Iranian efforts to exploit them to fund its support for terrorism, destabilizing actions in the region and rights abuses at home.</p> <p>The appeal, in a speech by the senior U.S. Treasury official for terrorism and financial intelligence, follows U.S. President Donald Trump's May 8 decision to abandon the 2015 Iran nuclear deal and to reimpose U.S. sanctions on the Islamic Republic.</p> <p>"You must harden your financial networks, require your companies to do extra due diligence to keep them from being caught in Iran's deceptive web, and make clear the very significant risks of doing business with companies and persons there," Under Secretary of the Treasury Sigal Mandelker said.</p> <p>"Companies doing business in Iran face substantial risks, and those risks are even greater as we reimpose nuclear-related sanctions," she added. "We will hold those doing prohibited business in Iran to account."</p> <p>The U.S. decision to leave the pact, under which Iran agreed to limit its nuclear program in return for relief from economic sanctions, has antagonized its other parties: Britain, China, France, Germany and Russia.</p> <p>With U.S. sanctions returning between now and Nov. 4, it is not clear how enthusiastic U.S. allies or other nations such as China may be to comply with those sanctions, particularly those requiring foreign firms to reduce their imports of Iranian oil.</p> <p>The weight of the U.S. financial system and the reality of companies having to choose between selling to Iran or to the vast U.S. market, is likely to force many private firms to comply.</p> |
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| HEADLINE | 06/05 Seattle 22% nation's bikeshare bikes |
| SOURCE | https://www.king5.com/article/news/local/seattle-has-22-percent-of-the-countrys-bikeshare-bikes-l-geekwire/281-561579312 |
| GIST | <p>There were 10,000 dockless bike share bikes scattered across Seattle at the end of 2017, nearly a quarter of all units nationwide.</p> <p>That was one of the findings in a new study of Seattle's bike sharing program released Monday by the Seattle Department of Transportation. It comes as the city is determining long-term regulations for dockless bike sharing companies. The study found that the 10,000 bikes from Spin, LimeBike, and Ofo were ridden 468,000 times from July 2017 to the end of the year.</p> <p>The study underscores the rapid growth of bike sharing in Seattle and the city's status of a nationwide proving ground for the concept. The program only kicked off last summer, when the city granted permits to Spin and LimeBike starting with 500 bikes a piece, a threshold that was increased later in the year. In August, Chinese bike share company Ofo jumped into the fray.</p> |
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| HEADLINE | 06/05 Suicide warning signs |
| SOURCE | https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2018/06/05/suicide-warning-signs-prevention-help/675748002/ |
| GIST | <p>The apparent suicide of fashion icon Kate Spade is raising awareness about prevention.</p> <p>About 39,500 people died of suicide in 2011. That's more deaths than from murder, prostate cancer or car accidents, according to the American Association of Suicidology.</p> <p>Some of the most frequently cited risk factors for suicide include mental disorders, depression, a prior suicide attempt, family history and exposure to other people's suicidal behavior, according to the National Institutes of Health.</p> <p>So how do you know when a loved one needs help?</p> <p>Warning signs</p> <p>According to the American Foundation of Suicide Prevention, some of the warning signs of suicide are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Talking about wanting to die. About 50%-75% of people who attempt suicide tell someone about it first.• Finding ways to kill themselves, like hoarding medicine or buying a gun.• Insomnia• Losing interest in things and becoming withdrawn from family and friends. <p>What to do</p> <p>If you know someone who is thinking about suicide, you should not leave them by themselves. Also, remove anything that might be harmful to the person, such as guns, according to NIH.</p> <p>"Try to get your loved one to seek immediate help from his or her doctor or the nearest hospital emergency room, or call 911," NIH says on its website.</p> <p>You can also call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-TALK (8255).</p> |
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| HEADLINE | 06/05 Nasdaq closes at record high |
| SOURCE | https://www.newsmax.com/finance/markets/nasdaq-stocks-market-dow/2018/06/05/id/864317/ |
| GIST | <p>The Nasdaq closed at a record high for the second day in a row with help from the technology and consumer discretionary sectors, while the S&P 500 edged higher as investors eyed solid U.S. economic data.</p> <p>However, bank stocks declined along with U.S. Treasury yields, and investors appeared to favor bonds over defensive equity sectors such as utilities and consumer staples.</p> <p>The U.S. services sector activity accelerated in May, pointing to robust economic growth in the second quarter, although trade tariffs and a shortage of workers posed a threat to the outlook.</p> <p>"The economy continues to be a very strong foundation for the stock market. What seems to be concerning markets today is the possibility for a slowdown outside of the United States," said Tracie McMillion, head of global asset allocation strategy for Wells Fargo Investment Institute, in Winston-Salem, North Carolina.</p> <p>The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 13.71 points, or 0.06 percent, to 24,799.98, the S&P 500 gained 1.93 points, or 0.07 percent, to 2,748.8 and the Nasdaq Composite added 31.40 points, or 0.41 percent, to 7,637.86.</p> |

The Nasdaq's biggest boost was from Amazon.com, which rose 1.9 percent, also leading gains in the S&P consumer discretionary index. Apple rose 0.8 percent, contributing the biggest point gains to the technology index and the second biggest for the Nasdaq.

The Cboe Volatility Index, the most widely followed barometer of expected near-term volatility for the S&P 500, closed down 0.34 point at 12.4, its lowest close since Jan. 26. The financial sector was the S&P's biggest drag with a 0.4 percent decline. Bank of America and Citibank fell around 0.9 percent. Banks often trade in line with Treasury yields as higher rates can boost their profits.

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HEADLINE 06/06 Report: Medicare finances worsening

SOURCE <https://abcnews.go.com/Health/wireStory/trustees-report-warns-medicare-finances-worsening-55676730?>

GIST Medicare will run out of money sooner than expected, and Social Security's financial problems can't be ignored either, the government said Tuesday in a sobering checkup on programs vital to the middle class.

The report from program trustees says Medicare will become insolvent in 2026 — three years earlier than previously forecast. Its giant trust fund for inpatient care won't be able to fully cover projected medical bills starting at that point.

The report says Social Security will become insolvent in 2034 — no change from the projection last year.

The warning serves as a reminder of major issues still languishing while Washington plunges deeper into partisan strife. Because of the deterioration in Medicare's finances, officials said the Trump administration will be required by law to send Congress a plan next year to address the problems, after the president's budget is submitted.

Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said in a statement that there's time to fix the problems. "The programs remain secure," Mnuchin said. Medicare "is on track to meet its obligations to beneficiaries well into the next decade."

"However, certain long-term issues persist," the statement added. "Lack-luster economic growth in previous years, coupled with an aging population, has contributed to the projected shortages for both Social Security and Medicare."

Social Security recipients are likely to see a cost of living increase of about 2.4 percent next year, said government number-crunchers who produced the report. That works out to about \$31 a month.

At the same time, the monthly Medicare "Part B" premium for outpatient care paid by most beneficiaries is projected to rise by about \$1.50, to \$135.50.

Both the cost-of-living increase and the Medicare outpatient premium are not officially determined until later in the year, and the initial projections can change.

More than 62 million retirees, disabled workers, spouses and surviving children receive Social Security benefits. The average monthly payment is \$1,294 for all beneficiaries. Medicare provides health insurance for about 60 million people, most of whom are age 65 or older.

Together the two programs have been credited with dramatically reducing poverty among older people and extending life expectancy for Americans. Financed with payroll taxes collected from workers and employers, Social Security and Medicare account for about 40 percent of government spending, excluding interest on the federal debt.

But demands on both programs are increasing as America ages.

Unless lawmakers act, both programs face the prospect of being unable to cover the full cost of promised benefits. With Social Security that could mean sharply reduced payments for retirees, many of whom are already on tight budgets. The report said the total annual cost of Social Security is projected to exceed total annual income in 2018 for the first time since the Reagan era, meaning the program will have to tap into reserves.

For Medicare, insolvency would mean that hospitals, nursing homes and other providers of medical care would be paid only part of their agreed-upon fees.

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HEADLINE 06/06 Post-traumatic stress disorder or PTSD

SOURCE <https://abcnews.go.com/Health/post-traumatic-stress-disorder/story?>

GIST For people suffering distress after experiencing a serious trauma, it can be hard to find any relief. Post-traumatic stress disorder has been reported to feel like being trapped in a room without any exits and can cause trouble with everyday activities like sleeping or functioning at work.

Even the singer Ariana Grande said she suffers from the troubling disorder known as PTSD after the Manchester Arena bombing during her concert on May 22, 2017 killed 22 people.

She said she doesn't think she'll ever be able to talk about the bombing without crying.

"It's hard to talk about because so many people have suffered such severe, tremendous loss," Grande said. "But, yeah, it's a real thing."

What is PTSD?

Post-traumatic stress disorder is a form of anxiety that can happen after experiencing or witnessing actual or near death, serious injury like car accidents or natural disasters, war-related violence, terrorism or sexual violence, according to the American Psychiatric Association.

While most people typically connect this disorder to military veterans or refugees, it can happen to anyone.

PTSD is not a sign of weakness and people can be affected by PTSD, even when they were not directly part of the traumatic event.

The exposure can happen to witnesses of a traumatic event in person, like for Ariana Grande, and to people who learn that the traumatic event happened to a loved one. Repeated or extreme exposure to details of a traumatic event, such as pictures or movies, can also cause PTSD.

What are the symptoms?

PTSD symptoms usually start after the traumatic event, but they may not appear until months or years later, according to the National Center for PTSD. They also may come and go over many years. Symptoms may last longer than one month, cause great distress, or interfere with a person's work or home life.

Most people have four types of symptoms after the event and may not be the same for all: reliving the event, avoiding people or places, having more negative feelings and being in a state of hyper-arousal.

PTSD sufferers often relive the traumatic event over and over through bad memories, nightmares or flashbacks.

They may avoid people, places or things that are reminders of the traumatic event.

Over time, PTSD can also affect the way sufferers think about themselves and others. They often report having more negative beliefs and feelings. This can include feeling guilt or shame, losing interest in previously enjoyed activities, losing trust in others or even finding it hard to be happy.

Some PTSD sufferers enter a state of hypervigilance or hyperarousal, during which they are easily startled, overly alert and "on edge." They can sometimes be more aggressive or irritable and engage in reckless, self-destructive behavior. These states can also cause difficulty with concentration and sleeping.

How common is the disorder?

About 8 percent of people in the United States and Europe are affected by PTSD, according to the National Center for PTSD. There are some things that make it more likely to be affected by the disorder such as having a long-lasting trauma, getting hurt, or having a strong reaction to the event.

PTSD is more than twice as common in women, according to the National Center for PTSD, possibly because women are more likely to experience sexual violence, and at least half of Americans have had a traumatic event in their lives.

How is PTSD treated?

PTSD treatment can be life-changing even if people have been struggling for years. Treatments are targeted at reducing the symptoms and "disturbances." There are two main types of treatment: psychotherapy, either counseling or "talk" therapy or medication.

Psychotherapy involves meeting with a therapist and sometimes a group. There are several approaches including trauma-focused therapy, prolonged exposure therapy and others, including group therapy. Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR) involves focusing on hand movements and sounds while recalling past trauma and can help the brain work through traumatic memories.

Medications such as antidepressants are a first-line treatment that can reduce the symptoms, but may take six to eight weeks to begin working.

Activities such as mindfulness, deep breathing exercises, stretching and yoga can sometimes ease symptoms.

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| HEADLINE | 06/05 Ethiopia accepts peace deal w/Eritrea |
| SOURCE | https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/ethiopia-accepts-peace-deal-longtime-rival-eritrea-55670514? |
| GIST | <p>Ethiopia has announced it will fully accept the terms of a peace agreement with neighboring Eritrea in a major step toward calming deadly tensions with its decades-long rival, as dramatic reforms under a new prime minister continue.</p> <p>The development Tuesday night came as the ruling party also announced that the East African nation, one of Africa's fastest-growing economies, will open up parts of state-owned enterprises in sectors such as energy, aviation and telecoms to private investment and others, such as railways and hotels, to full privatization.</p> <p>The news came just hours after Ethiopia lifted a state of emergency in what had been the biggest reform yet under new Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, who has promised change after more than two years of deadly anti-government protests demanding greater freedoms in Africa's second most populous country.</p> <p>But it is the prospect of peace with reclusive Eritrea that comes as the latest, and largest, surprise.</p> |

The peace agreement signed in 2000 ended a two-year border war that claimed the lives of tens of thousands of people, but a no-peace-no-war situation continued, with the two countries skirmishing from time to time. Ethiopia had refused to accept the deal's handing of key locations, including Badme, to Eritrea and continues to control that town.

Ethiopia's ruling party now accepts that agreement without conditions and calls on Eritrea's government to do the same, the state-affiliated Fana Broadcasting Corporate reported.

Tiny Eritrea is one of the world's most closed-off nations, ruled by President Isaias Afwerki since gaining independence from Ethiopia in 1993 after years of rebel warfare. Eritrea has become a major source of migrants fleeing toward Europe, Israel and African nations in recent years as human rights groups criticize its harsh military conscription laws.

When the 42-year-old Abiy was installed as Ethiopia's prime minister in April his inaugural speech mentioned the need for reconciliation with bitter rival Eritrea, raising hopes of peace.

"We are fully committed to reconcile with our Eritrean brothers and sisters and extend an invitation to the Eritrean government to start dialogue and establish rapport," he said in his address to Parliament.

Since Abiy took power his government has released several thousand prisoners and tensions in restive areas have dramatically declined. Foreign-based opposition parties have been invited to return home in an effort to create a national consensus in the country of nearly 110 million people.

But Ethiopia's economy had suffered as companies, including foreign ones, found themselves targeted in the anti-government protests. Tuesday's announcement on easing state-owned monopolies is "an effort to boost and modernize," the chief of staff said.

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| HEADLINE | 06/06 Singapore to host US, NKorea summit |
| SOURCE | https://abcnews.go.com/International/singapore-gears-host-trump-kim-summit/story? |
| GIST | <p>The on-again, off-again and now on-again summit between President Donald Trump and North Korea's leader Kim Jong Un is set for next week on a secluded island off the coast of Singapore, in southeast Asia.</p> <p>Both delegations have been in the small city-state nation since the end of May preparing for the historic June 12 meeting, which the White House said Tuesday would take place at the Capella Hotel, a five-star luxury resort on Sentosa Island.</p> <p>Luxury and seclusion</p> <p>The American team has already set up shop at the Capella Hotel, a short drive away from the main business center of the country. Joe Hagin, the White House deputy chief of staff, has reportedly met the leader of the North Korean delegation, Kim Chang Son, at the Capella to discuss the details of the summit. The two are finalizing the security, protocol and logistical details.</p> <p>The luxurious main reception area and guest villas were designed by Sir Norman Foster, a famous British architect who restored the former colonial buildings that once were used to house the British military during Imperial rule.</p> <p>The Capella has already stopped accepting bookings for the summit period, according to an executive in the hospitality industry, an early indication the hotel would be either where Trump would stay or the site of the summit.</p> <p>The Capella, which sits on 30 acres of lawn and rainforest, has banned journalists from entering the</p> |

property since the U.S. delegation arrived. A Washington Post reporter was expelled from the grounds after trying to speak to the diplomats.

Kim Jong Un's hotel

The North Korean delegation has been seen coming and going from the Fullerton Hotel, an old colonial building that was once the main post office.

The hotel has a stunning position on the marina surrounded by modern skyscrapers that have sprung up on reclaimed land in the past decade.

Who's paying?

Singapore is picking up the costs of the massive security that will be required to host the event.

Local media reports helicopters and planes will patrol the air and hundreds of police will monitor the various venues. Singaporean Defense Minister Ng Eng Hen told reporters over the weekend, "It's a cost we're willing to bear to play a small part."

The Washington Post reported last week that the summit discussion has included how the North Korean delegation will cover the costs of their accommodations and security. The international sanctions against North Korea make access to hard currency difficult and legally challenging.

The State Department has denied that the American government will help pay the costs of the delegation from North Korea.

"We are not paying for the DPRK delegation and we are not asking others to do so," State Department spokesperson Heather Nauert told ABC News Sunday, using the acronym for North Korea's official name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Where will the media go?

Five thousand members of the media have requested access to cover the summit, though the site of possible media briefings is still unknown.

The Formula One pit stop area or the country's Convention Center are both large enough to accommodate, but nothing has yet been confirmed by the government of Singapore.

Many have guessed the summit would be held at the Shangri-La Hotel, and there's still a chance it could play a role in some way, as thousands of people descend on Singapore for the historic event.

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| HEADLINE | 06/06 New evacuations near Guatemala volcano |
| SOURCE | https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/evacuations-guatemala-volcano-set-off-panic-55680314? |
| GIST | <p>Frightened people living near the Volcano of Fire fled with their children and few possessions when fresh flows of super-heated debris were announced, taking no chances after authorities gave them little time to evacuate before a deadly eruption over the weekend.</p> <p>Traffic came to a standstill on choked roads Tuesday and those without vehicles walked, even in central Escuintla, which was not under an evacuation order. Businesses shuttered as owners fled, memories still fresh of Sunday's blast, which left at least 75 people dead and 192 missing, and reduced a once verdant area to a moonscape of ash.</p> |

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| | <p>A column of smoke rose from the mountain Tuesday afternoon and hot volcanic material began descending its south side, prompting new evacuation orders for a half dozen communities and the closure of a national highway. The country's seismology and vulcanology institute said the smoke billowing from the volcano's top could produce a "curtain" of ash that could reach 20,000 feet (6,000 meters) above sea level, posing a danger to air traffic.</p> <p>Rescuers, police and journalists hurried to leave the area as a siren wailed and loudspeakers blared, "Evacuate!"</p> <p>When the panic set off by the new evacuations became clear, disaster officials called for calm.</p> <p>In the community of Magnolia, which was under the new evacuation order, residents fled carrying bundles, bags of clothing and even small dogs in their arms.</p> <p>Many walked along the side of the highway because vehicular traffic had stalled on the only road out.</p> <p>By Tuesday the images of Sunday's destruction were familiar to everyone. What was once a collection of green canyons, hillsides and farms was reduced to grey devastation by fast-moving avalanches of super-heated muck that roared into the tightly knit villages on the mountain's flanks.</p> |
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| HEADLINE | 06/06 Myanmar, UN sign Rohingya pact |
| SOURCE | https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/myanmar-sign-pact-initial-steps-rohingya-return-55682219? |
| GIST | <p>Myanmar and U.N. agencies signed an agreement Wednesday that could lead to the return of some of the 700,000 Rohingya Muslims who fled brutal persecution by the country's security forces and are now crowded into makeshift camps in Bangladesh.</p> <p>The memorandum of understanding promises to establish a "framework of cooperation" that aims to create conditions for "voluntary, safe, dignified and sustainable" repatriation of Rohingya refugees.</p> <p>Myanmar's security forces have been accused of rape, killing, torture and the burning of Rohingya homes in western Rakhine state, where most Rohingya lived. The U.N. and U.S. have described the army crackdown that began in August last year as "ethnic cleansing."</p> <p>Myanmar and Bangladesh agreed in November to begin repatriating Rohingya. But refugees feared their lives would be at risk in Myanmar without international monitoring while Myanmar insisted they have identity documents, which most Rohingya have been denied.</p> <p>Knut Ostby, U.N. Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Myanmar, said the agreement is an important first step toward resolving the crisis.</p> <p>"There is a lot of work to be done. This task should not be underestimated," Ostby said. "We are talking about approximately 700,000 people who don't only have to return, but the conditions have to be right for them to return ... in terms of their identity in society, in terms of their safety and also in terms of services, livelihoods, a place to live, infrastructure."</p> <p>The U.N. has said the agreement provides for its refugee and development agencies to be given access to Rakhine state.</p> |
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| HEADLINE | 06/05 Hawaii: hundreds of homes destroyed |
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| SOURCE | https://abcnews.go.com/US/hundreds-homes-destroyed-hawaii-volcanos-latest-explosion-officials/story? |
| GIST | <p>Hundreds of homes on Hawaii's Big Island have been destroyed from lava oozing from the Kilauea volcano after an early morning explosion on Tuesday, according to officials.</p> <p>About 500 homes in Kapoho Beach Lots and Vacationland were in the direct path of the lava, officials from the County of Hawaii Civil Defense told ABC News.</p> <p>The United States Geological Survey tweeted an aerial photo of the affected neighborhoods, which appears to be mostly burned. Thousands of people have been evacuated from the area.</p> <p>There is a possibility that some residents could have died in the disaster, officials said. Up to a dozen people decided to stay even after the area was evacuated.</p> <p>The area contains a mix of vacation rental properties and year-round residences, The Associated Press reported. Lava has completely filled the nearby Kapoho Bay and inundated much of Vacationland, according to the AP.</p> |
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| HEADLINE | 06/05 Milwaukee council investigates police dept. |
| SOURCE | https://abcnews.go.com/US/milwaukee-common-council-investigating-police-withheld-sterling-brown/story? |
| GIST | <p>The Milwaukee Common Council has launched an investigation after the police department apparently withheld different body-camera footage of Sterling Brown's January arrest that top city officials didn't see until it aired on television.</p> <p>According to Council President Ashanti Hamilton, the council and Mayor Tom Barrett didn't see the newly released videos of the arrest, obtained by ABC affiliate WISN.</p> <p>"I think it's clear that the videos didn't show the police department in the best light," Hamilton told ABC News. "I don't know if there were any rule violations or procedural violations in it."</p> <p>Barrett told WISN he wants to know why police didn't show him all the footage.</p> <p>"They need to be better trained and they need to change the way they operate," Barrett told WISN. "They have to learn that this is going to be something that's going to be released to the public and they should do it all at once."</p> <p>Last month, the Milwaukee Police Department released one version of the body-camera video depicting the night of the arrest.</p> <p>Brown walked out of a Milwaukee Walgreens around 2 a.m. on Jan. 26 toward the parking lot and was confronted by officers who asked him why he parked horizontally across two handicapped spots.</p> <p>The officers repeatedly tell Brown to back up and one of them says, "I will do what I want all right? I own this right here."</p> <p>Other officers arrived on the scene and can be seen talking to Brown near his vehicle when one of the officers shouts for Brown to take his hands out of his pockets.</p> <p>A scuffle breaks out and an officer yells, "Taser! Taser! Taser!" Brown can be heard moaning on the ground.</p> <p>After Brown was brought to the ground and hit with one of the officer's stun guns, they continued to stand</p> |

around him even though he was handcuffed.

In new video of the incident, officers can be heard expressing concern among themselves about a potential backlash from the arrest.

"The bureau is coming out for this? ... We're trying to protect ourselves because he plays for the Bucks, and if he makes a complaint, it's going to be a [expletive] and then any little [expletive] thing that goes wrong is going to be, 'Ooh, the Milwaukee Police Department is all racist,'" the officer said sarcastically.

In another one of the videos, officers can be heard asking Brown -- who is lying prone on the ground after being hit with the stun gun -- if he plays for the Bucks, and Brown responds that he must look familiar to them.

In the end, Brown was not charged with anything and was issued a parking violation.

Brown's representatives said he plans to file a civil lawsuit against the Milwaukee Police Department.

Milwaukee Police Chief Alfonso Morales said at a news conference May 23 that the officers involved "acted inappropriately" and they all received suspensions.

Hamilton said that the decision to investigate came after meeting with the police department yesterday. They'll be looking at all activity from the night of the arrest and decide if what, if any, "remedies" can be implemented in the future.

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| HEADLINE | 06/05 Top fashion designer apparent suicide |
| SOURCE | https://abcnews.go.com/US/fashion-designer-kate-spade-found-dead-apparent-suicide/story?id=55664239&cid=clicksource_81_2_hero_headlines_bsq_hed |
| GIST | <p>Fashion designer Kate Spade -- who started her namesake company in 1993 and grew it into a massive empire including clothes, jewelry, perfume and furniture -- was found dead in her New York City apartment Tuesday morning after apparently taking her own life, police sources said.</p> <p>The 55-year-old's body was found around 10 a.m. at her Park Avenue apartment on the Upper East Side of Manhattan by a housekeeper, the sources said. She apparently hanged herself on her bedroom doorknob using a scarf.</p> <p>A suicide note was left at the scene, but police officials declined to disclose its contents.</p> <p>"The contents of that note, as well as the physical state of the apartment and the comments of the witness, lend to the credibility that it is an apparent suicide," said Dermot Shea, chief of detectives for the New York City Police Department.</p> <p>Spade's former company issued a statement saying her death was "incredibly sad news."</p> <p>"Although Kate has not been affiliated with the brand for more than a decade, she and her husband and creative partner, Andy, were the founders of our beloved brand," the company's statement reads. "Kate will be dearly missed. Our thoughts are with Andy and the entire Spade family at this time."</p> <p>Spade and her husband, the brother of actor and comedian David Spade, have a 13-year-old daughter.</p> |
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| HEADLINE | 06/05 Unlicensed software cybersecurity threat |
| SOURCE | http://www.dw.com/en/unlicensed-software-a-huge-cybersecurity-threat/a-44086311 |
| GIST | <p>Businesses should assess the software on their networks and eliminate unlicensed copies to reduce the risk of cyberattacks, researchers from the US-based The Software Alliance (BSA) said in a study on Tuesday.</p> <p>The advocate for the global software industry noted in its 2018 Global Software Survey that too often, companies' efforts to improve their businesses were "hampered by the widespread use of unlicensed software and the often-crippling security threats" that accompanied it.</p> <p>The survey quantified the volume and value of unlicensed software installed on personal computers in more than 110 nations and regions and included nearly 23,000 responses from consumers, employees and chief information officers (CIOs).</p> <p>Slow progress</p> <p>"Organizations around the world are missing out on the economic and security benefits that well-managed software provides," the BSA survey said.</p> <p>"Businesses should establish software asset management (SAM) programs to evaluate the software on their network, which in turn reduces the risk of debilitating cyberattacks and helps grow their revenues."</p> <p>The study showed that the use of unlicensed software was only down slightly in 2017 (-2 percent), still accounting for 37 percent of software installed on PCs.</p> <p>Firms incur huge costs</p> <p>The survey showed that unlicensed software was spread most widely in a number of emerging economies. In Libya, an estimated 90 percent of all software installed on PCs in 2017 was pirated (Venezuela: 89 percent; Nicaragua: 81 percent).</p> <p>The study calculated that malware from pirated software cost companies worldwide some \$359 billion (€307 billion).</p> <p>BSA researchers concluded that companies "can take meaningful steps today to improve software management and to achieve as much as 30 percent savings in annual software costs by implementing a robust SAM and software license optimization program."</p> |
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| HEADLINE | 06/05 Lewis Co. IT official: not getting easier |
| SOURCE | http://www.govtech.com/security/Lewis-County-Wash-IT-Official-Cybersecurity-Is-Not-Going-to-Get-Any-Easier.html |
| GIST | <p>(TNS) — Lewis County, Wash., is putting extra focus on preventing cyberbreaches, following a dramatic uptick in threats, Information Technology Services Director Steve Wohld told area leaders Friday.</p> <p>"There's an over 300 percent increase in endpoint user attacks [on agencies in Washington state]" Wohld said. "The attacks on Lewis County are significant and much higher than they ever were."</p> <p>Wohld spoke to leaders from throughout the county at Friday's Mayors' Meeting, a monthly event hosted by the Board of Lewis County Commissioners, urging them to make sure their cities and agencies are using safe cybersecurity practices.</p> <p>Since last year, Lewis County's IT Services department has moved from spending 10 to 15 percent of its time on cybersecurity to devoting 40 percent of its time to the issue. Part of the concern is that hackers are</p> |

increasingly not just going after networks, but targeting county employees to try to infiltrate the system.

“The point is getting this out in front and letting our users know that the target has changed,” Wohld said. “The primary target now is the endpoint user.”

In other words, county employees who use unsafe passwords, click on dubious email links or plug in untrusted USB devices could be exposing the entire network to risk. One risk that has become more common is ransomware, in which a hacker takes over a system and demands payment to regain access or data.

The city of Atlanta recently failed to pay a \$50,000 ransom and ended up paying \$2.6 million in efforts to recover compromised systems. That case is an extreme version of a problem that has also hit Washington state.

“Agencies across the state are paying out serious money recently, and we’re trying to avoid that,” Wohld said.

Recently, Lewis County Treasurer Arny Davis received a suspicious email from a treasurer in another county whose account had been hacked. He notified IT Services instead of opening the link in the email.

“If Arny would have clicked on it, his account would have been compromised,” Wohld said.

That was among many stories mentioned by Wohld and others about the importance of being vigilant. Commissioner Edna Fund said she had recently received an email on a work account from a personal friend whose email had been hacked. She also received notice of false charges on her account, only to be led to a site that tried to obtain her Social Security number. She logged onto Facebook, only to find another account claiming to be her.

“I’m becoming very vigilant,” she said. “From all different vantage points, I was getting hit.”

Even as he warns county employees to be more careful, Wohld conceded that the increased threats will likely cause the county issues, although it hasn’t lost any data yet.

“We’ve had some close calls,” he said. “I really think it’s a matter of time. We will have a loss; we will have a failure.”

IT Services is preparing for such a compromise, storing physical backups of data in a vault. And it’s working to “educate [county employees] on how to think differently about their computer and the power it has over the rest of us.”

Long-term, the department is implementing the Center for Internet Security’s 20-step series of Critical Security Controls. This year’s priorities include creating an inventory and control of hardware and software assets, establishing continuous vulnerability management and controlling use of administrative privileges.

Wohld said it will take three to five years to implement the full list of controls. He told the assembled local leaders to bring cybersecurity awareness back to their employees, and to communicate if they believe they’ve been compromised, which can prevent the problem from infiltrating more agencies.

“We really need people to be honest and come forward,” he said. “It’s not about shaming anybody, it’s about responding.”

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| SOURCE | https://www.infosecurity-magazine.com/news/big-bank-blunder-from-down-under/ |
| GIST | <p>Despite the awareness that they are dutybound to protect the sensitive information of their customers, banks continue to suffer data breaches as the result of human error, as was the case for the Commonwealth Bank of Australia (CBA). The Sydney Morning Herald reported that CBA breached the privacy of 10,000 customers by sending their data to the wrong email addresses.</p> <p>After conducting an information security investigation, the bank learned that 651 internal emails were incorrectly sent to email addresses at the wrong domain from 2016 to 2017. The sender inadvertently omitted the ".au" on the end of the intended domain, cba.com.au.</p> <p>In order to prevent these human errors, CBA purchased the domain name in April 2017; however, the investigation looked into events that would have occurred prior to the takeover when the domain was used by a US cybersecurity firm.</p> <p>CBA revealed that the 651 emails were indeed sent during that time frame and contained the data of 10,000 customers. "An extensive and detailed investigation by CBA confirmed the contents of all 651 internal emails were automatically deleted by the cba.com domain owner's system, which only collected information on CBA sender and recipient email addresses and the subject of the email," the bank wrote in a 1 June 2018 statement.</p> <p>The bank's investigation confirmed that no customer data was compromised as a result of the mistake, but it accepted responsibility and acknowledged that customers want to be informed about data security and privacy issues. To that end, the bank has started to notify affected customers.</p> |
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| HEADLINE | 06/06 Mirai variants continue to spawn |
| SOURCE | https://www.securityweek.com/mirai-variants-continue-spawn-vulnerable-iot-ecosystem |
| GIST | <p>Mirai is the archetypal IoT botnet, first achieving infamy with a 665 Gbps DDoS attack against the KrebsOnSecurity website in September 2016. Within days, a second Mirai attack targeted the French hosting firm, OVH, with an attack that peaked at nearly 1 Tbps. These were, at the time, the largest DDoS attacks ever recorded.</p> <p>But within a few more days, before the end of September 2016, the Mirai developer released the source code. It can now be found on GitHub. The developer closed his 'readme' file with a criticism of MalwareMustDie and the comment, "Just as I forever be free, you will be doomed to mediocracy forever."</p> <p>He didn't remain free for very long. In January 2017, Brian Krebs identified Paras Jha as authoring Mirai; and in December 2017 the DoJ unsealed a plea-bargained guilty plea by Paras Jha for the development and use of Mirai. But it was too late to stop Mirai, because the code was in the public domain -- and it has ever since been used as the basic building block for other criminals to develop Mirai variants for their own use.</p> <p>IoT ExploitsNetwork performance firm Netscout Arbor has taken a close look at four of the current Mirai variants: Satori, JenX, OMG and Wicked. Its Arbor Security Engineering & Response Team (ASERT) published in a recent blog post, describing how each of these botnets start from the basic building blocks of Mirai and add to and sometimes remove from the original Mirai functionality -- adding, says, ASERT, "their own flair."</p> <p>Mirai itself spread by scanning for other internet-connected IoT devices (IP cameras and home routers) and 'brute-forcing' access via a list of default vendor passwords. Since so few consumers ever change the password that comes with the device, the process is remarkably successful. Paras Jha claimed that he had 380,000 bots in Mirai at the time of the Krebs attack.</p> <p>Satori (or at least the 3rd variant of Satori) uses the same configuration table and the same string obfuscation technique as Mirai. However, says ASERT, "We see the author expanding on Mirai source</p> |

code to include different exploits such as the Huawei Home Gateway exploit." The exploit was CVE-2017-17215. In December 2017, Check Point reported that hundreds of thousands of attempts to exploit this vulnerability had been made on Huawei HG532 home routers attempting to download and execute the Satori botnet.

The underlying code for JenX also comes from Mirai, again including the same configuration table and the same string obfuscation technique. However, JenX hard codes the C2 IP address while Mirai stores it in the configuration table. JenX has also removed the scanning and exploitation functions of Mirai, with this being handled by a separate system.

"Currently," writes ASERT, "it appears JenX only focuses on DDoS attacks against players of the video game Grand Theft Auto San Andreas, which has been noted by other researchers."

OMG is described by ASERT as one of the most interesting of Mirai variants. While it includes all Mirai's functionality, "the author expanded the Mirai code to include a proxy server." This allows it to enable a SOCKS and HTTP proxy server on the infected IoT device. "With these two features, the bot author can proxy any traffic of its choosing through the infected IoT device, including additional scans for new vulnerabilities, launching additional attacks, or pivot from the infected IoT device to other networks which are connected to the device."

Fortinet discussed OMG in February 2018. "This is the first time we have seen a modified Mirai capable of DDOS attacks as well as setting up proxy servers on vulnerable IoT devices. With this development, we believe that more and more Mirai-based bots are going to emerge with new ways of monetization," it concluded.

Wicked is the latest Mirai variant. "Similar to Satori variant 3," writes ASERT, "Wicked trades in Mirai's credential scanning function for its own RCE scanner. Wicked's RCE scanner targets Netgear routers and CCTV-DVR devices." When vulnerable devices are found, "a copy of the Owari bot is downloaded and executed."

However, an analysis of the same bot by Fortinet in May 2018 comes to a slightly different conclusion. The string 'SoraLOADER' suggests a purpose to distribute the Sora botnet. Further analysis showed that in practice it attempted to download the Owari botnet, but actually downloaded the Omni botnet. "We can essentially confirm that the author of the botnets Wicked, Sora, Owari, and Omni are one and the same. This also leads us to the conclusion that while the WICKED bot was originally meant to deliver the Sora botnet, it was later repurposed to serve the author's succeeding projects," says Fortinet.

The Mirai developer may have been apprehended, but in making his source code public, Mirai and Mirai variants continue to grow. The IoT ecosphere that Mirai and its variants target and exploit is still in its infancy. There were nearly 17 billion connected devices in 2017; but this is expected to rise to around 125 billion by 2030 according to a new analysis from IHS Markit. Vendors continue to rush their products in order to get early market share, but often at the cost of built in security.

"Malware authors will continue to leverage IoT based malware in automated fashion, quickly increasing the botnet size through worm-like spreading, network proxy functionality, and automated exploitation of vulnerabilities in internet facing devices. It is important for organizations to apply proper patching, updates, and DDoS mitigation strategies to defend their organizations," warns ASERT.

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| HEADLINE | 06/05 Cybercriminals phish Booking.com users |
| SOURCE | https://www.scmagazine.com/cybercriminals-phish-bookingcom-customers-after-possibly-breaching-partner-hotels/article/771091/ |
| GIST | Cybercriminals recently launched a phishing campaign targeting Booking.com customers whose information was illegally obtained, possibly by breaching certain partner hotels, according to multiple |

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| <p>Return to Top</p> | <p>reports.</p> <p>According to a June 3 report from The Sun, users have received WhatsApp and text messages warning them to change their passwords following a supposed security breach. By clicking on the accompanying malicious link, victims are unknowingly giving the adversaries access to their bookings.</p> <p>Users are then reportedly sent an additional message demanding that they send an advance payment for their booked vacations to a bank account belonging to the cybercriminals. These messages look like the real deal because they include stolen personal information such as names, addresses, phone numbers, dates, booking prices, and reference numbers.</p> <p>Booking.com reportedly told the Sun that the information was likely obtained by breaching certain hotels that it works with via a portal website separate from the travel company's main systems.</p> <p>"In this case, there has been no compromise on Booking.com systems," a Booking.com spokesperson told the Independent. "A small number of properties have been targeted by phishing emails sent by cybercriminals and by clicking on those emails, the properties compromised their accounts. All potentially impacted guests have been notified and because we value our customers at Booking.com, we are supporting impacted guests to compensate for any losses incurred, and reclaim these from the property."</p> |
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| HEADLINE | 06/05 List: Florida worst cyber hygiene |
| SOURCE | https://www.scmagazine.com/florida-leads-list-of-states-with-worst-cyber-hygiene-new-hampshire-the-safest/article/771129/ |
| GIST | <p>When it comes to cyber hygiene people who live in the Northeast are marginally more likely to have good habits, while those with poor habits are scattered liberally across the country, according to a new Webroot report.</p> <p>Working in conjunction with the Ponemon Institute, Webroot analyzed the cyber behavior of people in all 50 states and the District of Columbia and ranked them according to their cyber hygiene score. The states receiving a classification of "safest" were New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Utah, Rhode Island, Minnesota and Nebraska. Florida, Wyoming, Montana, New Mexico, Illinois and California were on the other end of the spectrum being considered the "riskiest" states.</p> <p>Looking at the survey results it was very easy to understand why those states in the riskiest category, ignoring even basic safety measures like having antivirus software installed on their device, said Tyler Moffitt, Webroot's senior threat research analyst.</p> <p>The survey asked respondents a series of questions related to infection incidents, identity theft, password habits, computer sharing, software update habits, antivirus/internet security usage, backup habits and an understanding of phishing.</p> <p>Breaking down the five riskiest states Webroot found many people did not learn from their past mistakes. Even after suffering an identity theft most people refused to change their basic online usage habits in order to make themselves safer. In addition, 45 and 50 percent of those residing in these states do not bother installing security software; 47 percent never back up their data and 72 percent said they share their passwords. All of this helps explain why these states suffer the higher per person rate, 28 percent, of having experienced 10 or more malware infections in the last year.</p> <p>Not surprisingly residents in states deemed safest basically do the exact opposite of the folks in Florida. When having their identity stolen 80 percent alter their online habits and 60 percent change their passwords, most people report running a paid for internet security program as opposed to running freeware or not using any at all. About 43 percent automatically update their operating system and 35 percent back up their data on a daily or continuous basis. Finally, 88 percent of those surveyed said they did not share</p> |

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| <p>Return to Top</p> | <p>their passwords with others.</p> <p>Looking at the country as a whole the study shows many Americans still do not take their cybersecurity very seriously. Fifty-four percent do not use any type of credit monitoring service, 50 percent said they use some type of antivirus software with 46 percent of these respondents opting for freeware and 20 percent do not bother to update their security software on a regular basis.</p> <p>While the safest states do utilize proper password hygiene, nationwide the story is much different. Only 36 percent said they never shared their password, while 45 percent said they did so, but rarely, and the remaining 19 percent they shared this information frequently. When it comes to password diversity 36 percent use between one and five passwords for their various accounts. Another 28 percent use six to 15 and 36 percent use 16 or more passwords. Password managers are also not playing much of a role with 75 percent of the respondents saying they do not use one.</p> |
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| HEADLINE | 06/05 MyHeritage alerts users to data breach |
| SOURCE | http://www.darkreading.com/myheritage-alerts-users-to-data-breach/d/d-id/1331966 |
| GIST | <p>MyHeritage, a platform designed to investigate family history, learned of a data breach on June 4, 2018. It reports the incident affected email addresses and hashed passwords of nearly 92.3 million users who signed up for the site before and including Oct. 26, 2017, the date of the incident.</p> <p>A security researcher discovered a file named "myheritage" containing email addresses and passwords on a private server outside the site. Further analysis found the file was legitimate, with the data originating from Myheritage. No other data was detected on the server, and there was no evidence of account compromise. MyHeritage handles billing through third parties and stores sensitive data such as DNA and family trees on segregated servers with added security.</p> <p>The site notes it doesn't store user passwords but instead uses a one-way hash of each password, meaning the hash key is different for each user. Anyone who stole or accessed the hashed passwords did not have the actual passwords.</p> |
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| HEADLINE | 06/05 Dark web marketplaces dissolve |
| SOURCE | http://www.darkreading.com/threat-intelligence/dark-web-marketplaces-dissolve-post-alphabay-hansa-takedown/d/d-id/1331971 |
| GIST | <p>One year after Operation Bayonet took down AlphaBay in 2017, the marketplace model of cybercrime continues to decline -- but it's not a sign for security teams to sit back and relax. The risk to businesses and consumers is alive and well. It's simply taking a different form.</p> <p>The operation that shuttered AlphaBay and Hansa led to multiple subsequent arrests, says Rafael Amado, strategy and research analyst at Digital Shadows. For a period of time after the takedown, many people didn't understand what was going on. When they did, they panicked.</p> <p>"They thought it was an exit scam, or technical difficulties," he says. "There were all these different rumors flying about ... it started to sow the seeds of mistrust, suspicion, cynicism."</p> <p>AlphaBay's seizure meant thousands of vendors and buyers in the English-speaking cybercrime community had to look elsewhere to conduct their illicit business. The marketplace consisted of more than 40,000 vendors and generated more than \$1 billion in trade, Digital Shadows reports in "Seize and Desist?," a new report examining cybercrime marketplaces post-AlphaBay.</p> <p>"It cemented the issue of mistrust in the cybercriminal community ... it made people really, really</p> |

suspicious of established marketplaces, and new ones as well," he continues.

AlphaBay's demise left a gap, though it wasn't as large as experts expected -- the marketplace was just one player among many on the underground. However, other markets like Dream and Olympus failed to capitalize on the gap. Instead, cybercriminals found new and stealthier means of continuing their businesses while evading the watchful eye of law enforcement.

Find Me on the Forums

Cybercriminals, increasingly suspicious of marketplaces, began to retreat into older and specialized platforms to buy and sell. Peer-to-peer networks and chat channels have grown more popular, a trend that predates Operation Bayonet but has evolved in its wake.

Over the past six months, Digital Shadows researchers have observed more than 5,000 Telegram links shared across criminal forums and Dark Web sites. Of these, 1,667 were invitation links to join new groups. Discord, another private messaging app, is seeing greater adoption but to a lesser extent, with 743 invites shared within the same timeframe.

The centralized marketplace has dissolved into a decentralized model as wary threat actors err on the side of caution, opting for subtle transactions over markets that require plentiful resources to operate. New tech, processes, and peer-to-peer (P2P) communication give cybercriminals greater anonymity and make them even harder to pin down.

"Your account information and payment card details, along with counterfeit documents, ID scans, banking Trojans ... those things are still being traded," Amado explains. "They're not being sold on marketplaces, they're being sold on forums."

Specialized forums cater to buyers and sellers in the market for specific purposes: credit card numbers, malware, hacking tools. Buyers post what they're looking for; sellers post what they have. They share Telegram, Discord, or Jabber info and slip into private messages. People generally want to directly communicate with the actors they're buying from, he adds. Forums serve as a complete log of conversation and are easier targets for law enforcement.

The future of Telegram as hackers' preferred tool is uncertain, Amado points out. It recently came to light that Apple has blocked updates since April, when Russia blocked Telegram and demanded its removal from the Apple App Store because it refused to provide decryption keys for users' communication with Russian security agencies.

"We'll see if Telegram will be forced to comply and if they are, you'll see people move away from Telegram as a communication method of choice," he expects.

Hackers Buckle Down on Forum Security

Forum administrators have been integrating processes to facilitate trust among their users. Blockchain DNS, user vetting, site access restrictions, and domain concealment supplement the use of P2P networks to build a sense of security.

Tralfamadore is an example of a decentralized market that uses blockchain to store databases and code to support front-end user interfaces. Transactions are done in cryptocurrency and are permanently recorded; this way, if one user attempts to scam another, it can be identified.

Cybercriminals using forums are wary of law enforcement posing as users. Some forums regulate activity with "forum lifecycles," which limit new users' access and set posting restrictions until they reach a certain level of activity. New users might require positive feedback from other members until these limitations are lifted.

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| | Some forums require members to pay for premium subscriptions or have multiple referral invitations from established participants. Others create a hierarchy: the longer you're a member and more you prove your legitimacy, the more you're allowed to post. |
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| HEADLINE | 06/05 Financial sector sophisticated threats |
| SOURCE | http://www.darkreading.com/attacks-breaches/financial-services-organizations-face-more-sophisticated-threats-than-others/d/d-id/1331974 |
| GIST | <p>The better than average defenses that financial companies have been able to mount against modern cyber threats has become a bit of a double-edged sword for organizations in the sector.</p> <p>While financial companies are able to detect and block a lot more malware than others, they face considerably more sophisticated threats as a result as well.</p> <p>A new report this week from Lastline based on an extensive malware analysis shows that threat actors typically elevate their attacks when going after financial companies.</p> <p>For the report, Lastline analyzed 30 days worth of threat data targeted specifically at financial service companies and finance departments at enterprises. Lastline then compared those results with data on more generalized threats that the security vendor had reported on previously.</p> <p>The exercise showed that the proportion of malware displaying advanced behavior was 20% higher in the financial sector than elsewhere. For the report, Lastline defined malware as displaying advanced behavior if it is packed to avoid detection by static signature-based tools, evade dynamic analysis, steal credentials, and remain stealthy.</p> <p>One in 10 of the financial sector malware that Lastline analyzed integrated all four behaviors, compared to the 1 in 12 global average for advanced threats in other industry verticals. Overall, the percentage of total files that Lastline found to be malicious was 47% higher than the global data.</p> <p>One reason could be that the financial sector's more effective security measures require a more sophisticated effort on the part of malware writers, says Andy Norton, author of the report and Lastline's director of threat intelligence.</p> <p>"The finance industry is facing a more sophisticated threat than is encountered by a wider audience," Norton says. "They need to understand that more stringent security doesn't make the threat go away; it only changes the nature of the threat."</p> <p>To remain ahead of emergent threats financial organizations and finance groups at enterprise need to incorporate controls for inspecting the behavior of objects entering the internal environment rather than relying simply on existing controls and user awareness, he says.</p> <p>The Lastline report comes just weeks after an Accenture study showing that cybersecurity has become a major issue for financial services organizations. The Accenture study, done in collaboration with the Ponemon Institute, found that the average number of breaches at financial services companies has more than tripled, from 40 in 2012 to 125 breaches in 2017.</p> <p>The average annual costs of cybercrime for financial services companies has also increased sharply, rising from \$12.97 million per firm in 2014 to \$18.28 million last year, compared to an average of \$11.7 million for organizations across other industries. Between 2016 and 2017 alone, spending on security breaches increased 10% among financial organizations.</p> |
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| HEADLINE | 06/05 Feds: gift cards hacked; \$800,000 stolen |
| SOURCE | http://mynorthwest.com/1009978/feds-5-hacked-target-gift-cards-stole-nearly-800000/ |
| GIST | <p>SEATTLE (AP) — Authorities say five people have been indicted on charges they hacked Target Corp. gift cards to the tune of nearly \$800,000.</p> <p>The U.S. Attorney's Office in Seattle says the group devised an algorithm that could identify a gift card's bar code, then used the company's automated customer service telephone system to find cards with balances. According to investigators, the suspects loaded those balances onto electronic wallet or mobile phone apps, redeemed them at Target stores, and sold the items they purchased for bitcoin.</p> <p>Prosecutors say the thefts took place at stores in Washington, Oregon, California, Nevada and Colorado. Target changed its gift card system last December in response.</p> <p>Two defendants pleaded not guilty Tuesday, and one is in state custody on other charges. Authorities say they are searching for two other defendants, 22-year-old Kennady Weston and 26-year-old Derrick Quintana, both of Everett, Washington.</p> |
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| HEADLINE | 06/06 Malware hits Australia HR firm PageUp |
| SOURCE | https://www.zdnet.com/article/malware-hits-hr-software-firm-pageup-with-possible-data-compromise/ |
| GIST | <p>Australia-based human resources firm PageUp has confirmed it found "unusual" activity on its IT infrastructure last month, which has resulted in the potential compromise of client data.</p> <p>On May 23, the SaaS provider said it immediately launched a forensic investigation after malware was spotted on its system. Five days later PageUp said its suspicions were confirmed, with investigations revealing "some indicators" that client data may have been compromised.</p> <p>"If any personal data has been affected it could include information such as name and contact details. It could also include identification and authentication data e.g. usernames and passwords which are encrypted (hashed and salted)," the company said in a statement.</p> <p>"There is no evidence that there is still an active threat, and the jobs website can continue to be used. All client user and candidate passwords in our database are hashed using bcrypt and salted; however, out of an abundance of caution, we suggest users change their password."</p> <p>The company said that signed employment contracts and resumes are stored on different infrastructure to that which was affected; it said there is no evidence that the document storage infrastructure has been compromised.</p> <p>The statement, penned by CEO and co-founder Karen Cariss, said PageUp has been working with international law enforcement, government authorities, and independent security experts to "fully investigate" the matter.</p> |
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| HEADLINE | 06/06 Qantas suffers website outage |
| SOURCE | https://www.zdnet.com/article/qantas-suffers-website-outage/ |
| GIST | <p>Qantas is currently experiencing network issues affecting some services on its website.</p> <p>The airline confirmed the issue via Twitter, replying to customers unable to use the Qantas website.</p> <p>"There is currently a network issue that isn't isolated to Qantas," Qantas wrote. "We're doing our best to</p> |

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| | <p>have everything up and fully running again asap."</p> <p>In another reply, Qantas confirmed it was experiencing "technical difficulties" with its website and that it had teams currently working on it.</p> <p>"We'll have the site up and running as soon as possible," the airline continued.</p> <p>Qantas added the outage was not isolated to its systems.</p> <p>Sydney Airport was brought to a standstill in March after "technical issues" affected two of its terminals.</p> |
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| HEADLINE | 06/05 Zip Slip vulnerability impacts archived files |
| SOURCE | https://www.bleepingcomputer.com/news/security/zip-slip-vulnerability-affects-thousands-of-projects-across-multiple-ecosystems/ |
| GIST | <p>Security researchers have disclosed today details about a critical vulnerability impacting open source coding libraries that handle archived files.</p> <p>Discovered by the researchers from Synk, the "Zip Slip" vulnerability is an issue in the way coders, plugins, and libraries have implemented the process of decompressing an archived file.</p> <p>Numerous archive formats, including tar, jar, war, cpio, apk, rar, and 7z, are affected, meaning this is more of a theoretical issue, rather than a specific coding bug.</p> <p>Vulnerability leads to files being unzipped in the wrong places</p> <p>According to researchers, Zip Slip is a combination between an "arbitrary file overwrite" and "directory traversal" issues that can lead to situations where an attacker can unzip files outside the normal unzip path and overwrite sensitive files, such as critical OS libraries or server configuration files.</p> <p>"The two parts required to exploit this vulnerability is a malicious archive and extraction code that does not perform validation checking," the Synk team said today in a security advisory.</p> <p>Researchers said they found this flaw in April, and they have been working with the maintainers of several open-source libraries that were vulnerable to this attack.</p> <p>Multiple open-source libraries affected</p> <p>The Synk team has published a list of libraries affected by Zip Slip on GitHub.</p> <p>While libraries written in several programming languages are known to be affected —such as JavaScript, Python, Ruby, .NET, Go, and Groovy—, the issue mainly affects the Java ecosystem because there's no official library recommended for handling archived files.</p> <p>Instead, developers have created and used an assortment of libraries for this purpose, most of which are vulnerable to Zip Slip. Furthermore, the issue is so widespread that even some of the code shared on StackOverflow was found to be vulnerable to Zip Slip, meaning that many desktop, mobile, or web apps written in Java may be vulnerable to Zip Slip without developers even knowing.</p> <p>To help developers understand the Zip Slip attack and aid them in detecting if their apps are vulnerable, the Synk team has published a technical paper detailing the Zip Slip bug in much more depth.</p> |
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| HEADLINE | 06/05 Google 'weird' 1975 text message bug |
| SOURCE | https://nakedsecurity.sophos.com/2018/06/05/google-says-fix-for-weird-1975-text-message-bug-is-on-the-way/ |
| GIST | <p>If you want to see your recent text messages on an Android device in the normal world, you just type “show me my texts” in the Google search bar...</p> <p>But why be normal? If you want to get weird – as Redditor Krizastro discovered last week – you can also see your Android texts by typing in “the1975..com”.</p> <p>Krizastro: <i>It's like just about the weirdest glitch I have come by.</i></p> <p>Krizastro was curious: Were others experiencing the glitch?</p> <p>They certainly were. At the time of writing, Androids were still glitching out, given that the promised fix hadn't been rolled out yet. But it gets even weirder...</p> <p>Others confirmed that the “the1975..com” string – it needs those two periods to work if you give it a try – was indeed serving up their recent texts, as were these strings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •“Vizela viagens” (a travel agency in somebody's hometown; this string didn't produce text messages for everybody who tried it out, though) •“Vizel viagens” •“Izela viagens” •“Zela viagens” <p>Those search terms were still glitching as of Monday:</p> <p>Users reported experiencing the issue with the default Google Pixel launcher, as well as with Android devices made by Moto, OnePlus, Samsung, LG and Huawei.</p> <p>Google sent out a statement explaining that the inappropriately triggered texts show-and-tell is due to a “language detection bug” in the Google Search app for Android that “erroneously interpreted certain phrases as a request to view recent text messages.”</p> <p>The company said the app could only display text messages if it had been given permission to do so.</p> <p>A company spokesperson said that as of Friday, a fix for the bug had been implemented and would roll out “over the next few days.”</p> |
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| HEADLINE | 06/05 Bizarre Chrome, Firefox flaw |
| SOURCE | https://nakedsecurity.sophos.com/2018/06/05/bizarre-chrome-and-firefox-flaw-exposed-facebook-details/ |
| GIST | <p>Researchers have discovered a weakness in the way Chrome and Firefox interact with Cascading Style Sheets 3 (CSS3) that could have caused them to leak usernames, profile pictures and likes from sites such as Facebook.</p> <p>The chance discovery was made by researcher Ruslan Habalov when he visited Pinterest and noticed it was “displaying my Facebook name and picture inside an iFramed Facebook button.”</p> <p>Probing deeper, they discovered that the problem was CSS3's mix-blend-modes, introduced in 2016 and fully supported by Chrome desktop/mobile version 49 from March 2016 onwards, and Firefox desktop/mobile version 59 in March this year.</p> <p>By rights, browser same-origin policy security should have disallowed access to cross-origin iframe</p> |

content. However, the proof-of-concept (PoC) they developed to exploit the weakness in – mix-blend-modes – shorted this.

Mix-blend-modes don't sound like a promising target through which to leak data, but as Weißer explained:

We cannot access the iframe's content directly. However, we can put overlays over the iframe that do some kind of graphical interaction with the underlying pixels. Since these overlays are controlled by the attacker's site, it is possible to measure how long these graphical interactions take.

This is extremely involved – the mix-blend-mode is being used to infer the content of 1×1 pixels in the iFrame to reveal the presence and colour of that pixel on the user's screen. Do this for the whole iFrame and (as long as the user is logged in of course) it becomes possible to reconstruct some of its content.

That does make inferring different types of content potentially time consuming, with a user name becoming clear in around 20 seconds but five minutes being needed to generate that user's much larger profile picture.

The outcome of an attacker exploiting this using a malicious website would have been to deanonymize logged-in visitors not just on Facebook but on any site embedding itself on third parties, on the condition that users can be kept on the site for long enough.

Other use cases include leaking private images, API responses and text files of other sites as these often require to be logged-in but don't come with an enabled iframe protection.

The researchers describe the bug as a side-channel weakness. All this means is that they found a way to capture data not from a software flaw but as a side effect of a system working as it was designed to.

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| HEADLINE | 06/05 Pentagon's AI missile detection research |
| SOURCE | http://news.trust.org/item/20180605100040-29saq |
| GIST | <p>WASHINGTON, June 5 (Reuters) - The U.S. military is increasing spending on a secret research effort to use artificial intelligence to help anticipate the launch of a nuclear-capable missile, as well as track and target mobile launchers in North Korea and elsewhere.</p> <p>The effort has gone largely unreported, and the few publicly available details about it are buried under a layer of near impenetrable jargon in the latest Pentagon budget. But U.S. officials familiar with the research told Reuters there are multiple classified programs now under way to explore how to develop AI-driven systems to better protect the United States against a potential nuclear missile strike.</p> <p>If the research is successful, such computer systems would be able to think for themselves, scouring huge amounts of data, including satellite imagery, with a speed and accuracy beyond the capability of humans, to look for signs of preparations for a missile launch, according to more than half a dozen sources. The sources included U.S. officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the research is classified.</p> <p>Forewarned, the U.S. government would be able to pursue diplomatic options or, in the case of an imminent attack, the military would have more time to try to destroy the missiles before they were launched, or try to intercept them.</p> <p>"We should be doing everything in our power to find that missile before they launch it and make it increasingly harder to get it off (the ground)," one of the officials said.</p> <p>The Trump administration has proposed more than tripling funding in next year's budget to \$83 million for just one of the AI-driven missile programs, according to several U.S. officials and budget documents. The boost in funding has not been previously reported.</p> |

While the amount is still relatively small, it is one indicator of the growing importance of the research on AI-powered anti-missile systems at a time when the United States faces a more militarily assertive Russia and a significant nuclear weapons threat from long-time foe North Korea.

"What AI and machine learning allows you to do is find the needle in the haystack," said Bob Work, a champion of AI technology who was deputy defense secretary until last July, without referring to any individual projects.

One person familiar with the programs said it includes a pilot project focused on North Korea. Washington is increasingly concerned about Pyongyang's development of mobile missiles that can be hidden in tunnels, forests and caves. The existence of a North Korea-focused project has not been previously reported.

While that project has been kept secret, the military has been clear about its interest in AI. The Pentagon, for example, has disclosed it is using AI to identify objects from video gathered in its drone program, as part of a publicly touted effort launched last year called "Project Maven."

Still, some U.S. officials say AI spending overall on military programs remains woefully inadequate.

AI ARMS RACE

The Pentagon is in a race against China and Russia to infuse more AI into its war machine, to create more sophisticated autonomous systems that are able to learn by themselves to carry out specific tasks. The Pentagon research on using AI to identify potential missile threats and track mobile launchers is in its infancy and is just one part of that overall effort.

There are scant details on the AI missile research, but one U.S. official told Reuters that an early prototype of a system to track mobile missile launchers was already being tested within the U.S. military.

This project involves military and private researchers in the Washington D.C. area. It is pivoting off technological advances developed by commercial firms financed by In-Q-Tel, the intelligence community's venture capital fund, officials said.

In order to carry out the research, the project is tapping into the intelligence community's commercial cloud service, searching for patterns and anomalies in data, including from sophisticated radar that can see through storms and penetrate foliage.

Budget documents reviewed by Reuters noted plans to expand the focus of the mobile missile launcher program to "the remainder of the (Pentagon) 4+1 problem sets." The Pentagon typically uses the 4+1 terminology to refer to China, Russia, Iran, North Korea and terrorist groups.

TURNING TURTLES INTO RIFLES

Both supporters and critics of using AI to hunt missiles agree that it carries major risks. It could accelerate decision-making in a nuclear crisis. It could increase the chances of computer-generated errors. It might also provoke an AI arms race with Russia and China that could upset the global nuclear balance.

U.S. Air Force General John Hyten, the top commander of U.S. nuclear forces, said once AI-driven systems become fully operational, the Pentagon will need to think about creating safeguards to ensure humans - not machines - control the pace of nuclear decision-making, the "escalation ladder" in Pentagon speak.

"(Artificial intelligence) could force you onto that ladder if you don't put the safeguards in," Hyten, head of the U.S. Strategic Command, said in an interview. "Once you're on it, then everything starts moving."

Experts at the Rand Corporation, a public policy research body, and elsewhere say there is a high probability that countries like China and Russia could try to trick an AI missile-hunting system, learning to hide their missiles from identification.

There is some evidence to suggest they could be successful.

An experiment <http://www.labsix.org/physical-objects-that-fool-neural-nets> by M.I.T. students showed how easy it was to dupe an advanced Google image classifier, in which a computer identifies objects. In that case, students fooled the system into concluding a plastic turtle was actually a rifle.

Dr. Steven Walker, director of the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA), a pioneer in AI that initially funded what became the Internet, said the Pentagon still needs humans to review AI systems' conclusions.

"Because these systems can be fooled," Walker said in an interview.

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| HEADLINE | 06/05 Transamerica reveals data breach |
| SOURCE | https://www.theregister.co.uk/2018/06/05/transamerica_retirement_plan_hack/ |
| GIST | <p>Updated Financial house Transamerica has admitted hackers swiped some of its customers' sensitive personal information, including social security numbers.</p> <p>In a formal notice sent to the California Attorney General's office this month, the US insurance and investment giant said an "unauthorized" person was able to get into its systems sometime between March 2017 and January 2018, and siphon off the names, addresses, social security numbers, dates of birth, financial account information, and employment details of people holding Transamerica Retirement Solutions accounts.</p> <p>Transamerica boasts of having "more than four million retirement plan participants."</p> <p>"Please note that most individual accounts were accessed only once or at limited points in time during this time frame," Transamerica is telling the affected customers.</p> <p>"We found no evidence of a compromise of Transamerica's network and systems, but unauthorized parties used compromised third-party user credentials to log into Transamerica systems and access your account information."</p> <p><i>The Register</i> asked Transamerica exactly how many of its customers were whacked by the hack, and we have yet to hear back. The biz has not said if it has any reports of the stolen information being used for fraud.</p> <p>"We began an investigation as soon as we learned of the incident, engaged a leading cybersecurity forensics firm, and contacted appropriate law enforcement," customers were told in a memo from Transamerica.</p> <p>"We continue to work diligently to minimize the impact of this event and may take additional steps to enhance the security of your account based on our investigation."</p> <p>To remedy the situation, Transamerica says it is flagging up, and monitoring any accounts that were accessed by the miscreants. The biz is also offering its customers one year of identity monitoring services, a fairly standard measure taken by companies in the wake of a major data breach. Customers will have until August 30 to enroll in the monitoring service.</p> <p>In addition to credit monitoring, Transamerica is asking customers to change their passwords with new,</p> |

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| | complex logins. |
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| HEADLINE | 06/05 AI technology identifies, counts wildlife |
| SOURCE | https://venturebeat.com/2018/06/05/researchers-develop-ai-that-identifies-and-counts-wildlife-with-96-6-accuracy/ |
| GIST | <p>There’s more to artificial intelligence than voice assistants and self-driving cars. Researchers at Auburn University, Harvard, Oxford, the University of Minnesota, and the University of Wyoming have developed a machine learning algorithm that can identify, describe, and count wildlife with 96.6 percent accuracy.</p> <p>The paper, which was written in November 2017, was accepted in the <i>Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS)</i> this week.</p> <p>“This technology lets us accurately, unobtrusively and inexpensively collect wildlife data, which could help catalyze the transformation of many fields of ecology, wildlife biology, zoology, conservation biology and animal behavior into ‘big data’ sciences,” Jeff Clune — associate professor at the University of Wyoming, senior research manager at Uber’s Artificial Intelligence Labs, and senior author of the paper — said in a statement. “This will dramatically improve our ability to both study and conserve wildlife and precious ecosystems.”</p> <p>The researchers trained the computer vision algorithm on 3.2 million images from Snapshot Serengeti, a citizen science project on Zooniverse.org that recruits volunteers to collect images of elephants, giraffes, gazelles, lions, cheetahs, and other animals in their natural habitats. More than 50,000 people with 225 camera traps contributed to the project’s corpus.</p> |
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| HEADLINE | 06/05 Unlicensed software in Canada problematic |
| SOURCE | https://www.itworldcanada.com/article/large-amount-of-desktop-software-in-canada-is-unlicensed-and-a-major-threat-industry-study/405941 |
| GIST | <p>The amount of unlicensed and unsupported software in the desktop computers of Canadians continues to slowly drop but still poses a great risk to users, says an industry survey released Tuesday.</p> <p>The survey by BSA The Software Alliance –which includes giants like Adobe, Microsoft, IBM, Oracle and Symantec — 22 per cent of software installed on PCs in this country in 2017, worth an estimated \$819 million, was not licensed. That continues a steady drop from the first global survey in 2011, when 27 per cent of Canadian computers were estimated to have unlicensed software.</p> <p>By comparison, 15 per cent of PCs in the U.S. had unlicensed software last year. Globally the number was 37 per cent, which the report called “alarming.”</p> <p>The software industry loses a lot of money from unlicensed applications, but the hammer it uses is that this unsupported software is a security risk by allowing malware to exploit unpatched vulnerabilities. So the report urges CIOs to thoroughly inventory the software on their machines “so they can reduce the risk of harmful cyber attacks and boost the bottom line.”</p> <p>“Organizations now face a one-in-three chance of encountering malware when they obtain or install an unlicensed software package or buy a computer with unlicensed software on it,” the report estimates.</p> <p>“Each malware attack can cost a company US\$2.4 million on average and can take up to 50 days to resolve. To the extent that the infection leads to company downtime, or lost business data, it can also seriously affect the company’s brand and reputation. The cost for dealing with malware that is associated with unlicensed software is growing too. It can now cost a company more than \$10,000 per</p> |

infected computer, and cost companies worldwide nearly US\$359 billion a year. Avoiding the security threats from malware is now the number one reason CIOs cite for ensuring the software on their network is fully licensed.”

The report also quotes market research firm IDC — which did much of the research for this report — estimating that when companies take pragmatic steps to improve their software management, they can boost their bottom line by as much as 11 per cent.

Among the countries with high rates of unlicensed software are China (66 per cent) and Russia (62 per cent).

The report is based on calculations of software sold around the world, a global survey of more than 22,500 home and enterprise PC users, and a survey of 2,300 IT managers in 23 countries.

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HEADLINE 06/05 Civil groups: FBI misled on encryption

SOURCE <https://www.nextgov.com/cybersecurity/2018/06/civil-liberties-groups-urge-ig-investigation-faulty-fbi-encryption-stats/148736/>

GIST The Justice Department’s internal watchdog should investigate how the FBI ended up using inaccurate figures to bolster its case that warrant-proof encryption was making Americans unsafe, according to a Monday letter from 20 civil society groups.

The FBI acknowledged last month that it could not support the claim made by top officials, including Attorney General Jeff Sessions, that encryption blocked law enforcement from retrieving evidence from 7,775 devices during the 2017 fiscal year.

Associate Deputy Director Paul Abbate insisted, however, that end-to-end encryption systems remain a major barrier to investigations and could result in the bureau failing to stop a terrorist attack before it happens or find an abducted child.

Officials blamed the erroneous figure on a flawed methodology the bureau used to count encrypted devices. The FBI has not yet determined the correct figure, Abbate said.

The erroneous figure was the second major blow this year to the FBI’s four-year-old battle against end-to-end encryption systems, which top officials say allow terrorists and criminals to “go dark” online. The bureau did not explore all possible options before asking a judge to legally compel Apple to help it crack into an encrypted iPhone used by San Bernardino shooter Syed Farook in 2015.

Apple fought that effort and the FBI eventually withdrew the request after an unnamed third-party offered its own technical fix.

Investigating the FBI’s erroneous claims about inaccessible devices would be a useful and necessary follow up to that earlier report, according to Monday’s letter from groups including the New America think tank, the American Civil Liberties Union and the Center for Democracy and Technology.

The dispute centers on end-to-end encryption systems, which shield the contents of communication from anyone—including the service provider—except the sender and recipient. In other encryption implementations, the communications provider has an encryption key and can share decrypted communications in response to a warrant.

The problem, according to tech companies and most security experts, is that any technical solution that allows government access to end-to-end encryption systems could also be exploited by criminal hackers. That would make all technology users less secure, they say.

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| | <p>“Given the severe negative effects of an encryption backdoor mandate, the FBI’s miscalculation is particularly concerning,” the civil liberties groups write.</p> <p>The inspector general should investigate both how the FBI came to rely on the faulty figures and why top officials continued to cite the figures during the first weeks after the FBI learned they were erroneous.</p> |
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| HEADLINE | 06/05 Charges: hacking Minn. govt. databases |
| SOURCE | https://www.sfgate.com/news/crime/article/Man-allegedly-angry-over-Castile-case-is-charged-12970157.php |
| GIST | <p>MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — A man who allegedly hacked into Minnesota government databases last year because he was angry over the acquittal of the officer who shot and killed Philando Castile was charged in an indictment unsealed Tuesday.</p> <p>According to an indictment, Cameron Thomas Crowley, who goes by "Vigilance," faces multiple charges, including three counts of intentional access to a protected computer, one count of intentional damage to a protected computer, and one count of aggravated identity theft.</p> <p>After the breeches, a person tweeting as Vigilance taunted authorities by writing, "Where am I? Clock is ticking." The person tweeted that the Minnesota databases were targeted in retaliation for the acquittal of former St. Anthony police officer Jeronimo Yanez, who was found not guilty of manslaughter and other charges in the 2016 shooting of Castile, a black motorist.</p> <p>Crowley, 19, of Lino Lakes, was ordered held Tuesday during an initial appearance in U.S. District Court. He was appointed a federal defender and is scheduled for an arraignment Friday.</p> <p>According to the indictment, Crowley accessed the state's databases in June 2017 and intentionally transmitted programs, codes and commands to state computer servers, causing damages and a loss to the state of more than \$5,000. Crowley is also charged with accessing databases at two unnamed universities and an unnamed school district.</p> |
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| HEADLINE | 06/05 Amazon yanks 'smart toy' off shelves |
| SOURCE | https://www.cbsnews.com/news/amazon-will-stop-selling-connected-toy-filled-with-security-issues/ |
| GIST | <p>That soft teddy bear seems harmless -- until hackers can use it to spy on your kids.</p> <p>Amazon said it has pulled CloudPets, a smart toy that researchers said was riddled with security flaws, from its online store. Last week, Walmart and Target stopped selling the toy. Amazon began removing CloudPets on Tuesday morning.</p> <p>The decision comes a day after Mozilla contacted Amazon with research showing new vulnerabilities on CloudPets.</p> <p>"In a world where data leaks are becoming more routine and products like CloudPets still sit on store shelves, I'm increasingly worried about my kids' privacy and security," Ashley Boyd, Mozilla's vice president of advocacy, said in a statement.</p> <p>Walmart and Target did not respond to a request for comment.</p> <p>This isn't the first time that Amazon has stopped selling products over privacy concerns. Last July, the online retailer giant suspended Blu phones -- its top selling phone at the time -- because researchers found spyware on the popular devices.</p> |

Connected devices tend to be open to attacks for a multitude of reasons, whether it's default passwords, developers who never send security updates or owners who never install them. The US Consumer Product Safety Commission opened an investigation into the dangers of connected gadgets, also known as the Internet of Things, in March, while lawmakers introduced a bill to regulate smart devices.

That's a particular problem when it comes to selling connected toys to children, since it opens up a new field of privacy concerns for parents. After advocates pointed out that the toy "My Friend Cayla" violated privacy rules by recording conversations without parental consent, Germany banned the doll and asked any parents who still owned it to destroy it.

CloudPets, made by Spiral Toys, is a talking toy that's connected online, uses voice recordings and an online app through Bluetooth.

But in 2017, hackers were able to access CloudPets' database, containing email addresses, passwords and voice recordings from children, which cybercriminals held for ransom at least twice. The breach affected more than 800,000 people.

Mozilla worked with cybersecurity research firm Cure53 to see what vulnerabilities CloudPets still has after the original breach in 2017. They found that CloudPets' Bluetooth vulnerabilities first demonstrated more than a year ago are still open.

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| HEADLINE | 06/05 Facebook gave access to China firms |
| SOURCE | https://www.cbsnews.com/news/facebook-reportedly-gave-data-access-chinese-company-huawei-officials-call-security-risk/ |
| GIST | <p>Facebook has given access to user data to four Chinese manufacturers, including one that U.S. intelligence officials consider a security threat, according to The New York Times. The Times the social media giant has had an agreement with telecommunications company Huawei since at least 2010.</p> <p>Facebook said it plans to wind down its deal with Huawei by the end of the week, the Times reports. The three other partnerships with Chinese device makers include Lenovo, Oppo and TCL. The Times reports the deals helped Facebook solidify its position in the mobile market before Facebook apps worked well on mobile phones.</p> <p>Facebook told the Times that the data shared with Huawei stayed on its phones, rather than the company's servers.</p> <p>Late Tuesday, Facebook's vice president of mobile partnerships Francisco Varela, told CBS News in a statement that the social media company's integrations with the Chinese manufacturers "were controlled from the get go -- and we approved the Facebook experiences these companies built."</p> <p>"Huawei is the third largest mobile manufacturer globally and its devices are used by people all around the world, including in the United States. Facebook along with many other U.S. tech companies have worked with them and other Chinese manufacturers to integrate their services onto these phones," Varela said in an email. "Facebook's integrations with Huawei, Lenovo, OPPO and TCL were controlled from the get go -- and we approved the Facebook experiences these companies built. Given the interest from Congress, we wanted to make clear that all the information from these integrations with Huawei was stored on the device, not on Huawei's servers."</p> <p>Sen. Mark Warner, D-Virginia, told the Times that he looks forward to "learning more about how Facebook ensured that information about their users was not sent to Chinese servers."</p> <p>In February, senior U.S. intelligence officials advised consumers to avoid purchasing phones</p> |

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| | <p>manufactured by Huawei.</p> <p>FBI Director Christopher Wray cited the security risks of Huawei during a Senate Intelligence Committee hearing that month. Wray said the U.S. government is "deeply concerned" about the risks of allowing companies that are " beholden to foreign governments that don't share our values" to gain "positions of power" inside the U.S. telecommunications network.</p> |
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| HEADLINE | 06/05 Bitfinex resumes operations after DDoS |
| SOURCE | https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2018-06-05/crypto-exchange-bitfinex-suspects-it-s-being-attacked-again |
| GIST | <p>Bitfinex, one of the largest cryptocurrency exchanges, said it has resumed normal operations after suffering a so-called denial-of-service attack earlier.</p> <p>“The Bitfinex exchange was the target of a Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) attack this morning,” Kasper Rasmussen, head of marketing, said in an e-mailed statement. “The exchange was offline for an hour following the DDoS attack; however, the exchange is back online now. The attack only impacted trading operations, and user accounts and their associated funds/account balances were not at risk at any point during the attack.”</p> <p>Bitcoin touched a low for the day, dropping as much as 2.2 percent to \$7,360, as the attack prevented users from accessing the exchange. The largest cryptocurrency reversed losses and is now gaining less than 1 percent.</p> <p>The exchange suffered multiple DDoS attacks late last year. In August 2016, the exchange said it was hacked for a loss of \$68 million. The British Virgin Islands-based company had been down as it went through “unplanned maintenance” earlier.</p> |
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Terror Conditions

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| HEADLINE | 06/06 Jihadi networks in Switzerland |
| SOURCE | https://isnblog.ethz.ch/security/jihadi-networks-in-switzerland-regional-clusters-and-their-transnational-links |
| GIST | <p>On 25 May 2018, the Center for Security Studies at ETH Zurich, together with the Austrian Institute for International Affairs (oiip) and the University of Lucerne, hosted a conference on “Jihadi Networks in Switzerland: Regional Clusters and Transnational Links”. Experts from academia and politics discussed the similarities, differences and connections of jihadist networks in Switzerland, Austria, Germany, France, Belgium, Italy and the Balkans.</p> <p>Four years after the proclamation of the caliphate in Syria and Iraq, the “Islamic state” (IS) is largely defeated militarily. The pace of its terrorist operations as well as its media activities have decreased significantly. Experts’ fears that IS would retreat into a “virtual caliphate” have not yet materialized.</p> <p>Yet, even though the jihadist dream of an extremist utopia seems to have burst for the time being and IS has lost some of its appeal, radicalized individuals and small groups still pose a considerable threat. Accordingly, Switzerland’s third TETRA report (2017) assumes that attacks carried out by individuals or small groups with minimal logistical effort represent the greatest challenge for Switzerland.</p> <p>Along similar lines, Switzerland’s Federal Intelligence Service (FSI) notes in its current report (2018) that in addition to the consumption of jihadist content on the Internet, personal networks and contacts play a</p> |

central role when it comes to radicalization. These contacts are increasingly formed outside the confines of institutions such as mosques. Further, the core of these cross-border networks is often comprised of a few charismatic, radicalized individuals who aim to recruit others from within their own social circles.

The topic of jihadist extremism has occupied CSS researchers for quite some time. As early as 2013, the CSS published a comprehensive study on “Jihadist Radicalization in Switzerland.” Further analyses on jihadist foreign fighters and Swiss security (CSS Analysis No. 199, Bulletin 2014), the difficulties of dealing with jihadist returnees (CSS Analysis No. 210) and the engagement of Muslim organizations in Switzerland against violent extremism (Bulletin 2017) followed. Adding to this body of knowledge, the aim of the May 2018 conference was to take stock of the current research on jihadist networks in Switzerland and their transnational links.

Insights from the Conference

Radicals with North-African and Middle-Eastern backgrounds have long dominated domestic networks in Switzerland. However, jihadis with Balkan backgrounds – especially Bosnia-Herzegovina and Kosovo – currently represent more than one-third of all jihadi foreign fighters from Switzerland. The influence of radical preachers from the Balkans is also on the increase.

The emergence of local clusters, which are often characterized by pre-existing social ties, facilitates jihadi networking in Switzerland. The disproportionately high number of foreign fighters from cities like Winterthur or Lausanne indicates the existence of several such jihadi recruitment grounds within the country. While these clusters serve as epicenters for networks within the French, German and Italian-speaking regions in Switzerland, they do not maintain close national ties.

However, this does not mean these clusters constitute isolated islands within the center of Europe. Switzerland’s regional jihadi clusters are often linked to broader transnational networks in neighboring countries such as Germany, Austria, France, Belgium, and Italy. Furthermore, diasporic ties to radical communities in the homeland – as observed in the cases of Bosnia- Herzegovina or Kosovo – present ample evidence for the internationalization of the “Swiss Jihad.”

In order to take this internationalization of the Swiss jihadist problem into account, the conference brought together experts from Switzerland, Austria, Germany, France, Belgium, Italy and Bosnia-Herzegovina. Over the course of four panel discussions, participants looked at the various linguistic-ethnic networks and their respective international contacts. While the causes and motives for radicalization and violence continue to be heterogeneous and complex, there was a general consensus among most participants that personal networks and their transnational connections pose a threat that should not be underestimated.

With its recently adopted Counter Terrorism Strategy (2015), Switzerland is now relatively well prepared to combat jihadist-motivated terrorism. Nonetheless, the conference indicated that certain domestic networks continue to pose a significant threat. In order to better understand better how these networks operate, closer cooperation between national authorities in Europe is essential.

What the Future Holds

Unlike other countries, Switzerland does not appear to be a focal point for jihadist terrorism. Yet, no one knows which organizations and networks will emerge from the ties and contacts jihadists have formed in Syria and Iraq. The 11 September 2001 terrorist attacks have already shown that decades may pass between the initial formation of networks during a conflict and an actual attack. As a result, the threat posed by jihadist networks and returnees will almost certainly remain at the top of Switzerland’s security agenda.

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| SOURCE | https://www.straitstimes.com/asia/se-asia/indonesias-anti-terror-sweep-nets-96-suspects |
| GIST | <p>AKARTA/PEKANBARU • Indonesian police revealed yesterday that 96 people allegedly involved in terror activities have been captured or killed as part of a crackdown on terrorist networks in the country.</p> <p>National Police chief General Tito Karnavian said they were striving to uncover terrorist networks in Indonesia following a riot at the police's Mobile Brigade headquarters detention centre in Depok, West Java, which took the lives of five police officers last month.</p> <p>"Fourteen of (those 96 people) were gunned down by the police force for attempting to resist arrest," Gen Tito said during a joint coordination meeting at National Police headquarters.</p> <p>He said terrorist networks existed in most Indonesian provinces. Some of them were sleeper cells now, but others were active.</p> <p>Learning from the Surabaya bombings, Gen Tito said, sleeper cells were more prone to committing terrorist acts than active ones. But it was also important to keep an eye on the active terrorist cells.</p> <p>In the latest arrests, counter-terrorism squad Densus 88 on Sunday captured three alleged terrorists in Pringsewu regency of Lampung, Sumatra. The suspects were identified only as US, 43, IN, 37, and IM, 42. They stand accused of being involved with the Jamaah Ansharut Daulah (JAD) terrorist group, which pledges allegiance to the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria.</p> <p>Meanwhile, universities across Indonesia are tightening supervision of student activities following the arrest of suspected terrorists at a state university.</p> |
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| HEADLINE | 06/05 DHS tests Vehicle Face System |
| SOURCE | https://www.engadget.com/2018/06/05/dhs-facial-recognition-scan-travelers-at-border/ |
| GIST | <p>Last year, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) put out a notice, saying it was looking for a facial recognition system that could work with images taken of people inside their cars. The idea was that such a system could be used to scan people entering and leaving the country through the US/Mexico border and match them to government documents like passports and visas. Now, The Verge reports that DHS will be launching a test of a system aiming to do just that.</p> <p>The Vehicle Face System, as it's called, is scheduled for an initial deployment in August and it will be installed at the Anzalduas border crossing. The test will take place over one year and will aim to take images of passengers in every car that enters or leaves the US through the crossing. Those images will be matched to government documents and travelers will be verified before they get to the border checkpoint, in theory.</p> <p>While car windshield reflections have typically prohibited facial recognition systems from being effective with images taken through windshields, those behind these tests are hoping to get around that problem. They're using sensors that can capture images at multiple focal lengths, which might allow the system to differentiate people from reflections.</p> <p>The work is part of a larger biometric data project that currently includes ongoing facial recognition pilots in eight airports including the Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, Washington Dulles International Airport, JFK International Airport and Chicago O'Hare International Airport.</p> <p>There are, of course, concerns over how this technology will be implemented. "This is a way for the federal government to track people -- monitoring who goes where and what they do there," ACLU attorney Mitra Ebadolahi told The Verge. "In a free society, we should all be able to safely live our lives without being watched and targeted by the federal government."</p> |
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| HEADLINE | 06/06 Iran role in backing, advising Taliban? |
| SOURCE | https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/asia_pacific/days-after-taliban-assault-in-western-afghanistan-allegations-of-an-iranian-role/2018/06/05/a65ec934-605d-11e8-b656-236c6214ef01_story.html?utm_term=.8c211128a915 |
| GIST | <p>FARAH, Afghanistan — No one here believes the fight is over.</p> <p>Two weeks after hundreds of Taliban insurgents invaded this provincial capital in western Afghanistan, the sidewalk bazaars are back in business, piled with sandals and blankets and soap, but a Humvee or armored vehicle stands guard every two blocks. Afghan troops have delivered voter registration forms for parliamentary elections in October, but few people are showing up to apply.</p> <p>Afghan and U.S. officials declared a decisive victory after driving out the insurgents with airstrikes and troop reinforcements, but residents and officials say the city remains vulnerable to attack. Security forces are stretched thin across Farah province, a huge, rugged and sparsely inhabited region where Taliban fighters still move freely in many districts and enjoy support from some fellow ethnic Pashtuns.</p> <p>Even as Afghan officials last week put on an impressive display of weapons confiscated during the 36-hour street battle, some complained that arms are being sold back to the insurgents, that political feuds are weakening the government’s side, and that Iran — which shares a lengthy border with the province — is backing and advising the Taliban.</p> <p>The war for this remote but strategic region, some say, has become captive to domestic and foreign self-interests.</p> <p>“The biggest challenge we have is that people here won’t help us,” said Gen. Noorullah Qaderi, the regional army commander. “They hide the Taliban in their homes and then we can’t go after them. They have relations with them from a long time back.” Other security officials said these ties include trading and smuggling of drugs and weapons between Afghanistan and Iran.</p> <p>Qaderi said he is “100 percent certain” that Iran is supporting the Taliban directly and indirectly, largely as a foil to the Islamic State. The extremist Sunni group, known here as Daesh, has been attacking Afghan Shiite communities for several years. The attacks have included suicide bombings in Kabul and Herat, a major Shiite center near the Iran border.</p> <p>“They want to use the Taliban in the border areas against Daesh,” Qaderi said.</p> <p>An intelligence officer, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because he is not authorized to discuss the matter publicly, described the Farah attack as a meticulously planned operation involving more than 2,800 fighters who traveled from as far as Helmand province and Pakistan. He declined to discuss the possible role of Iran but said that many local police officers had fled their posts and that if U.S. Special Operations forces did not remain in the area, the insurgents would strike again.</p> <p>Several other officials, including Farah’s governor, Abdul Basir Salangi, also were cautious in their comments, saying they did not have “documented proof” that Iran is aiding the insurgents. A powerful neighbor and major economic partner of Afghanistan, Iran has denied interfering in the country’s conflict and has demanded solid evidence to back up the allegations.</p> <p>U.S. officials have said they would not rule out the possibility that Iran was behind the Farah attack, the most ambitious by the Taliban in months. Dana White, a Pentagon spokeswoman, said afterwards that “Iran remains the most destabilizing factor in the Middle East. . . I don’t think you can ever rule out their mischief.”</p> <p>U.S. relations with Iran’s Shiite regime have plummeted since early last month, when President Trump</p> |

renounced the 2015 nuclear deal that the Obama administration and five other world powers had painstakingly negotiated with Tehran.

Some residents of Farah city said they had little doubt that Iranian hands were involved in the relentless insurgent push to take over Farah province, a potential gateway north to the large border city of Herat and east toward the rest of Afghanistan.

In the main market, jittery merchants pointed out fresh bullet holes and char marks on storefronts, and they described seeing bodies of Taliban fighters strewn on the streets. In the local agronomy school, the halls were lined with colorful posters illustrating tree grafting and bee pollination, but several classrooms were burned black.

“If the situation stays the same, the Taliban will be back,” said a day laborer named Rashid, 28. “It’s a complicated fight. Around here, one brother is with the Taliban and another one is with the government. But the weapons are definitely coming from Iran.”

In some parts of Farah province, political and personal feuds among local officials have also strengthened the insurgents’ hands. Porchaman, a district once considered relatively safe, was initially reported Sunday to have fallen to the Taliban. By Monday officials said it was under government control, but local leaders described an ongoing rivalry between current and former district officials, one of whom threatening to join the Taliban fight.

Elsewhere, residents and officials said the construction of dams had created a second motive for Iranian interference. Iran depends heavily on water from Afghan rivers, and the two countries have been negotiating over water rights for months. Meanwhile, though, Afghanistan has completed a large dam in Herat province and is building a second in Farah.

“No matter how many soldiers they bring here to defend us, everyone agrees that Iran has the power to do this,” said one official in Anar Dara, a remote and drought-stricken district that Taliban fighters overran last month, shooting the police chief dead in his office. “They want to fight Daesh, and they want to stop the dams.”

Last week, Afghan army officials invited several journalists to visit Anar Dara, where they landed in a helicopter and were escorted to the town center by a convoy of war-battered Humvees. Local police officers lined up along the deserted highway, where the officials praised their bravery and handed each an envelope with a cash bonus worth about \$12.

Later, in a meeting with local leaders, Qaderi tried hard to persuade local ex-soldiers and police officers to enlist in a new regional security force, which the central government is trying to build so national troops will not have to rush from one flare-up to the next.

“You can enlist from any village, on any mountaintop,” Qaderi said, addressing a group of elders and urging them to send their sons back into battle. “You will have the same benefits as regular forces. You will get your pay from the bank.”

The general thanked the local forces for not requesting any more weapons, saying he had none to send. Then he raised his hands in prayer and added solemnly, “I pray that God will save you and your families from violence and misfortune.”

The elders were polite but skeptical. One complained that the local schools were 70 percent short on books and that the only clinic ran out of medications far too quickly, in part because they were being sold illegally. Another said most wealthy residents had already moved to Herat for safety.

“If we don’t get better security here, everyone will leave,” he said.

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| HEADLINE | 06/04 US-style military uniforms for sale |
| SOURCE | https://www.stripes.com/news/us-style-military-uniforms-like-those-used-in-kabul-attack-are-freely-sold-in-afghan-markets-1.530983 |
| GIST | <p>KABUL, Afghanistan — Outfits that look the same as the U.S. Army-style combat uniform worn by a gunman in an attack last week on Afghanistan’s Interior Ministry can easily be found for sale in the capital.</p> <p>At the Kabul market known as “Bush Bazaar,” shops sell military goods of suspect origins — everything from what U.S. troops wear on their backs to what they put in their bellies, and more. The mall, which brings together hundreds of vendors, is named for the former U.S. president who ordered the 2001 invasion, which brought in thousands of troops and the supplies to support them.</p> <p>Most of a convincing counterfeit Army uniform can be had there for about \$60 or less. Some of the uniforms and accessories seem genuine or are very good knockoffs.</p> <p>Not long ago it was common for attackers to don friendly military disguises, but Wednesday’s attack marked the first such assault in more than a year, said Gen. John Nicholson, commander of U.S. and allied forces in the country.</p> <p>After a run of such attacks in 2012, including a deadly September assault on Helmand province’s Camp Bastion that left two Marines dead and eight fighter jets damaged or destroyed, Kabul police began cracking down on the unauthorized sale of military and police uniforms.</p> <p>As far as the police were concerned last week, those efforts had been effective.</p> <p>“Selling uniforms is not allowed,” police spokesman Hashmat Stanekzai told Stars and Stripes. “If someone is caught with selling those items, he gets jailed and the shop is shuttered.”</p> <p>They might be sold in secret, he said, but not openly, as it’s “strictly banned.”</p> <p>Yet shopkeepers displayed plenty of military-style clothing for sale, and on a recent visit boasted that some items were the same as those worn by the country’s commandos, the elite troops who work closely with American special operations forces and often conduct night raids against insurgents and terrorist groups.</p> <p>Some Afghan forces and other coalition troops wear uniforms based on or difficult to distinguish from current or past U.S. uniforms.</p> <p>When asked, some merchants claimed they sold uniforms only to military or security personnel, though they showed no reservations about offering military clothing to civilians before the question was raised.</p> <p>Even if not worn to military standards, garb that passably disguises the enemy as friendly forces could cause confusion in an attack or create a few moments of hesitation, allowing a suicide bomber to get closer to military bases or patrols and inflict heavier damage.</p> <p>During Wednesday’s assault, the tactic proved largely unsuccessful. The gunmen wore outdated U.S. digital camouflage uniforms, known as the Universal Camouflage Pattern, which raised the gate guards’ suspicions and led them to confront the attackers, Nicholson told Pentagon reporters last week.</p> <p>That pattern of uniform was harder to find at the bazaar and cost about one-third more than what appeared to be brand-new military outfits resembling those currently worn by the Army and recently adopted by the Air Force.</p> <p>Priced at about \$30 and found in several shops, not all those in the newer print known as Operational Camouflage Pattern seemed authentic. But without a close inspection, it was sometimes hard to tell.</p> |

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| HEADLINE | 06/05 Va. man seeking jihad sentenced 5yrs |
| SOURCE | https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/virginia-man-sentenced-lying-attempt-join-military-55653263? |
| GIST | <p>A Virginia man who told an FBI undercover employee he wanted to commit jihad has been sentenced to five years in prison for passport fraud and making false statements in his application to join the U.S. military.</p> <p>A U.S. attorney's office news release says 28-year-old Shivam Patel, of Williamsburg, was sentenced Monday.</p> <p>The Virginian-Pilot reports that Patel, who was raised Hindu before converting to Islam, left his job teaching English in China to fly to Jordan, where he talked about joining the Islamic State group. Prosecutors say Jordan moved to deport him.</p> <p>He was met by the FBI informant, who said Patel expressed admiration for an Army officer who had killed 13 soldiers at Fort Hood, Texas. Patel didn't disclose his overseas trips in his application.</p> |
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| HEADLINE | 06/05 US: Manbij to be governed by 'locals' |
| SOURCE | https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/latest-russians-withdraw-syria-lebanon-border-55654595? |
| GIST | <p>The United States says the Syrian town of Manbij will be governed by "locals" who are "mutually agreeable" to the U.S. and Turkey following the withdrawal of U.S.-backed Syrian Kurdish forces from the city.</p> <p>Senior U.S. officials say that a U.S.-Turkey deal for Kurdish-led troops to withdraw from the strategic city includes "estimated timelines" but no hard-and-fast deadlines for steps to be taken. They say implementation will be timed based on events on the ground.</p> <p>The officials say that the Syrian Kurdish militia known as the People's Protection Units or YPG will move to the east of the Euphrates River. They say eventually, joint U.S-Turkish patrols will be dispatched along a line of demarcation.</p> <p>The officials weren't authorized to be identified by name and requested anonymity.</p> <hr/> <p>4 p.m.</p> <p>Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu says Syrian Kurdish fighters will have to give up their weapons when they retreat from the key northern Syrian town of Manbij, as part of a deal reached with the United States.</p> <p>Speaking to reporters on Tuesday, Cavusoglu also said that Turkish and U.S. officials would begin working on a plan within the next 10 days and the Syrian Kurdish militia's withdrawal would be complete within six months.</p> <p>There was no immediate comment from the Syrian Kurdish fighters on having to surrender arms when leaving Manbij.</p> |

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| | A Turkish official says the withdrawal will be according to a U.S. plan, to be completed next week, then Turkey will review the withdrawal before a new council to administer the town is set up. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to reporters. |
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| HEADLINE | 06/04 Somalia: US airstrike kills 27 militants |
| SOURCE | https://www.voanews.com/a/us-airstrike-somalia-kills-al-shabab-extremists/4424060.html |
| GIST | <p>A U.S. airstrike in northern Somalia Saturday killed 27 al-Shabab militants, the U.S. Africa Command said.</p> <p>It posted a Twitter message Monday saying the strike near Bosaso, in semi-autonomous Puntland state, was carried out in coordination with the Somali government.</p> <p>U.S. commanders said no civilians were killed.</p> <p>“U.S. forces will continue to use all authorized and appropriate measures to protect U.S. citizens and to disable terrorist threats,” the command said.</p> <p>Targets will include terror training camps and safe havens throughout Somalia and the region. Another U.S. airstrike killed 12 al-Shabab militants Thursday south of Mogadishu.</p> <p>Saturday’s airstrike came after al-Shabab extremists attacked a military base in Puntland, claiming to have killed five soldiers, wounding seven and destroying Somali military equipment.</p> <p>Al-Qaida-affiliated al-Shabab is fighting to topple Somalia’s Western-backed government. It is blamed for countless terrorist attacks, including an October truck bombing in Mogadishu that killed more than 500 people.</p> |
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| HEADLINE | 06/05 Libya military strongman: victory is near |
| SOURCE | https://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/north-africa/2018/06/05/Libya-strongman-Haftar-says-victory-near-against-Derna-extremists.html |
| GIST | <p>Libyan military strongman Khalifa Haftar said Monday that victory was near for his forces in Derna, the eastern city held by ISIS since the 2011 armed uprising.</p> <p>Haftar’s self-styled Libyan National Army launched an offensive on May 7 to “liberate” the coastal city, home to about 150,000 people and held by extremists since the uprising that ousted dictator Moamer Kadhafi.</p> <p>“Victory is near,” Haftar said in a video published on YouTube, adding that his forces had “cleaned up” suburbs of the city.</p> <p>LNA forces have laid siege to Derna for nearly two years, making it difficult for residents to access humanitarian aid.</p> <p>The city is the only part of eastern Libya out of the LNA’s control. It is held by a ragtag coalition of ISIS militants, including groups close to Al-Qaeda.</p> <p>Haftar said that after its “liberation” his forces would deploy across the city to take control of all areas and infrastructure. But he called on them to ensure the safety of residents and to put up defense barriers for additional security.</p> |

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| | <p>The strongman whose forces are backed by the United Arab Emirates and Egypt also prohibited his troops from taking “revenge”, in particular against “terrorists” who surrender and give up their arms.</p> <p>“It is necessary to respect legal procedures concerning prisoners and to deliver them to the competent organs,” Haftar said.</p> <p>Some members of Haftar’s forces have been implicated in war crimes, including Mahmud al-Werfalli, a commander of the Al-Saiqa brigade based in Libya’s second city of Benghazi.</p> <p>On the humanitarian front, the situation in Derna is critical, according to the International Organization for Migration. Since fighting began in Derna more than three weeks ago, “continued shelling and clashes” have forced at least 425 families -- about 2,125 people -- to flee the city, the IOM’s Displacement Tracking Matrix said on Monday.</p> <p>On Friday, the UN mission in Libya said at least 17 civilians, including two children, have been killed and 22 others, including seven children, have been wounded in the fighting since May 16.</p> <p>It said the escalation in the fighting reached “unprecedented levels” last week and was getting increasingly close to densely populated areas.</p> |
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| HEADLINE | 06/05 Niger: bombers kill 10 in mosque attack |
| SOURCE | http://www.africanews.com/2018/06/05/niger-female-suicide-bombers-kill-10-in-mosque-attack/ |
| GIST | <p>Three suicide bombers killed 10 people at a mosque in Niger’s southeastern city of Diffa who had gathered after breaking the Ramadan fast, an army spokesman said on Tuesday.</p> <p>The area around Diffa, close to Lake Chad and the borders with Nigeria, Chad and Cameroon, is a stronghold for two factions of militant group Boko Haram, which have been fighting to establish an Islamic state in the region.</p> <p>“It was last night that these three people exploded their charges during a religious service,” the spokesman said. He later said the three bombers were female.</p> <p>It was last night that these three people exploded their charges during a religious service.</p> <p>Southeast Niger has seen sporadic attacks by militants loosely linked to Boko Haram. The Islamist group has gradually split into two factions, one of which has pledged allegiance to Syria-based Islamic State. Troops from Niger and the United States killed 11 Islamist militants from that Islamic State affiliate in a firefight last December.</p> <p>Boko Haram sometimes use female suicide bombers in their campaigns against security forces and civilians, in part because they attract less suspicion.</p> <p>More than 15,000 people have been killed and millions displaced by the conflict in the Lake Chad region. After a deadly assault on the Nigerien town of Bosso in June 2016 killed 32 soldiers, Chad sent 2,000 troops to help Niger, but they were withdrawn in October last year.</p> |
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| HEADLINE | 06/05 UK: holiday destinations terror risk |
| SOURCE | https://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/your-holiday-destination-safe-government-12648338 |
| GIST | The holiday season is in full flow and summer getaways are on most people's agendas in the coming months. |

But tourists have been warned to avoid certain areas unless it's essential, with the threat of terror attacks in several places in Europe and beyond.

Where is safe to go and where should you avoid travelling to? What precautions should you take while travelling?

Here we take a look at the UK Government's travel advice for destinations across the globe.

Turkey: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) advises against all travel to within 10 km of the border with Syria and to the city of Diyarbakir. The FCO said: "Fighting in Syria continues in areas close to the Turkish border and there remains a heightened risk of terrorism in the region." They warned that presidential and parliamentary elections will take place on 24 June 2018 which "may result in rallies and demonstrations around the country".

"You should avoid large gatherings and follow the advice of the local authorities," the advice added. Added security measures may apply to flights from Turkey to the UK.

Egypt: Terrorists are "very likely" to try to carry out attacks in Egypt, the FCO says. People have been told they should always be vigilant and follow advice of Egyptian authorities and travel companies. Threats to western nationals, institutions and businesses have been posted on websites and social media. The FCO has advised against travel - unless it's essential- to the Governorate of South Sinai with the exception of the area within the Sharm el Sheikh perimeter barrier, which includes the airport and the areas of Sharm el Maya, Hadaba, Naama Bay, Sharks Bay and Nabq. But people have been advised against all but essential travel by air to or from Sharm el Sheikh.

Places to avoid also include the area west of the Nile Valley and Nile Delta regions, excluding the coastal areas between the Nile Delta and Marsa Matruh.

Spain: Barcelona and other areas in the region of Catalonia have seen large gatherings because of the political developments in the region. And the Government has warned more demonstrations could take place. "They may occur with little or no warning and even demonstrations intended to be peaceful can escalate and turn confrontational," the FCO says. "You should exercise caution if you're in the vicinity. "Demonstrations may also cause some disruption and delays to transport services."

The FCO have also urged people to not take unnecessary risks, especially when under the influence of alcohol after several deaths as a result from people falling from balconies. They also warned people to be aware of the existence of street crime as thieves tend to target money and passports.

Greece: Terrorist attacks in Greece can't be ruled out, the FCO says. Brits have been told to apply for a free European Health Insurance Card and to carry their passport or photo ID showing British nationality at all times. Some medical costs are not covered by the European Health Insurance Card so people have been told to get comprehensive medical and travel insurance before going to Greece.

The FCO says: "Greek police won't accept rowdy or indecent behaviour, especially where excessive drinking is involved. "Greek courts impose heavy fines or prison sentences on people who behave indecently. "Your travel insurance may not cover you after drinking."

France: It is "very likely" that terrorists carry out attacks in France, according to the Government. The country has had ongoing threats by Islamist terrorist groups. The French government has advised the public to be vigilant and has reinforced its security measures. People should also be aware that a number of strikes are being planned on SNCF trains until June 28 and should check travel advice.

USA: Terror attacks in the USA are "very likely" and could be indiscriminate, the Government has warned. People should be vigilant and check reports in the press. The US Department of Homeland Security is to start implementing separate enhanced security screening procedures for all commercial

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| | <p>flights to the US.</p> <p>Tunisia: A state of emergency is in place in Tunisia. This was put into effect after a suicide attack on a police bus on November 24, 2015. It's been extended several times, most recently on March 12, 2018 by seven months. The FCO has advised against all travel to the Chaambi Mountains National Park and the designated military operations zones of Mount Salloum, Mount Sammamma and Mount Mghila.</p> <p>They have also advised against travel to the militarised zone south of El Borma and Dhehiba, anywhere within 20km of the rest of the Libya border area north of Dhehiba and Ben Guerdane and its immediate surrounding area.</p> <p>Advise against all but essential travel has been advised for places south of, and including, the towns of Nefta, Douz, Médenine, Zarzis.</p> <p>Also, within 30km of the border with Algeria south of and including the town of Jendouba. People should also not go to Kasserine, including the town of Sbeitla, unless it's absolutely necessary.</p> |
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| HEADLINE | 06/05 Singer's PTSD after Manchester bombing |
| SOURCE | https://www.today.com/health/what-ptsd-ariana-grande-reveals-struggle-disorder-t130305 |
| GIST | <p>Singer Ariana Grande revealed this week she's struggling with symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder more than a year after a suicide bomber targeted one of her concerts.</p> <p>The aftermath was gruesome: 22 people, including children, were killed in the attack at Britain's Manchester Arena on May 22, 2017; dozens were wounded.</p> <p>The pop star recently called the anniversary a "challenging day"...</p> <p>"It's hard to talk about because so many people have suffered such severe, tremendous loss. But, yeah, it's a real thing," Grande told British Vogue.</p> <p>"I know those families and my fans, and everyone there experienced a tremendous amount of it as well. Time is the biggest thing. I feel like I shouldn't even be talking about my own experience — like I shouldn't even say anything. I don't think I'll ever know how to talk about it and not cry."</p> <p>WHAT IS PTSD?</p> <p>PTSD can strike people who have experienced a shocking, frightening or dangerous event, according to the National Institute of Mental Health. That may include going through or witnessing combat, a natural disaster, a car accident or an assault. The unexpected death of a loved one can also trigger the disorder.</p> <p>It's normal to have upsetting memories or feel jittery after a traumatic event, but most people start to recover after a few weeks or months, the National Center for PTSD noted. For some, the trauma lingers: They may feel stressed or frightened even when they are not in danger.</p> <p>If the symptoms continue for more than a month and interfere with a person's ability to function, he or she may have PTSD. About 7-8 percent of the U.S. population will experience the disorder at some point in their lives, with women more likely to develop it than men.</p> |
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| HEADLINE | 06/06 Afghan official: Taliban attack army post |
| SOURCE | https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/attack-army-post-afghanistan-kills-soldiers-55683789? |

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| GIST | <p>An Afghan official says the Taliban have attacked an army post in the western Badghis province, killing six soldiers and wounding seven.</p> <p>Abdul Aziz Beg, head of the provincial council, said the attack late Tuesday set off a two-hour gunbattle, with the insurgents stealing ammunition and two army vehicles. No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack.</p> <p>In the northern Baghlan province, police say a roadside bomb killed a civilian and wounded three others.</p> <p>Afghan security forces have struggled in recent years to combat the Taliban and a local Islamic State affiliate, both of which carry out near-daily attacks across the country.</p> |
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Suspicious, Unusual

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| HEADLINE | 06/05 Bellevue police warn of phone scam |
| SOURCE | https://www.kiro7.com/news/eastside-news/bellevue-police-warn-of-phone-scam/763763144 |
| GIST | <p>The Bellevue Police Department is warning people about a phone scam that's taking thousands of dollars from people.</p> <p>Police said scammers are pretending to be the Chinese Consulate, and claiming the person who answers the call needs to pay money to clear their name from a money laundering incident.</p> <p>One Bellevue resident paid \$219,000.</p> <p>Bellevue police said they've received reports of nine victims receiving the calls.</p> |
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| HEADLINE | 06/06 Tunisia: 10 security officials fired |
| SOURCE | http://www.foxnews.com/world/2018/06/06/tunisian-security-chiefs-fired-after-mass-migrant-drowning.html |
| GIST | <p>TUNIS, Tunisia – Tunisia's interior minister has fired 10 security officials amid an investigation into the sinking of a boat carrying migrants trying to reach Europe that left an estimated 112 dead or missing.</p> <p>It was the deadliest shipwreck this year on the dangerous route from North Africa across the Mediterranean Sea to Europe.</p> <p>Tunisian Interior Minister Lotfi Brahmi announced late Tuesday the dismissal of 10 people including local police and security chiefs in the coastal city of Sfax and the Kerkennah island, based on preliminary investigations into Sunday's sinking.</p> <p>The Tunisian government has been widely criticized for not grasping the extent of the tragedy. The prime minister visited the island Tuesday to oversee the search operations.</p> <p>The International Organization for Migration has counted 60 confirmed deaths, 52 people still missing and 68 survivors.</p> |
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| HEADLINE | 06/05 Lynnwood police herd 50 runaway goats |
| SOURCE | https://www.seattlepi.com/seattlenews/article/goats-loose-Lynnwood-police-12969544.php |

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| GIST | <p>Some hired help knocked off on the job Sunday evening near Seattle, prompting police to corral about 50 goats on the lam who were supposed to be trimming some landscape at a park and ride.</p> <p>The goats were employed to munch on the vegetation at the Lynnwood Transit Center, about 16 miles north of Seattle at 20110 46th Avenue West, Lynnwood police say.</p> <p>The goats had freed themselves and roamed the parking lot and officers took about 45 minutes to herd and account for all of them.</p> |
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| HEADLINE | 06/05 Texas prison guards planted evidence? |
| SOURCE | http://www.foxnews.com/us/2018/06/05/texas-prison-guards-fired-amid-planted-evidence-allegations.html |
| GIST | <p>A Texas prison supervisor has resigned and four guards have been fired amid allegations they orchestrated the planting of two screwdrivers in an inmate's cell.</p> <p>Texas Department of Criminal Justice spokesman Jeremy Desel told the Houston Chronicle that the planted evidence "appears to be an isolated incident" at the W.F. Ramsey Unit in Brazoria County. Desel said the scheme began with one supervisor but that all parties involved didn't show integrity.</p> <p>The newspaper obtained copies last month of an email from Capt. Reginald Gilbert that ordered a quota for officers to write inmate disciplinary reports. Gilbert said any sergeants who missed their quota would face disciplinary consequences.</p> <p>The email said the new policy was effective March 10, 2018, but prison officials abandoned the quota system weeks later. The department launched an investigation after the newspaper's reports.</p> <p>Desel said Monday that the evidence-planting investigation is unrelated to the quota system.</p> <p>An inmate's mother sent a letter to the department's Office of the Inspector General on May 25, alleging that her son had been set up by guards at the Ramsey Unit. The agency began investigating and determined the mother was likely correct, Desel said.</p> <p>Major Juan Jackson resigned under investigation. Gilbert, who wrote the email ordering a disciplinary report quota, was later demoted, Desel said.</p> <p>Jennifer Erschabek of Texas Inmate Families Association said the departures confirm their suspicions. "We've been claiming in the past that family members are being set up with these cases, but it's been so hard to prove — and we finally have the proof," she said.</p> <p>The Office of the Inspector General's investigation into the matter is ongoing. The state's criminal justice agency is also conducting an internal investigation into the Ramsey Unit and its prison culture.</p> |
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| HEADLINE | 06/05 UN: 60+ nations ban single-use plastic |
| SOURCE | https://www.cbsnews.com/news/over-60-countries-introduced-bans-fees-single-use-plastic-waste/ |
| GIST | <p>Increasingly aware of the scope of plastic pollution, governments in more than 60 countries have introduced levies and bans to combat single-use plastic waste, according to <u>U.N. Environment</u>, an agency of the United Nations.</p> <p>"A growing number of governments are taking action and demonstrating that all nations, whether rich or poor, can become global environmental leaders," Erik Solheim, the agency's head, said in a <u>report released</u></p> |

Tuesday about sustainable solutions to single-use plastics.

With its release timed for U.N. World Environment Day, the report noted that rules limiting the use of plastic bags had decreased their use in places such as Morocco, Rwanda and parts of China, sometimes significantly.

"Rwanda, a pioneer in banning single-use plastic bags, is now one of the cleanest nations on earth," Solheim said in the report.

But elsewhere, things haven't gone so well. Poor follow-through has left many such bans ineffective. In New Delhi, for instance, a ban on disposable plastics has had only limited impact "because of poor enforcement," the report said. The city has tried repeatedly over the past decade to ban the use of thin plastic bags, most recently announcing a heavy fine for rule-breakers. But the bags remain ubiquitous across the city, blowing in the wind, piled in ditches and readily offered in hundreds of thousands of shops.

Elsewhere in India, including the states of Sikkim and Himachal Pradesh, there have been better results. Solheim praised India, which is hosting this year's Environment Day, for its growing focus on environmental protection. But he also noted that while traveling in the country he'd seen "some of the most beautiful scenic places, but destroyed by plastic pollution."

In its report, the U.N. made a series of recommendations to make plastics bans more effective, from encouraging more cooperation from businesses to improving waste management practices to offering incentives. Governments must finance more development and research of alternative materials, as well as raise awareness among consumers, among other actions, the report said.

By some estimates, as many as 5 trillion plastic bags are used worldwide every year, the report noted. "To meet the rising tide of plastics, we urgently need strong government leadership and intervention," it added.

Solheim said, however, that plastic -- which has saved "countless lives" in the health sector and revolutionized safe food storage -- isn't the problem.

"It's what we do with it," he said. "And that means the onus is on us to be far smarter in how we use this miracle material."

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| HEADLINE | 06/05 Bar to FBI shooting victim: forever drinks |
| SOURCE | https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation-now/2018/06/05/man-shot-dancing-fbi-agent-offered-free-drinks-nightclub/672519002/ |
| GIST | <p>DENVER — The Denver nightclub where an off-duty FBI agent accidentally shot a man while dancing has offered the shooting victim free drinks forever.</p> <p>In a news release Monday, Mile High Spirits in Denver said the victim is "welcome at Mile High Spirits to enjoy complimentary drinks forever."</p> <p>The victim, whose name has not been released, was shot around 1 a.m. on Saturday at the club and bar.</p> <p>A video submitted by a witness shows the off-duty FBI agent dancing, then doing a backflip moments before his gun falls from his waistband holster.</p> <p>When the agent reached down to pick it up, the gun fires — striking a man in the leg. The agent then casually puts his hands up and walks away from the crowd.</p> <p>June 3: Off-duty FBI agent accidentally shoots man while dancing at bar in Denver</p> |

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| | <p>A news release from the Denver Police Department on Saturday said the victim is expected to fully recover.</p> <p>On Monday, Mile High Spirits, which described itself as a craft distillery and lounge, sounded off — saying it was upsetting that Saturday's incident (the only shooting to "ever occur at our establishment") happened "as a result of an FBI agent entering our distillery tasting room carrying a loaded firearm without our knowledge, in violation of our rules."</p> <p>The agent was questioned at Denver Police Headquarters before being released to an FBI supervisor. The agent's name has not been released.</p> <p>Denver police say they're awaiting lab results to help determine whether the agent could face charges. Police want to see whether alcohol was a factor.</p> <p>Prosecutors in the Denver District Attorney's Office will determine whether the agent will face any charges.</p> |
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| HEADLINE | 06/05 Task force for diplomats mystery ailments |
| SOURCE | https://www.newsmax.com/newsfront/diplomacy-cuba-china-health/2018/06/05/id/864360/ |
| GIST | <p>The United States has set up a task force to oversee the response to mystery ailments among its diplomats in Cuba and China, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Tuesday.</p> <p>The State Department has previously said brain injuries suffered by 24 US officials and family members posted in Havana could have been the result of a "health attack," perhaps from an unidentified secret weapon.</p> <p>Washington has said in the past that Cuban authorities must take responsibility for the safety of US diplomats on their soil, but the Havana government denies any knowledge of an attack.</p> <p>Last month, another American employee fell ill with similar symptoms in China, reviving fears that a US rival has developed some kind of invisible acoustic or microwave device.</p> <p>Announcing the task force, however, Pompeo said: "The precise nature of the injuries suffered by the affected personnel, and whether a common cause exists for all cases, has not yet been established."</p> <p>According to the State Department, the "Health Incidents Response Task Force" will coordinate both the investigation and the treatment of the victims and work with several government and military agencies.</p> <p>The statement makes no reference to the possibility of a deliberate attack.</p> <p>But it warns that US diplomats should alert their mission's medical staff "if they note new onset of symptoms that may have begun in association with experiencing unidentified auditory sensations."</p> <p>"Reported symptoms have included dizziness, headaches, tinnitus, fatigue, cognitive issues, visual problems, ear complaints and hearing loss, and difficulty sleeping," it adds.</p> |
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| HEADLINE | 06/05 Claim: Rodman to Singapore for summit |
| SOURCE | https://nypost.com/2018/06/05/dennis-rodman-will-be-in-singapore-for-trump-kim-summit/?utm_source=maropost&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=news_alert&utm_content= |

[20180605&mpweb=755-7028481-711678871](https://www.foxnews.com/sports/nba/2018/06/05/dennis-rodman-kim-jong-un-singapore)

GIST

NBA star turned Kim Jong Un soulmate Dennis Rodman will be in Singapore during President Trump's summit with the North Korean dictator next week, The Post has learned.

"The Worm" will arrive in the country a day before the June 12 sitdown — and sources said he could even play some sort of role in the negotiations.

"No matter what you might think about his presence. One thing's for sure the ratings will be huge," a source said. "A lot of times in situations that involve complex diplomacy countries like to identify ambassadors of goodwill and whether you agree with it or not Dennis Rodman fits the bill."

The zany, 6-foot-7 ex-baller — who has struck up an unlikely bromance with the pint-sized, 5-foot-7 Kim, and has visited the rogue regime five times in the past — took some of the credit for getting the two leaders together.

In an April interview with TMZ, Rodman said that Kim didn't understand the president until he gave the North Korean strongman a copy of Trump's ghost-written book, "The Art of the Deal," for his birthday in 2017.

"I think [Kim] didn't realize who Donald Trump was at that time, I guess, until he started to read the book and started to get to understand him. Donald Trump and Kim Jong-un are pretty much the same," Rodman told the website.

"I don't want to take all the credit. I don't want to sit there and say, 'I did this, I did that.' That's not my intention," Rodman told the website.

"My intention was to go over and be a sports ambassador to North Korea so people understand how the people are in North Korea. I think that has resonated to this whole point now."

Darren Prince, Rodman's rep, said no trip to Singapore had been confirmed but that The Worm would be willing to go if his expertise were needed.

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HEADLINE 06/05 Va. police pursue stolen armored vehicle

SOURCE <https://abcnews.go.com/US/virginia-state-police-chase-stolen-military-vehicle-95/story?>

GIST

Virginia State Police were involved in an unusual police chase Tuesday evening as a stolen military vehicle sped down Interstate 95 at 40 mph.

Police received word of the stolen vehicle Tuesday evening around 8 p.m. local time, and began pursuing the armored personnel vehicle down a highway, according to Corinne N. Geller, public relations director for the Virginia State Police.

The vehicle was stolen by a soldier and driven off Fort Pickett, according to Virginia State Police Sgt. Keeli Hill said in a press conference. The vehicle is the property of the Virginia National Guard, and was not equipped with any weaponry.

Virginia State Police pursued the vehicle from Nottoway County, where Fort Pickett is located, to the city of Richmond, where the suspect stopped on his own accord and surrendered at roughly 9:40 p.m. local time.

Police blocked exit ramps during the chase for the safety of the public, Hill said. There were no injuries or accidents related to the pursuit.

The suspect is now in state custody with charges pending. The incident is under investigation.

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Crime, Criminals

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| HEADLINE | 06/05 Deputy in standoff charged w/assault |
| SOURCE | https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/crime/deputy-in-standoff-charged-with-assault-after-seattle-police-exposed-to-pepper-spray/ |
| GIST | <p>The King County sheriff's deputy who prompted a 13-hour standoff with Seattle police last week has been charged with three counts of third-degree assault, accused of using pepper spray to temporarily force responding officers to back off, according to prosecutors.</p> <p>Deputy Berdon Parsons, 30, was arrested May 30 after a SWAT team breached the doors into his Capitol Hill apartment and found Parsons in the bathroom, a police spokesman said at the time. Parsons remains jailed in lieu of \$15,000 bail, jail records show.</p> <p>Just before 2 a.m. on May 30, Parsons' boyfriend went to the Seattle Police Department's East Precinct and reported that Parsons had gripped his arms and attempted to keep him from leaving their apartment after an argument, charging papers say. The boyfriend told police Parsons was a law-enforcement officer with tactical training, likely had access to guns and was possibly in crisis, the charges say.</p> <p>When a police sergeant reached Parsons by phone, "Parsons told officers he had a shotgun and he refused to come out and speak with officers voluntarily," charging papers say. Several officers stood in the hall outside Parsons' unit as they awaited a warrant to arrest Parsons on investigation of domestic-violence assault, the charges say.</p> <p>Parsons sprayed an orange liquid identified in the charges as pepper spray or OC (oleoresin capsicum) spray through the seams of his apartment door, and it dispersed in the hallway where officers were standing, the charges say.</p> <p>"Officers reported coughing, sneezing, watery eyes, running noses, and burning sensations in their throats, all consistent symptoms of exposure to OC spray," the charges say.</p> <p>Officers later found a can of pepper spray in Parsons' apartment, along with a firearm and ammunition, the charges say.</p> <p>It does not appear that Parsons has been charged with assault in connection with the incident involving his boyfriend. The three counts of third-degree assault involve the three police officers who were exposed to pepper spray.</p> <p>Parsons has been on paid administrative leave since March, pending an evaluation of his fitness for duty, Sheriff's Office spokesman Ryan Abbott said this past week.</p> |
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| HEADLINE | 06/05 Colorado officials become crime victims |
| SOURCE | https://www.splcenter.org/hatewatch/2018/06/05/public-officials-became-crime-victims-antigovernment-terrorism |
| GIST | <p>Public officials in Colorado — including prosecutors, judges and sheriffs — found themselves in the unique position of being crime victims during a barrage of criminal activity by a group of antigovernment sovereign citizens.</p> <p>Details how the elected officials, who usually enforce the law, reacted as crime victims surfaced at the recent sentencing of Bruce Allen Doucette.</p> |

He was identified as the ringleader of a Colorado-based sovereign citizen, common-law court gang, giving himself the exalted title of “Superior Court Judge of the Continental uNited States of America”

The 57-year-old former computer repair shop owner from Littleton, Colorado, and eight other sovereign citizens formed their own common law court system, something they called the “People’s Grand Jury of Colorado” that operated between 2014 and 2017.

The criminal enterprise, likened to organized crime, targeted at least 37 public officials in five Colorado counties – Denver, Boulder, Gilpin, Jefferson and Pueblo, court filings indicate.

Doucette also traveled to other states, helping fellow sovereign citizens set up their own systems of filing bogus paperwork and liens against public officials.

In Colorado, members of the group made “true threats” against the public officials, sometimes even violating protective orders intended to prevent contact. Judges, prosecutors and law officers who became involved with the group subsequently were inundated with a plethora of bogus paperwork from the sovereign gang.

The government officials, most of them elected by the citizens they serve, reacted variously — some in actual fear for their lives, but almost all concerned about the potential personal financial impact they faced.

The case was investigated as domestic terrorism by the FBI. The investigative results were forwarded to the Colorado State Attorney General’s Office which obtained a 40-count grand jury indictment citing violations of state law, in 2017.

The case revealed Doucette’s “People’s Grand Jury” acted generally after a member of common-law enterprise was named in an actual state, municipal or federal court case — even something as minor as a traffic ticket. In an attempt to derail or jam-up the government or judicial process, the bogus “grand jury” or its “court administrator” would file fictitious legal documents against the public officials involved.

If those filings didn’t get attention and influence the public officials, the Doucette “grand jury” would then attempt to extort them with financial threats and retaliation. The group had its own “marshals” with authentic-looking badges and were looking for a sympathetic county sheriff to assist in making actual arrests.

“What made this enterprise so concerning was its widespread net of threats it was casting,” First Assistant Attorney General Robert Shapiro said in a Denver courtroom last month when Doucette was sentenced to 38 years in prison.

Doucette’s group filed “criminal complaints” and “consensual commercial liens” against many of the public officials and, when those were ignored, served them with a “collections demand” threatening them with a “negative credit report” if the bogus judgements weren’t paid.

The actions “clearly put many of these public servants — some of whom are armed law enforcement officers — in fear of their economic livelihood being impacted and, at times, their physical safety,” Shapiro said in court.

Before the four-year investigation was concluded, even Shapiro himself was personally targeted in a lawsuit filed against him in U.S. District Court. It was eventually dismissed as frivolous, but only after Shapiro and attorneys representing him went through the trouble, time and cost of seeking dismissal.

At the receiving end of Doucette’s operation were more than three dozen public officials holding various county-level offices in Colorado.

Many of those public official-victims either testified during Doucette's two-week criminal trial in March or completed "victim-impact" statements forwarded to District Court Judge Michael Spear, the trial jurists from Colorado's 18 Judicial District.

"I believe the defendant threatened my life and my freedom, based upon my oath to uphold the United States and Colorado constitutions," Boulder County Judge Karolyn Moore said in her victim statement read in court at Doucette's sentencing on May 22 in Denver.

Because of the defendant's actions, the judge said, "I continue to be fearful for my safety, the safety of my family, and of my community. I continue to be hypervigilant regarding my surroundings, and I continue to utilize precautions to keep my family and I safe."

Doucette was convicted of two crimes against the judge – attempting to influence a public servant and retaliation against the judge.

She called him "a threat to me, to the citizens of Colorado, and to the rule of law. He is a domestic terrorist."

Another of Doucette's victims, Gilpin County Sheriff Bruce Hartman is used to dealing with hard-core criminals and was caught somewhat off-guard when he was targeted by the common-law court gang, the sentencing judge was told.

"I can't really quantify what we went through," Hartman said in a statement read into the public record by Shapiro, the assistant attorney general.

Because the jury unanimously convicted Doucette beyond a reasonable doubt on all counts, the sheriff said he viewed that as a "strong statement" deserving of a correspondingly harsh prison sentence.

Another Gilpin County public official, treasurer Alynn Huffman, also was a victim of criminal extortion by Doucette's gang. She was impacted, she told the court, "mainly [by] the stress of thinking I had done something wrong."

"The fear of one of these men coming to the Treasurer's Office and threatening my staff" also affected her, Huffman told the court. "I took steps to protect my office" because she felt like she was a "sitting duck."

Shapiro told the court that Doucette and his followers seem to "take joy and glee in causing" the type of stress the county treasurer experienced, hoping their "ideology would dictate and be of influence, extortive and retaliatory against these public officials."

Doucette was convicted of both criminal extortion and attempting to influence a public servant related to acts taken by him and the gang against Boulder County Sheriff Joseph K. Pelle.

Instead of personal worry, the sheriff asked the court to fashion a tough prison term for Doucette as a deterrent to others.

"In terms of sentencing considerations, these people are intentionally target officials for simply doing our jobs," the sheriff told the court in his statement read by Shapiro. "Sentencing must consider deterring this behavior in the future by others."

Doucette was given consecutive sentences on five counts: participating in a racketeering enterprise, 20 years; retaliation against a judge, four years; retaliation against a judge, five years; attempting to influence a public servant, five years; and retaliation against a judge, four years, for a total of 38 years. Sentences for 29 other counts were imposed concurrently with the 38-year term.

In handing out those sentences, Judge Spear made frequent references to the victims' testimony or

impact statements.

On one count, the sentencing judge made note that the victim was fellow Colorado Judge Kim Karn.

“I can well remember the dismay and problems that the actions of the [Doucette] organization caused Judge Karn,” Spear said in court, facing the shackled defendant.

Judge Karn, facing retaliation by the sovereign gang, “had to take unusual steps, not only concerned about her child but also concerned about her elderly parents living close by,” the sentencing judge said.

Karn “was very concerned that this organization had her [home] address, knew where she lived and that fact that she’s not home for most of the day with a teenage daughter in the house and elderly parents in a nearby house.”

“This resonated with the court, and frankly, not just because she’s a judge but because she’s having to deal with this grave concern that she had for others,” Spear said from the bench.

But other public officials, like Gilpin County Attorney James Petrock expressed dismay at being targeted by the sovereign group but told the court that he “has a fairly thick skin ... and didn’t seem to be too distressed.”

In contrast, Deputy District Attorney Catherine Kirk, who has previously prosecuted sovereign citizens, “truly was amazed” when she saw members of Doucette’s group being disruptive in a courtroom outburst as they attempted to influence Judge Alfred Harrell.

The deputy prosecutor “reacted much like [others did] and took extra steps to keep herself safe and really became more a ware of her surrounding to a degree that usually you only consider in situations where there is a constant threat,” Spear said, adding that he was very concerned that public officials should be so fearful of merely doing their jobs.

Denver County Sheriff Patrick Firman, like other law enforcement officers who were targeted, “has developed a very thick skin over the course of his career” and “wasn’t too dismayed” when he was targeted by the Doucette gang.

“He was more dismayed about the extra protection that he had to provide to the various public officials in the courthouse,” Spear said of the sheriff, recalling that he “was somewhat dumbfounded that anybody would think of doing this stuff.”

In Pueblo County, Judge Deborah Eyler was targeted by Doucette and five other members of the group who were charged with attempting to influence a public servant.

Instead of being fearful, Eyler testified during that trial that she wasn’t highly concerned.

“I was struck by the fact,” Spear said at the sentencing hearing, “that many public officials, if anything, made jokes about the fact that they are receiving such serious threats to their personal safety and the safety of others around them.”

“Certainly, Judge Eyler was a classic example of somebody who made light of the whole situation,” the sentencing judge said. “I can remember her mentioning the fact, in a very comical way during trial, that this gave her husband an opportunity to purchase another gun.”

At his sentencing, Doucette made a “Yahweh” reference sometimes used by white separatists but had very little to say and expressed no remorse for his antigovernment crime wave.

“Everything that I did was done in honor and integrity to lawfully and peaceably remove the corruption from this government and from these courts,” the gray-haired Doucette told the judge. “May Yahweh

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| | have mercy on your souls when he judges you.” |
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| HEADLINE | 06/06 Italy official: mafia spreading abroad |
| SOURCE | https://www.thelocal.it/20180606/italian-mafia-is-spreading-abroad-investigator-warns |
| GIST | <p>Italy's anti-mafia chief warned Tuesday that the mafia is not just an Italian problem but a "globalizing" phenomenon whose influence is seeping into several European countries.</p> <p>"Organized crime is moving abroad, globalizing," said Giuseppe Governale, the head of Italy's anti-mafia investigative unit DIA during a meeting with the foreign press in Rome.</p> <p>Governale said that although the notorious Sicilian Cosa Nostra has "always been present in the United States, Canada and Australia", the influence of the Calabrian mob, known as the 'Ndrangheta, was "underestimated".</p> <p>"The 'Ndrangheta ... is an extraordinarily powerful organization," warned Governale. He said criminal organizations have contacts all over the world in countries where they operate, but insisted 'Ndrangheta "tends to replicate abroad the structures it has established in Calabria".</p> <p>In Brussels, for example, "they don't buy just buildings but entire neighbourhoods".</p> <p>Governale added that Cosa Nostra, a notoriously ruthless criminal organization responsible for perpetrating deadly attacks in the past, was today "in great organizational difficulty after suffering substantial blows".</p> <p>Most of the mob's upper ranks have been arrested, with the exception of kingpin Matteo Messina Denaro. Fugitive Denaro has been on the run since 1993, with police closing in on his closest aides, but Governale said he was no longer considered the mob's supreme leader.</p> <p>He warned, however, that the death in prison in November 2017 of Cosa Nostra's former kingpin, Totò Riina, could prompt the organization to name a new head.</p> <p>Governale said Cosa Nostra has been weakened, but "unfortunately, the conditions linked to its environment and that allow its development still exist".</p> <p>"The mafia will be defeated by an army of schoolteachers," he said, referencing a line from the Italian poet and writer Gesualdo Bufalino, who died in 1996.</p> |
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| HEADLINE | 06/05 UK police chiefs: public safety at risk |
| SOURCE | https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/jun/05/police-chiefs-say-cuts-are-putting-safety-of-public-at-risk-in-england-and-wales |
| GIST | <p>The three most senior police officers in England and Wales have expressed concerns that funding cuts and pressure on resources are hampering their ability to tackle serious crime.</p> <p>Appearing before the home affairs select committee, Cressida Dick, the Metropolitan police commissioner; Lynne Owens, the director general of the National Crime Agency; and Sara Thornton, the National Police Chiefs' Council chairwoman, gave examples of how cash shortages were posing a risk to public safety.</p> <p>Dick said it would be "naive" to suggest reductions in police officers was having no impact on rising crime. She added: "It is having a massive strain on our people and it cannot go on. We are in the middle of the largest change programme the Met has ever been through. It cannot go on without hard choices – either</p> |

more money, smaller mission, greater risk of attack.”

Owens said: “The whole system needs a different approach to funding to make sure we are as good as we all want us to be.”

Thornton added: “There is undoubtedly a capacity issue in neighbourhood policing ... it does need some extra investment.”

Asked to state their biggest concern, all three highlighted the challenge posed by the rise in digital data and cybercrime.

The amount of data that Met officers have to deal with doubles every 18 months, Dick said. She admitted that officers were struggling with the extra workload.

She said it was not unusual for 18 officers to work 200 hours over a weekend to trawl through Facebook accounts to ensure that a trial was fair with regard to disclosure.

Thornton said the reduction in the number of sexual offence cases reaching court in the last two years suggested resources were being overstretched.

She said: “There is cause for concern. It is resource-intensive. We are shifting people. I am concerned about how many cases might be caught in the system.”

She added: “We are 17% down on the number of detectives we’d like in an ideal world, so we are trying to push resources into an area where we are already short.”

The chair of the committee, Yvette Cooper, asked Dick to give a single message to the home secretary, Sajid Javid. Dick said: “Support my people. They need to be well-led, they need to be well-equipped, they do need to be well-resourced and they need to have a public who feel confident. They need to be given the benefit of the doubt when things go wrong and not have point finger of blame.”

She also urged the Home Office to show greater trust in police officers. She said: “It sometimes feels like there is not much central push, it’s kind of ‘get on with it, good luck’, but at the same time it has felt a bit parent-child. We are in this together for our public and we would love to work ever more closely with the Home Office so that they feel even more confident in us and they can project that to others.”

Dick, Owens and Thornton also claimed the way English and Welsh policing was organised into 43 separate forces was hampering coordination on national crime issues.

Thornton said: “If you did a poll of chief constables, most would say for operational reasons it would make sense to have a fewer number of larger forces. But the issue is political. We are constantly trying get people to collaborate to cooperate in the public interest. We are making progress. Sometimes the progress is glacial.”

Owens said she was concerned forces were “going to be get left behind” on national issues such as cybercrime, fraud and child sexual abuse, because of the current division of forces.

Labour seized on the officers’ concerns over resourcing. Louise Haigh, the shadow policing minister, said: “The most senior police officers in the land have called out the dangerous Tory delusion on police cuts.

“In the face of overwhelming evidence from senior officers and their own officials, it appears that the only people in the country who now believe the loss of 21,000 officers hasn’t made the blindest bit of difference to community safety is Theresa May’s government.”

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| HEADLINE | 06/05 Police: deemed paranoid; he kills 6 later |
| SOURCE | https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/post-nation/wp/2018/06/05/he-was-deemed-paranoid-and-psychotic-years-later-he-killed-six-in-arizona-police-say/?utm_term=.322969aaf67c |
| GIST | <p>By 2009, Dwight Lamon Jones’s 21-year marriage was cascading into violent chaos.</p> <p>He and his wife had been fighting a lot, court records say, and at one point, he fractured her rib cage. On May 6, 2009, Jones threatened to kill his wife in front of their 12-year-old son, screaming expletives and telling the boy his mother didn’t care about him.</p> <p>“I’ll take you out to the ... pool and drown you,” Jones told his wife, according to court records.</p> <p>Connie Jones called police that day. Less than a week later, she filed for divorce.</p> <p>Her husband was arrested and taken to two psychiatric hospitals, where he stayed for several days. He was discharged, even though doctors found that his mental state was deteriorating. Dwight Jones “will continue to unravel ... he will become increasingly paranoid, likely psychotic, and pose an even greater risk of perpetrating violence,” according to an assessment by Steven Pitt, a prominent forensic psychiatrist who had consulted in several high-profile criminal cases.</p> <p>And unravel Jones did.</p> <p>He spent the past several years living in hotel rooms, embittered by his divorce and consumed with long-held grudges, police say.</p> <p>In hours-long, rambling videos posted in a YouTube channel called “exposing lowlifes,” Jones railed against his perceived enemies — judges, psychiatrists, lawyers, counselors, and his ex-wife — whom he accused of conspiring to paint him as an abusive and troubled man, to deprive him of his son. He claimed that his former spouse was the abuser, and she had concocted a dubious tale of a battered wife.</p> <p>His anger boiled over last week, in a violent rampage that sent police on a days-long manhunt and rattled Scottsdale, Ariz., a Phoenix suburb known for its golf courses, resorts and nightlife. Police say Jones swiftly targeted people who had been involved in his divorce proceedings, including the forensic psychiatrist who had examined him. The killing spree would end in Jones’s death, police say, after the 56-year-old wanted for killing six people shot himself inside a hotel room.</p> <p>Connie Jones, 52, described her ex-husband as a “very emotionally disturbed person.”</p> <p>“As a medical professional and a citizen I am deeply saddened by the tragedy caused by my ex-husband ... Personally, I have feared for my safety for the past nine years,” Jones, who is a doctor, said in a brief statement. “I cannot express the emotions I feel for the innocent families touched by this senseless violence.”</p> <p>Jones’s rampage began Thursday, when police say he shot and killed Pitt. The 59-year-old psychiatrist was killed in broad daylight outside his office on the outskirts of Scottsdale.</p> <p>Less than 24 hours later, Jones went to the law firm his wife had retained during the divorce. There, police say, he shot Veleria Sharp, 48, and Laura Anderson, 49, two paralegals who worked for the firm in downtown Scottsdale. With a gunshot wound to her head, Sharp made her way out of the office and flagged a bus driver for help before she died. Police followed her blood trail back to the office and found Anderson.</p> <p>The next victim was psychologist Marshall Levine, 72, who was not tied to Jones’s divorce case but happened to share an office space with someone who was: another psychologist Jones’s son was required to see as part of the divorce proceedings. Levine’s girlfriend found his body just after midnight Saturday, police said.</p> |

By midnight Monday, police found two more bodies. Mary Simmons, 70, and Bryon Thomas, 72, were shot to death in their home in Fountain Hills, a town outside Phoenix. Investigators believe Jones went to that home Sunday afternoon and killed the two, though they have not said why.

Jones killed himself inside an Extended Stay hotel room, where he had been living, as tactical team members closed in Monday morning. Police have not said what kind of weapon Jones used in the killings, or how he got it.

For days, the attacks placed many in the legal and mental-health communities on edge and raised speculations that Pitt, the most well-known of the victims, may have been killed because of his profession, which required him to study the minds of criminals. Some feared that the attacker was indiscriminately killing people involved in the criminal justice and court system.

Police said they received more than a hundred tips about the attacks. One came from Connie Jones and her husband, a retired detective who recognized some of the victims' connections to the divorce case, Connie Jones said in her statement.

Little is known about Dwight Jones. He had a GED but no college degree. He and his ex-wife were married in 1988 in Fayetteville, N.C. Their son was born nine years later, in 1997. For much of their marriage, Dwight Jones stayed at home and took care of their son, while Connie Jones worked. Her substantial salary as a radiologist afforded them a house in Scottsdale, two Mercedes-Benz cars and a Toyota.

By 2009, Dwight Jones had descended into troubling behavior. In January of that year, his son's school in Scottsdale sought harassment orders against him after he assaulted administrators, the Arizona Republic reported. The boy was transferred to another school. In April of that year, he attacked his wife in front of their son because she asked the boy to turn down the TV. Jones pinned his wife down on the couch, with his knee pressed against her chest. If she disrespected him, Jones said, "she would be found at the bottom of the pool," according to court records cited by the Republic.

The abuse led to a police standoff on May 6, 2009, when Connie Jones secretly called 911. After police arrived, Dwight Jones refused to come out of the house, and the boy was inside with him, court records say. He told his son that his mother was a whore.

"She's got these cops out there ready to kill me ... your mom wants me to die ... she wants you to die," Jones told his son, according to court records.

Jones was charged and later pleaded guilty to disorderly conduct, a misdemeanor, public records show.

Pitt, the psychiatrist, testified during the divorce proceedings that Jones had anxiety and mood disorders, that he was antisocial, narcissistic and paranoid. He lacked remorse and frequently suspected his ex-wife of infidelity, even without justification. He had no friends or confidants, but had a "grandiose sense of self importance" and required "excessive admiration," court records say.

He had made egregious claims that Connie Jones sexually abused their son. He also was often armed. According to a psychologist's report, Dwight Jones "always had a weapon because of a disagreement he had with the landscape company."

Jones, though, loved his son "very deeply," court records say. And at one point after his parents separated, the boy was missing his father. The divorce left the child traumatized, staring into space or falling asleep during sessions with counselors.

The marriage was dissolved in 2010, and Connie Jones was given sole custody of the son. A judge allowed supervised visits every week, despite Jones's abusive behavior and experts' assessments that he was mentally unstable.

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| | <p>Before the attacks, he is believed to have created several “narrated” YouTube videos, said Sgt. Ben Hoster, spokesman for the Scottsdale Police Department. Some were posted as recently as a week ago. None of the videos showed his face; some just showed a white mask as a man’s voice can be heard talking about a corrupt court system he claimed had been rigged against him, according to the Arizona Republic’s description of the videos.</p> <p>YouTube has since suspended the channel, and the videos have been replaced with a message in a red banner: “This account has been terminated due to multiple or severe violations of YouTube’s policy against spam, deceptive practices, and misleading content or other Terms of Service violations.”</p> |
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| HEADLINE | 06/05 Federal Way pot raid; 10 arrests |
| SOURCE | http://www.thenewstribune.com/news/local/crime/article212621739.html |
| GIST | <p>Federal Way police arrested 10 people and seized thousands of marijuana plants Tuesday morning after raids at six residences, a department spokesman said.</p> <p>The raids happened at 9 a.m. and netted several thousand plants in various stages of growth, cash and growing equipment, police spokesman Kurt Schwan said.</p> <p>According to Schwan, the homes were in the following locations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 31900 block of Second Lane Southwest • 700 block of Southwest 327th Street • 31600 block of 37th Avenue Southwest • 31400 block of 36th Avenue Southwest • Two in the 31200 block of 36th Avenue Southwest <p>Ages and hometowns of the 10 people arrested were not immediately available. Nobody was injured during the arrests, Schwan said.</p> <p>About 80 law enforcement officers from around the region were involved in the investigation.</p> <p>Charges for the illegal manufacture of marijuana with intent to sell will be filed by the King County Prosecutor's Office, Schwan said.</p> |
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| HEADLINE | 06/05 Arrest in University Place shooting deaths |
| SOURCE | http://mynorthwest.com/1009784/authorities-arrest-man-suspected-in-university-place-deaths/ |
| GIST | <p>TACOMA, Wash. (AP) — Authorities say a man suspected in the shooting of two men inside a car in University Place last month has been arrested.</p> <p>The News Tribune reports the man, who has not been identified, is expected to be charged Tuesday in the deaths of 19-year-old Adrian Valencia and 22-year-old Wilberth Acala.</p> <p>Detectives with the Pierce County Sheriff’s Department have been searching for two suspects since mid-May when the two men were found dead in a Dodge Charger. Both had been shot in the head.</p> <p>Authorities say that investigators believe the shooting was drug related and involved two shooters. Video surveillance showed two men walking away from the shooting scene in the early morning of May 14.</p> <p>The second suspect has not been apprehended.</p> |
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| HEADLINE | 06/05 Seattle immigration protest: 9 arrests |
| SOURCE | http://mynorthwest.com/1009960/9-arrested-in-seattle-immigration-protests/ |
| GIST | <p>SEATTLE (AP) — Authorities say nine people were arrested at a protest of U.S. immigration policy that blocked a downtown Seattle street and disrupted traffic for nearly two hours.</p> <p>KOMO reports that the protesters, with the Northwest Detention Center Resistance, said they are opposed to the deportation of undocumented immigrants. Nine of the activists blocked the street at about 7:30 a.m. Tuesday and locked themselves together with handcuffs wrapped inside PVC pipe, chicken wire and duct tape – and sat in the middle of the pavement.</p> <p>The six men and three women arrested were later booked into the King County Jail for investigation of pedestrian interference.</p> |
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| HEADLINE | 06/05 SPD removes, arrests protesters faster |
| SOURCE | http://mynorthwest.com/1009413/protesters-block-traffic-in-seattle-using-sleeping-dragon-technique/ |
| GIST | <p>In March, protesters using the “sleeping dragon” method blocked Seattle traffic for hours, causing backups that extended onto the freeway.</p> <p>On Tuesday, June 5, activists with the Northwest Detention Center Resistance calling for the abolition of ICE used the same technique on Second Avenue. But the Seattle Police Department removed the protesters much faster.</p> <p>Tuesday’s protest lasted for less than two hours.</p> <p>After giving the handful of protesters time to disperse on their own, Seattle police began making arrests around 9 a.m. The work can be slow due to the “sleeping dragon” method, which involves locking arms via tubing and other materials.</p> <p>“Removing these devices is slow, deliberate work,” SPD tweeted. “The safety of all involved is paramount.”</p> <p>Tuesday’s protest was likely not permitted.</p> <p>In March, people protesting King County’s new juvenile detention facility did not have a permit either, however, they were allowed to stay on the street until police warned them to leave prior to the afternoon commute.</p> <p>Interim Police Chief Carmen Best explained why:</p> <p>“I know I’m taking a lot of heat and criticism,” Best said at a community meeting Wednesday, March 7. “But as far as I’m concerned, at the end of the day ... yes, people were inconvenienced, but nobody was arrested; nobody got hurt. We cleared everybody off of 5th Avenue. We made it known that if they’re not gone by three o’clock, you’re going to jail because, in fact, we can’t block off 5th Avenue in Friday rush hour.”</p> <p>She added that the department assists people in their personal right to free speech.</p> <p>“We swore to do that, actually ... And nowhere in there does it say, ‘First Amendment right to free speech, except if it’s inconvenient ... except if there’s a permit.’ That is just not the way it works.”</p> |

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| HEADLINE | 06/05 Australia charges 3 banks w/cartel crimes |
| SOURCE | https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/australia-charges-banks-staff-cartel-crimes-55656494? |
| GIST | <p>Australia on Tuesday laid cartel charges against banking companies Citigroup, Deutsche Bank and ANZ plus six bank executives over the sale of 2.5 billion Australian dollars (\$1.9 billion) in ANZ shares to institutional investors three years ago.</p> <p>The charges involve alleged cartel arrangements relating to trading in ANZ shares held by Deutsche Bank and Citigroup. ANZ and officials from all three banks are alleged to have been knowingly concerned in conduct, the regulator Australian Competition and Consumer Commission said in a statement.</p> <p>The three banks deny the allegations and say they will defend their current and former employees. The first hearing in a Sydney court will be July 3.</p> |
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| HEADLINE | 06/05 Missing teens vulnerable sex trafficking |
| SOURCE | https://www.kiro7.com/news/local/many-washington-teens-are-missing-vulnerable-to-sex-trafficking/763759488 |
| GIST | <p>SEATTLE - For weeks, media outlets reported on a Bonney Lake teenager who disappeared on May 9 and is safe tonight. But many more teens are still missing, including these three girls whose cases did not receive the same level of attention. All three disappeared around the same time, late April and early May. And they are still missing.</p> <p>Kyra Doubek was 15 when she ran away. She does not talk easily about her years as a runaway on the streets of Washington state. It is an experience, she says, that can leave a lifetime of shame, much of it hidden.</p> <p>"Kids go missing all the time," she says, "and very rarely do they make it actually like into the spotlight, on the news."</p> <p>She says most teenagers believe they are running towards something better, some place safer. She was asked if they find greater safety when they leave home.</p> <p>"Very rarely, very, very rarely do youth who run away find a safer place to be," she said. "I didn't that's for sure."</p> <p>What did she find?</p> <p>"I found substances," she said. "I found older men who were willing to provide me with a place to stay but there was this unspoken agreement in exchange for a sex act."</p> <p>Seattle police say on any day, they have 50 to 60 active missing persons cases; about half involve children.</p> <p>According to the advocacy group REST or Real Escape from the Sex Trade, one in three runaways is recruited by a pimp within 48 hours of leaving home. The average age of these runaways? Just 15 years old.</p> <p>And most often, says Doubek, they are found by predators trolling the internet even before they leave home.</p> |

"They look for these people posting sad posts," she says. "It's not that they're bad kids. As my colleague says they're sad kids, they're not bad kids."

The Washington State patrol posts pictures and information about children missing in this state.

Sixteen-year-old Shianna Victoria Elkins ran away from Mount Vernon on April 19. Elkins is described as a "chronic runaway." Seven days later, Ximena Delgado ran away from her Spokane home. Police believe the 16-year-old is with her boyfriend. Seventeen-year-old Hannah Turkington from Vancouver, Washington, ran away two days after the Bonney Lake teen. Police describe her, too, as a "chronic runaway."

All of it, says Pierce County prosecutor Mark Lindquist, is sobering.

"It isn't just runaways and vulnerable girls who are lured into this world," Lindquist said. "Sometimes these pimps are going after middle class girls as well."

Kyra Doubek finally made it off the streets when she was 26.

"We do get better," she said.

Now she is devoting her life to helping those who have been there, too.

"My whole goal with everything is to hopefully get people to dream again," she said, smiling, "and then help them smash those dreams out of the park."

She wants law enforcement to target men who buy sex from children. Moreover society needs to make the stigma so great they will stop.

And parents, she says, need to give their undivided attention to their children, know the people their children are meeting in person and online.

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| HEADLINE | 06/06 Multi-state drug trafficking bust |
| SOURCE | https://www.hstoday.us/federal-pages/dhs/ice/11-indicted-multi-state-drug-trafficking-case-ice-hsi-investigation/ |
| GIST | <p>Eleven individuals are facing federal drug charges in multiple indictments unsealed May 30 targeting a large, multi-state drug trafficking organization based in Mississippi, following a joint investigation by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), the Drug Enforcement Administration and the Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics.</p> <p>According to court documents, the indictments resulted from an extensive Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF) investigation dubbed Operation Highlife. The Mississippi-based drug trafficking organization is charged with distributing more than 40 kilograms of methamphetamine, more than 3 kilograms of cocaine and over 100 pounds of marijuana illegally smuggled into the U.S. from Mexico across numerous states to include Alabama, Mississippi, Georgia, Texas, Tennessee and California.</p> <p>"Methamphetamine has devastated countless communities due to the dramatic health and public safety consequences that typically accompany its introduction into an area," said Special Agent in Charge Jere T. Miles of Homeland Security Investigations in New Orleans. "Today's arrests mark the culmination of an extensive joint effort by HSI, the Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics, and the Drug Enforcement Administration to dismantle a drug trafficking organization that decimated parts of Mississippi and Alabama with illegal drugs smuggled into the U.S. from Mexico. This operation is a testament to the</p> |

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| | seamless partnership between federal, state and local law enforcement, which HSI sincerely appreciates in the combined effort to improve the lives of law-abiding residents throughout Mississippi and Alabama.” Miles oversees a five-state area of operations to include Mississippi, Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana and Tennessee. |
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| HEADLINE | 06/06 South Sudan civil war atrocities |
| SOURCE | http://www.foxnews.com/world/2018/06/06/south-sudans-latest-civil-war-atrocities-kept-out-sight.html |
| GIST | <p>KINSHASA, Congo – The accounts are horrific. A young girl strangled and gang-raped. Children burned alive as government soldiers blocked the door of their hut and set it aflame.</p> <p>These are some of the atrocities revealed in 14 reports, seen by The Associated Press, that have not yet been released by the independent body charged with monitoring a failed cease-fire imposed in December in South Sudan, where civil war is now well into its fifth year.</p> <p>The reports should have been released last month at a meeting led by the Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission but South Sudan's government did not attend, preventing the accounts of abuses from being made public because there was not a quorum.</p> <p>"The reports contain evidence that soldiers continue to kill, rape and destroy property. The decision to keep these ongoing atrocity crimes secret sends the wrong message," Jehanne Henry, senior Africa researcher for Human Rights Watch, told the AP. Only five such reports have been released this year.</p> <p>The African Union and the East African regional bloc that mediates South Sudan's peace talks should take action, said Edmund Yakani, executive director for the local advocacy group Community Empowerment for Progress Organization.</p> <p>"Silence on the violations only encourages further violations," he said.</p> <p>While people attending the meeting said copies of the reports on atrocities were distributed to diplomats from the United States, the United Nations, Britain and elsewhere, none have released them publicly or made public the reports of abuses.</p> <p>South Sudan's government didn't respond to multiple requests for comment on why it didn't attend last month's meeting.</p> <p>The unpublished reports describe violations by both government and opposition forces but most of the accounts blame government troops for instigating attacks and deliberately targeting civilians.</p> <p>During an attack in February on a school in the town of Modit, children fled into a hut to hide. Government soldiers blocked the door and set it on fire, burning the children to death, said one report.</p> <p>A young girl fetching water from a river in the town of Yei was strangled before she and her mother were gang-raped by government soldiers, another report said. More than 30 cases of sexual assault were recorded in Yei and surrounding areas in the three months following December's cease-fire agreement.</p> <p>And in the nearby town of Morobo, a woman was raped and beaten so badly that she lost sight in one eye. A disabled woman, unable to flee the fighting, was thrown into a burning house by government soldiers, the report said.</p> <p>The group that compiled the reports, the Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements Monitoring Mechanism, told the AP its mandate doesn't require it to publish reports and that releasing them had been the task of its parent body, the Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission. The commission reports to</p> |

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| | <p>the East African regional bloc, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development. Neither responded to several AP requests for comment.</p> <p>The concealing of the atrocities comes as the international community loses patience with South Sudan's civil war, which has killed tens of thousands and created Africa's largest refugee crisis since the Rwandan genocide in 1994. The U.S., South Sudan's largest aid donor, has increased pressure on the Juba government amid widespread allegations that its officials are profiting from the conflict instead of working to end it.</p> <p>Last week the U.N. Security Council adopted a U.S.-sponsored resolution that warns of an arms embargo and sanctions against six high-ranking officials if the fighting doesn't stop.</p> |
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| HEADLINE | 06/05 Jury: death sentence BP agent death |
| SOURCE | http://www.foxnews.com/us/2018/06/05/texas-jury-returns-death-sentence-in-border-agents-death.html |
| GIST | <p>BROWNSVILLE, Texas – A South Texas jury has sentenced a 34-year-old Mexican national to death for the fatal 2014 shooting of an off-duty Border Patrol agent.</p> <p>The Cameron County jury deliberated about two hours Tuesday before sentencing Gustavo Tijerina-Sandoval in the capital murder of Agent Javier Vega Jr. It also sentenced him to life imprisonment for attempted capital murder in the shooting of Vega's father.</p> <p>According to testimony, Vega and his family were spending the day fishing when Tijerina tried to rob them. Tijerina's attorney argued that his client was acting in self-defense.</p> |
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| HEADLINE | 06/05 Ohio immigration sting: 100+ arrests |
| SOURCE | https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2018-06-05/urgent-immigration-agents-arrest-114-in-landscaper-sting |
| GIST | <p>Sandusky, Ohio (AP) -- More than 100 workers at an Ohio gardening and landscaping company were arrested Tuesday when about 200 federal officers descended on the business and carried out one of the largest workplace immigration raids in recent years.</p> <p>The operation was part of the White House's increasing focus on businesses that hire people in the country illegally amid a broad range of immigration crackdowns under President Donald Trump that include stepped-up deportations, targeting of sanctuary cities and zero-tolerance border policies.</p> <p>The 114 arrests occurred at two locations of Corso's Flower & Garden Center, one in Sandusky, a resort city on Lake Erie, and another in nearby Castalia. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement said it expected criminal charges including identity theft and tax evasion.</p> <p>No criminal charges were filed against the company, but the employer is under investigation, authorities said. Two locations were searched, and Khaalid Walls, an agency spokesman, said "a large volume of business documents" were seized.</p> <p>The operation drew criticism over its heavy show of force that involved aircraft surveillance and a large contingent of federal agents to round up workers at a family business. It also highlights a tightrope President Donald Trump's administration is walking as it seeks to please immigration hawks but risks alienating business-friendly Republicans struggling to find enough workers in a tight job market.</p> <p>In April, agents made about 100 worker arrests at a meatpacking plant in rural Tennessee, another high-</p> |

profile show of force reminiscent of President George W. Bush's administration. No criminal charges have been filed against the employer.

Tuesday's operation was carried out with quiet efficiency. At the Castalia facility — covered with trees, flowers and greenhouse tarps — no workers were seen running as about 100 law enforcement officials established a perimeter. A voice on a radio called attention to specific employees who might try to flee, but none did.

The investigation into Corso's began in October 2017 when the U.S. Border Patrol arrested a woman who gave stolen identity documents to job applicants in the country illegally, said Steve Francis, head of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Homeland Security Investigations unit in Detroit.

The document vendor led investigators to the landscaping company, where they examined documents in its files for irregularities, Francis said. Some Social Security numbers belonged to dead people.

Of the 313 employees whose records were examined, 123 were found suspicious and targeted for arrest and criminal charges of identity theft and, in nearly all cases, tax evasion. Francis said the identity theft targeted U.S. citizens who had no idea their information was being used at the Ohio business.

"We verified that a lot of U.S. persons were obviously unaware of this. It's caused them a lot of hardship," Francis said.

Immigration officials have sharply increased audits of companies to verify their employees are authorized to work in the country. There were 2,282 employer audits opened between Oct. 1 and May 4, nearly a 60 percent jump from the 1,360 audits opened between October 2016 and September 2017. Many of those reviews were launched after audits began at 100 7-Eleven franchises in 17 states in January.

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| HEADLINE | 06/05 Federal Way: arrest in SUV explosion |
| SOURCE | http://komonews.com/news/local/police-investigating-reported-explosion-in-federal-way-neighborhood |
| GIST | <p>A man was arrested after an SUV explosion rocked a Federal Way neighborhood Tuesday night, according to police. It happened around 6:00 p.m. along 4th Ave. SW, between SW 297th and SW 299th Streets, just off Dash Point Road.</p> <p>"It was louder than a shotgun, it was good and loud," said neighbor Tony Wilson.</p> <p>He said he was inside his garage when he heard a loud blast. "I thought a piece of my roof had blown off," he said. "I just thought it was the wind to begin with, you know a big gust of wind blow something, a few little pieces of my roof."</p> <p>Wilson said he went outside to find his sidewalk littered with pieces of the SUV and part of his yard were on fire. "The pickup (truck) over there was pretty well destroyed, with pieces all over," said Wilson. "I quickly whipped out my camera. Then my neighbors were more active than me and came and got my hose to put out my yard fire."</p> <p>The neighbors also helped dose a small fire that had started on Wilson's roof.</p> <p>He said he found pieces of the SUV on his roof and another smoldering in his backyard.</p> <p>"I've never had a car blow up like that. I've seen some burned," said Wilson. According to South King Fire and Rescue, there are no reports of injuries.</p> <p>Police said the man was arrested for, "malicious explosion of a substance in the 2nd degree" due to the</p> |

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| | obvious explosion of the vehicle. Detectives are still trying to figure out how it all happened. Agents from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) have now joined the investigation. |
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| HEADLINE | 06/05 Kentucky: hatchet attack suspect caught |
| SOURCE | https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation-now/2018/06/05/hatchet-attack-suspect-tennessee/675897002/ |
| GIST | <p>The search ended Tuesday night for a man suspected of using a hatchet to kill a gym owner, police said.</p> <p>Domenic Micheli <u>was arrested by Kentucky State Police</u> on Interstate 65 near Bowling Green, according to the Metro Nashville Police Department. Bowling Green is roughly 80 miles northeast of Nashville. Nashville police detectives were en route to Kentucky Tuesday night, police said.</p> <p>Micheli was found driving a Toyota Prius, the vehicle he was seen driving before Monday's attack at a Belle Meade strip mall.</p> <p>Police have been searching for Micheli since Monday after the slaying of Joel Paavola, who owned the Balance Training location in Belle Meade, southwest of Nashville.</p> <p>Authorities said that Micheli formerly worked for Paavola, who fired Micheli from the gym 14 months ago.</p> <p>Police said that Paavola was brutally killed with a hatchet and another "cutting instrument."</p> <p>"Just a senseless, brutal, violent attack this morning on Mr. Paavola as he was there in the business," Metro Nashville Police Department spokesman Don Aaron said Monday.</p> <p>Before his capture, the 36-year-old suspect was last seen at an urgent care facility in Gallatin, Tenn., on Monday morning. Gallatin police said Micheli asked the urgent care workers for a suture kit but was not willing to wait or provide any personal information.</p> <p>Micheli left without receiving any treatment or medical supplies, police said.</p> <p>Micheli was arrested outside of the White House in April by the U.S. Secret Service after driving his car up to a checkpoint and refusing to move it.</p> |
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| HEADLINE | 06/05 White House contractor arrested |
| SOURCE | https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2018/jun/5/martese-maurice-edwards-nsc-contractor-arrested-wh/ |
| GIST | <p>A man with a White House pass was arrested outside the presidential home on a charge of attempted murder — reportedly weeks after the warrant was issued.</p> <p>Martese Maurice Edwards, 29, had been working as a contractor for the National Security Council in the Old Executive Office Building. According to NBC News, he had a White House pass.</p> <p>According to a Secret Service statement, the Suitland, Maryland, man was arrested when he reported for work Tuesday, one day after the Service learned of the warrant.</p> <p>“On June 5, 2018, Edwards was promptly arrested by Secret Service Uniformed Division Officers at a</p> |

checkpoint outside of the White House complex when he was reporting to work as a contractor. Edwards was transported to MPD Second District for processing,” a Secret Service spokesperson told The Washington Times.

Mr. Edwards is accused of first-degree attempted murder.

While details on that charge were not made public by the White House, there was no immediate indication that Mr. Edwards is suspected of trying to kill someone at the White House, or that the charge is directly related to politics or his job.

But according to NBC News reporter Geoff Bennett, there was a several-week lag between the warrant for Mr. Edwards’ arrest and the Secret Service learning about it.

“Secret Service says it learned of the arrest warrant when it was entered into the national Criminal Justice Information System on June 4. But 2 law enforcement officials say warrant was issued in mid-May, raising questions about why Maryland authorities didn’t enter it earlier,” he wrote on Twitter.

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| HEADLINE | 06/05 Killing spree suspect ranting on YouTube |
| SOURCE | https://www.cbsnews.com/news/dwight-lamon-jones-arizona-killing-spree-suspect-ranted-about-divorce-in-youtube-videos/ |
| GIST | <p>SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. -- The man who police say killed six people in the Phoenix area spent hours online griping about his ex-wife and the family court system that sided with her in a contentious divorce years ago. Dwight Lamon Jones spoke in a series of YouTube videos posted in May about the judge, counselor and prominent forensic psychiatrist in the case.</p> <p>The psychiatrist, Steven Pitt, who also assisted in the JonBenét Ramsey mystery in Colorado, was called a "scumbag" by Jones in one of the videos. He was killed Thursday.</p> <p>Jones was divorced in 2010 and his ex-wife was awarded custody of their son. Pitt had evaluated Jones and testified that year that he had anxiety and mood disorders and symptoms of a paranoid personality.</p> <p>A hunch from a retired detective helped lead police to Jones and link the victims, some of whom were connected to the divorce case, authorities said after the assailant killed himself inside a Scottsdale hotel Monday with officers closing in.</p> <p>In an unexpected twist, the suspect's ex-wife, Connie Jones, said her current husband, a retired police detective, made the connection between her divorce and the crime scenes and notified police of his suspicion Saturday night.</p> <p>The victims included Pitt, two paralegals who worked for the law office that represented Jones' wife, and a marriage-and-divorce counselor who was apparently targeted in a case of mistaken identity.</p> <p>Authorities have since named two other victims found shot dead early Monday in their Fountain Hills home as 70-year-old Mary Simmons and 72-year-old Bryon Thomas. Police said they had probable cause to link all six killings to the dead suspect, but they have not disclosed a connection between Jones and the victims in Fountain Hills.</p> <p>CBS affiliate KPHO reports that Jones was already on investigators' radar Monday when they saw him dumping a bag that contained a gun that had been stolen from the Fountain Hills home.</p> <p>Connie Jones said in a statement that her ex-husband was a "very emotionally disturbed person."</p> <p>In the YouTube videos, Jones appeared to be resentful about the divorce and accused his ex-wife and her</p> |

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| | attorney of spreading lies. Jones posted a total of 18 videos, some of them nearly an hour long, KPHO reports. They've since been removed. |
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| HEADLINE | 06/05 Local law enforcement in ICE crackdown |
| SOURCE | https://www.cbsnews.com/news/eye-on-america-feds-enlist-local-law-enforcement-in-ices-immigration-crackdown/ |
| GIST | <p>Six counties in Georgia have joined a federal program known as 287(g) that deputizes local law enforcement to effectively act as U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents. CBS News went to the Gwinnett County Jail to see how the program is working.</p> <p>"Under the Trump administration, right now we're going by all law, immigration laws," one deputy said. "So you come in for jaywalking, we find out that you're illegal, we hand you over to ICE. We work for ICE. We do not deport anybody."</p> <p>Just north of Atlanta, Gwinnett County accounted for 20 percent of all 287(g) encounters last year, by far the most nationally.</p> <p>Nationwide, 78 local law enforcement agencies in 20 states participate in the 287(g) program, through which ICE deported close to 6,000 illegal immigrants last year -- 653 from Gwinnett County alone.</p> <p>"If you're in a country illegally, the least you can do is obey that country's laws," said Butch Conway, Gwinnett County sheriff.</p> <p>But some people are questioning the impact of the program.</p> <p>"We are one of the worst states to be an undocumented individual," said Aisha Yaqoob, the policy director for Asian Americans Advancing Justice. "Our communities are targeted based on what they look like. Police officers pulling people over for something as simple as a broken tail light or driving without a license."</p> <p>Is it profiling, or is that them just doing their job?</p> <p>"So just the thought of dealing with someone who is an undocumented person gives them a little bit extra push to maybe take them to the jail and see what they can do," Yaqoob said.</p> <p>We asked Conway what he says to the critics who argue the county is arresting nonviolent offenders and sending them over to ICE.</p> <p>"Well, they're wrong," Conway said. "I've known illegal aliens personally for many years. They work in the community, they live in the community, they're great people. If they're going to be here illegally, you drive, you're taking a chance."</p> |
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| HEADLINE | 06/06 EU warns on multi-million euro scam |
| SOURCE | https://www.reuters.com/article/us-china-trade-greece-hungary/eu-warns-uk-centered-china-import-scam-may-shift-to-europes-silk-road-idUSKCN1J20U3 |
| GIST | <p>BRUSSELS (Reuters) - European Union anti-fraud investigators suspect Greece and Hungary may have become the main EU centers of a multi-million-euro scam involving imports of Chinese clothing and footwear that uses the infrastructure of China's new "Silk Road".</p> <p>The large-scale fraud, which consists in underdeclaring the value of imported goods to pay lower duties</p> |

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| | <p>and sales taxes, was first uncovered in Britain, where it had gone on for years, prompting the European Commission this year to demand that London pay 2.7 billion euros (\$3.1 billion) worth of lost customs duties to the EU budget.</p> <p>Officials at the EU anti-fraud agency OLAF said they now suspected the scam could have shifted to Hungary and to the port of Piraeus in Athens, which has been majority-owned by China's state-owned COSCO Shipping (601919.SS) since 2016.</p> <p>Hungarian and Greek customs data show a surge of undervalued clothing and footwear imports from China over the past two years, OLAF officials told Reuters. They stressed that this trend had coincided with a drop in undervalued Chinese imports into Britain.</p> <p>Customs duties in EU countries are a direct revenue for the bloc's budget. They are collected by national authorities before being sent to Brussels.</p> <p>OLAF officials said the trend was "worrying" and that monitoring of import flows would be enhanced.</p> <p>Reuters exclusively reported in April that Italian authorities were investigating suspected import fraud by Chinese criminal gangs at Piraeus port, the largest in Greece.</p> |
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| HEADLINE | 06/05 Mexico police: 7 killed in shootout |
| SOURCE | https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/police-kill-shootout-mexicos-jalisco-state-55677635? |
| GIST | <p>Authorities in the western Mexico state of Jalisco say seven people have been killed in a clash with state police.</p> <p>The Jalisco state prosecutor's office says officers were patrolling a dirt road in Encarnacion de Diaz when they came under fire from two vehicles early Tuesday. It says seven men were killed in the ensuing gunbattle, while two escaped.</p> <p>The prosecutor's statement says police vehicles were hit by gunfire, but no officers were wounded.</p> <p>Encarnacion de Diaz is about 110 miles (180 kilometers) northeast of Guadalajara.</p> |
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| HEADLINE | 06/06 Albania: arrests in fake travel documents |
| SOURCE | https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/albania-police-arrest-alleged-counterfeit-documents-55683860? |
| GIST | <p>Albanian police say they have arrested two people accused of supplying fake documents to help people enter Britain, Germany and other Western European countries illegally.</p> <p>A statement Wednesday said authorities found at their raided homes 16 counterfeit passports and many documents in Albanian and German.</p> <p>The two detained Albanians, residents of the capital, Tirana, and the port city of Durres, were paid 10,000 to 16,000 euros (\$11,700-18,700) for the fake documents.</p> <p>Police did not say how many people are believed to have profited from the fake documents.</p> <p>Albanian citizens are allowed to travel to EU member countries without visas, but they cannot break the limit of a 90-day stay in six months and must also offer financial guarantees for their stay.</p> |
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