'On 25/10/2000, police found the dead body of Anthony stabbed with a knife. John Stark murdered him in London on October 23rd 2000. '

"In Singapore, Anthony killed John on January 20, 1900."

"On October 20, Anthony killed John in London with a gun."

"John was killed by Anthony."

"In London, John was killed by Anthony with AK47, on December 10 1990."

Lonnie D. Franklin Jr. killed 10 people with pistol.

The bodies of murdered young women began turning up one by one more than 30 years ago in South Los Angeles. The killer became known as “the Grim Sleeper,” so named because he apparently took a long break between victims. On Thursday, a jury convicted a small-time car thief, Lonnie D. Franklin Jr., of 10 murders, capping nearly three months of wrenching testimony and decades of uncertainty for the victims’ shattered families.

Mr. Franklin was found guilty of 10 counts of first-degree murder, and one count of attempted murder because one of his victims escaped.

Family members of the victims in the courtroom sobbed as the verdicts were read. “It’s just unimaginable how you feel once you get what you’ve been waiting to hear,” said Porter Alexander, 75, whose daughter Alicia Alexander was killed in 1988. “I’m so glad.”

In the trial that began in February in Los Angeles Superior Court, prosecutors said Mr. Franklin had stalked a fairly circumscribed area of South Los Angeles from the mid-1980s until 2007, when the last known victim was found. Most had been shot with a .25-caliber pistol, and some had been strangled. DNA or ballistics evidence linked Mr. Franklin, 63, to each of the victims — nine women and one teenage girl — prosecutors said.

# Salvatore Perrone killed 3 Brooklyn Merchants

A traveling clothing salesman was sentenced on Friday to 75 years to life in prison for killing three merchants in Brooklyn in a series of attacks that had [shopkeepers on alert](http://www.nytimes.com/2012/08/06/nyregion/killings-of-2-brooklyn-shopkeepers-unnerve-fellow-merchants.html?module=inline) for months, prosecutors said.

The man, Salvatore Perrone, 67, of Staten Island, was [convicted last month](http://www.nytimes.com/2016/02/11/nyregion/man-convicted-of-killing-3-brooklyn-merchants-in-2012.html?module=inline) in State Supreme Court in Brooklyn of three counts of second-degree murder. Justice Alan D. Marrus sentenced Mr. Perrone to the maximum penalty allowed.

In three attacks in 2012, the authorities said, Mr. Perrone went into stores in Brooklyn around closing time, when the merchants, who were all of Middle Eastern origin, were alone. He opened fire with the same sawed-off rifle in each attack. [When he was arrested](http://www.nytimes.com/2012/11/22/nyregion/gun-found-in-apartment-tied-to-man-linked-to-merchant-killings.html?module=inline), he had been planning to attack again, the police said.

“It’s hard to think of anyone who deserves to spend the rest of his life in prison more than this coldblooded and unrepentant serial killer,” Ken Thompson, the Brooklyn district attorney, said in a statement on Friday.

During the sentencing hearing, Mr. Perrone maintained his innocence, officials said.

The series of shootings began on July 6, 2012, when Mohamed Gebeli, 65, was found inside his clothing store in the Bay Ridge neighborhood with a single gunshot wound to the neck. On Aug. 2, Isaac Kadare, 59, was shot in the head and his throat was slit inside his store in Bensonhurst. And on Nov. 16, Rahmatollah Vahidipour, 78, was shot in the head, face and chest in his clothing shop in the Prospect-Lefferts Gardens neighborhood.

The shootings were connected by .22-caliber shell casings recovered at the scenes.

# Mitesh Patel murdered Jessica, so he could run off to Australia with boyfriend and receive £2m payout

Mitesh Patel, 37, injected wife Jessica with insulin and strangled her with Tesco bag-for-life

A pharmacist who [plotted for years to kill his wife](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/mitesh-patel-kill-wife-grindr-chear-suffocate-bag-middlesborough-murder-boyfriend-a8636141.html) so he could start a new life in Australia with his boyfriend and a £2 million life insurance payout has been convicted of her murder.

Mitesh Patel, 37, injected his wife Jessica with insulin and strangled her with a [Tesco](https://www.independent.co.uk/topic/tesco-0) bag-for-life at their Middlesbrough home, then staged a break-in to make it look like an intruder had attacked her and bound her with tape.

# Massage parlour owner Jill Hibberd stabbed by Fueloep in 'savage' murder, court hears

A 73-year-old massage parlour owner was "savagely and repeatedly" stabbed 70 times by a drug user who then took her sports car, a court heard.

Jill Hibberd sustained injuries to her body, face, neck, arms and legs, and inflicted damage to her kidneys, liver, lung and spleen before she was found dead in her newly-built detached home in Wombwell, [South Yorkshire](https://www.independent.co.uk/topic/south-yorkshire).

Kama Melly QC, prosecuting, told [Sheffield Crown Court](https://www.independent.co.uk/topic/sheffield-crown-court) that Lee Fueloep, 40, "lost control and stabbed Ms Hibberd savagely and repeatedly," during a violent confrontation on 30 May.

"He then moved her body, dragging it by her ankles so the body could not be seen so easily by passers-by," she said.

Ms Melly said Mr Fueloep then "rifled through the handbag of Ms Hibberd and left her home in her Audi TT".

He then disposed of the car that evening and used the cash to buy "a large quantity of heroin and crack cocaine", she added.

# Ioan Campeanu killed Hilitanu with scissors after saying he did not want more children, court hears

A man stabbed his pregnant girlfriend to death with scissors after telling his family he did not want any more children, a court heard.

Ioan Campeanu, 44, allegedly attacked Andra Hilitanu, 28, in the bathroom of their northwest [London](https://www.independent.co.uk/topic/London) flat.

He is on trial on the Old Bailey for her [murder](https://www.independent.co.uk/topic/murder) and the destruction of their unborn child.

The prosecution alleges the killing was “a final act of brutality” after “months and years of violence”.

A cousin of Ms Hilitanu said she once witnessed Mr Campeanu threatening to kill his girlfriend and eat her flesh, the jury was told.

Police found Ms Hilitanu’s badly injured body in the flat in Neasden, [Brent](https://www.independent.co.uk/topic/brent), following a 999 call from Mr Campeanu early on 1 June.

She had suffered multiple stab wounds and was pronounced dead at 2.44am.

# Maureen Watkins stabbed by a Man in ‘violent’ murder at home in London

A 75-year-old woman has been stabbed to death in a suspected domestic incident in south [London](https://www.independent.co.uk/topic/London), as the wave of violent [crime](https://www.independent.co.uk/topic/crime) in the capital continues.

The victim – named by friends as Maureen Watkins – died after being attacked at a house on Ethnard Road in Peckham shortly after 4pm on Friday afternoon.

A 55-year-old man – believed to have known Ms Watkins – was arrested at the scene on suspicion of [murder](https://www.independent.co.uk/topic/murder).

Medics said the victim had received multiple stab wounds. Despite efforts to save her, she was confirmed dead a short time after ambulance crews arrived.

The suspect was taken to an east London hospital to be treated for a stab wound before being taken to a south London police station, where he remains in custody.

'On 25/10/2000, police found the dead body of Anthony stabbed with a knife. John Stark murdered him in London on October 23rd 2000. '

# Man Who Drove Into Crowd Convicted of First-Degree Murder

A man who drove his car into a crowd of counterprotesters at a white nationalist rally in Virginia has been convicted of first-degree murder.

A man who drove his car into counterprotesters at a 2017 white nationalist rally in Virginia was convicted Friday of first-degree murder, a verdict that local civil rights activists hope will help heal a community still scarred by the violence and the racial tensions it inflamed nationwide.

A state jury rejected defense arguments that James Alex Fields Jr. acted in self-defense during a "Unite the Right" rally in Charlottesville on Aug. 12, 2017. Jurors also convicted Fields of eight other charges, including aggravated malicious wounding and hit and run.

Fields, 21, drove to Virginia from his home in Maumee, Ohio, to support the white nationalists. As a large group of counterprotesters marched through Charlottesville singing and laughing, he stopped his car, backed up, then sped into the crowd, according to testimony from witnesses and video surveillance shown to jurors.

# Suicide of girl aged 13 bullied for being 6ft

A 13-year-old girl committed suicide after being bullied at school for being tall.

Morgan Musson, who was 6ft, was allegedly tormented by fellow pupils over a period of seven months.

Even though she was moved to another school by her parents, the bullying continued because the gang involved lived nearby.

Hours after a tiff with one of her friends further upset her, Morgan swallowed several tablets of a powerful painkiller and went to bed.

Her body was found by her mother Debra Savage, 35, when she tried to wake her at 6am for school.

On Wednesday of last week, Morgan swallowed the painkillers belonging to her 35-year- old stepfather Vince with two glasses of fruit juice.

# Suicide Recorded on Cell Phone Sends Utah Man to Prison

A [Utah](https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/utah) man who helped a teenage girl kill herself and filmed the act to fulfill what prosecutors called a fascination with death will serve at least five years and up to life in prison.

Tyerell Joe Przybycien apologized to the girl's family as he was sentenced Friday on a child abuse homicide charge. He pleaded guilty in an agreement with prosecutors that avoided a possible murder conviction in the death of 16-year-old Jchandra Brown.

Her mother Sue Bryan told a judge through tears that her daughter had been making prom plans shortly before her death.

The 19-year-old acknowledged he helped Brown buy rope and tie a noose, then made a cell phone video of her passing out and dying in a canyon south of Salt Lake City in 2017.

# Cameroon School Kidnappings Are Reported Amid Secession Battle

Numerous students were kidnapped from a boarding school early Monday in a part of Cameroon where separatists are waging a violent battle to break away and form their own country.

The students were kidnapped either late Sunday or early Monday from a Presbyterian boarding school in Nkwen, a small village not far from the northwestern city of Bamenda in one of Cameroon’s two English-speaking regions.

The total number of hostages, and who was behind the kidnappings, were unclear Monday afternoon.

Some media outlets reported as many as 80 students had been kidnapped, along with a principal and two other employees. A Cameroon military officer said the hostages numbered 20 students along with one teacher.

# Girl, 7, survives being kidnapped and thrown off bridge into lake by family friend

A 7-year-old girl in Massachusetts survived being kidnapped, assaulted and then thrown off a bridge into Lake Quinsigamond.

According to investigators, the little girl was abducted from her grandparents' Worcester home around 2:30 a.m. on Saturday, allegedly by 35-year-old Joshua Hubert.

Police reportedly said Hubert, described as a family friend, had been at the grandparents' home for a cookout.

Prosecutor Cheryl Riddle said in court Monday the child had been asleep on a chair in the living room of the home when Hubert snatched her, [Mass Live reports](http://www.masslive.com/news/worcester/index.ssf/2017/08/7-year-old_girl_was_asleep_in.html).

Hubert allegedly drove around for an hour with the girl in his car. Police said at one point he stopped the vehicle and choked the child.

He then drove to a bridge between Worcester and Shrewsbury and allegedly threw the girl over the bridge into the lake.

Authorities are still trying to determine exactly what bridge it was.

# Cameroon school kidnap: Armed men abduct 78 students in Bamenda, local officials say

Seventy-eight students have been kidnapped from a Presbyterian school in northwest [Cameroon](https://www.independent.co.uk/topic/Cameroon), a local governor has said.

The principal was also abducted during the attack by a group of armed men in Nkwen village near the city of Bamenda.

It took place in the English-speaking region where separatists are fighting to form an independent state they call Ambazonia.

A video has been released on social media purporting to show the kidnappers forcing several children to give their names and the names of their parents and urging them to speak louder.

Many repeat the same phrase: “I was taken from school last night by the Amba boys and I don’t know where I am.”

The alleged kidnapper is recorded telling the students: “We shall only release you after the struggle. You will be going to school now here … all of us stay here and fight for this struggle inside Ambazonia land.”

Hundreds have been killed during clashes between the military following a crackdown on protestors who claim they are marginalised by the French-speaking government headed by the president Paul Biya.

# Renoir Estimated at $180,000 is stolen from Austrian Auction House

At 5:15 p.m. on Monday, three apparently middle-aged men — one carrying a bag from a shoe shop — walked into the Dorotheum auction house in Vienna and went to the second floor.

There, they walked up to [“Golfe, mer, falaises vertes”](http://www.artnet.com/artists/pierre-auguste-renoir/golfe-mer-falaises-vertes-2bnP4iC1QGP1LVTn8WsO6A2) — an 1895 painting of some green cliffs and the sea by [Pierre-Auguste Renoir](https://www.nytimes.com/topic/person/pierre-auguste-renoir?module=inline)that was to [be auctioned](https://www.dorotheum.com/en/auctions/current-auctions/kataloge/list-lots/auktion/13562-modern-art.html) Wednesday for an estimated $131,000 to $181,000.

Then they took it out of its frame and walked out.

The robbery lasted just minutes. The men made next to no effort to hide their appearance.

The Vienna police were investigating, said Inspector Patrick Maierhofer, one of the force’s spokesmen, who provided the above account of the suspects’ actions, which were played out on closed-circuit TV footage. “It was very quick,” he said. “Nobody noticed.”

The suspects did not cut the work out of its frame, he added, but he would not say how it was removed. “We don’t want to give advice to other people,” Inspector Maierhofer said.

# "The jewelery shop was robbed by John."

# "John stole diamonds and gold from the Jewellery shop."

# "On January 15th, John robbed a jewellery store in Arkansas and stole diamond jewellery."

# "On December 11 2018, in Dallas, John robbed the jewellery store."

# Three men robbed St. Matthews bank, in custody

The Calhoun County Sheriff’s Office and the St. Matthews Police Department announced Friday that all suspects in the Dec. 4 armed robbery of the BB&T branch in St. Matthews are now in custody.

At approximately 12:04 p.m. Friday, three armed males entered the BB&T branch located on F.R. Huff Drive in St. Matthews and demanded the tellers empty their drawers.

The males then fled the scene in a dark blue sedan, getting away with an undisclosed amount of cash.

“These arrests can be attributed to good, old-fashioned dedicated police work” Sheriff Thomas Summers said.

In custody are: Joshua Justin Zeigler, 28; Harold Leroy Butler Jr., 22 and Marquil Deshawn Ball, 26, all from Columbia.

# 12-year-old arrested in pharmacy robbery

# INDIANAPOLIS — At least seven reported robberies or attempted robberies at Indianapolis-area pharmacies in the past 24 hours involved suspects who were 18 or younger, [according to police reports.](http://indy.st/1Kvy65R)

# In a robbery attempt at a Northeastside Walgreens, a 12-year-old boy was arrested.

# The incident was reported about 4 p.m. Tuesday when the boy walked into the Walgreens at 5199 N. Keystone Ave. An Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department report states that officers were notified of the robbery in progress, responded quickly and took the boy into custody.

# No one was injured during the robbery attempt, and the boy was taken to the juvenile intake center. The police report lists the weapon used in the incident as a handgun, but officials said that no weapon was displayed or recovered.

# In another case, reported about 12:30 p.m. Tuesday, a 16-year-old carrying an unknown firearm robbed the Walgreens at 3545 W. 86th St., on the Northwestside, according to a police report.

# In a third case, police were called about 10 p.m. Tuesday to the CVS at 7240 E. 82nd St., on the Northeastside, after a boy thought to be a 16-year-old entered the store and passed a note, stating that he was robbing the store, to a pharmacy technician. A police report said the teen then left without taking anything.

# The latest incident occurred about 10:15 a.m. Wednesday when an armed 18-year-old attempted to rob the same Northeastside Walgreens targeted Tuesday by the 11-year-old. An IMPD report says the teen failed to rob the store.

Pakistan suicide bombs kills 128 people

The death toll in a suicide bombing that targeted an election campaign event in southwestern Pakistan rose to 128 on Saturday, the deadliest terror attack in the country this year.

The attack, which took place on Friday in the restive province of Baluchistan, has renewed concerns that violence could disrupt [national elections scheduled for July 25](https://www.nytimes.com/2018/07/13/world/asia/pakistan-sharif-arrrest.html?module=inline).

Pakistan is preparing for its second democratic transition after military rule, but a number of terrorist attacks targeting candidates and a growing sense of political unrest and turmoil threaten to undermine the credibility of the election.

Four such assaults have struck in the past week alone, with two candidates among those killed.

The federal government announced a day of mourning after the latest blast, with national flags at half-staff in all government buildings in Baluchistan, where two days of mourning were decreed. The Islamic State has claimed responsibility for the attack on Friday.

# Eight killed, 40 injured as roadside bomb hits bus in Afghanistan's Farah province; officials blame Taliban

A roadside bomb hit a Kabul-bound passenger bus in western Afghanistan today, killing at least eight people and wounding around 40, mostly women and children, officials said.

"It was a bomb planted by the Taliban to hit security forces but unfortunately it got a passenger bus," Farah provincial police spokesman Muhibullah Muhib told AFP. There was no immediate confirmation that the Taliban was responsible for the blast, but Afghanistan's largest militant group is very active in the province.

The explosion happened as the bus travelled through Bala Baluk district of Farah at 4.30 am, provincial governor spokesman Naser Mehri told AFP. Photos posted on social media purportedly of the bus showed the vehicle's blackened shell and dozens of Afghan men standing at the scene.

Civilians have borne the brunt of the 17-year conflict and improvised explosive devices, such as remotely detonated or pressure-plate bombs, are one of the main causes of casualties.

Such IEDs caused 877 civilian casualties in the first half of 2018 — 232 deaths and 645 wounded — accounting for 17 percent of overall casualties. The Taliban has a heavy presence in Farah. It launched a major attempt to take over the provincial capital in May, triggering intense fighting with US and Afghan forces. After a day-long battle, they forced the Taliban fighters to the outskirts of the city.

# Indonesia rocked by fifth bomb attack in two days; death toll reaches 16 as police suspect Islamic State involvement

Following bomb attacks on three churches in the Indonesian city of Surabaya, a fourth bomb blast near a police station in East Java killed three people late on Sunday. Another explosion has also been reported on Monday morning from the Indonesian police headquarters in Surabaya which has claimed the life of at least one police personnel.

Three people were found lying on the floor with parts of bodies covered in blood after a bomb blast occurred in a unit of flats where an alleged terrorist lived with his family members, Xinhuanews agency reported. "I have come to the scene to see what happened. I saw the family members covered in blood lied on the floor," an eyewitness was quoted as saying.

National police spokesman Brigadier General Muhammad Iqbal confirmed that the unit of the flats was inhabited by an alleged terrorist with family members. "We are checking whether the bomb exploded incidentally or someone detonated it," the spokesperson was quoted as saying

The building is located behind the Taman police station in Sidoarjo Regency which is bordered by Surabaya city where three churches were targetted earlier in the day.

At least 11 people, including a suicide bomber, were killed and 41 injured on Sunday in bomb attacks on three churches in the Indonesian city of Surabaya.

Two police officers were among the injured after a series of explosions took place in the morning during Sunday service, Efe quoted East Java police spokesperson Frans Barung Mangera as saying.

The first explosion took place in Surabaya's Santa Maria church, killing four people, including the suicide bomber.

Almost immediately afterwards, there were explosions in a Protestant church on the Diponegoro street, where two people were killed, and another one at a Pentecostal church on Arjuno street, where another two people died. Another person died later in a hospital in Surabaya. The police are yet to release details of the other two victims.

# Surabaya blast: family of five carried out bomb attack on Indonesia police station

Suicide bombing in Indonesia’s second-largest city comes after a family of six targeted a church, killing 13

A family of five including an eight-year-old child have carried out a bomb attack on a police headquarters in Indonesia’s second largest city, a day after another family killed 13 people in [coordinated suicide bombings](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/may/13/deaths-bomb-attacks-churches-indonesia-surabaya).

Police said the five approached the gates of the headquarters in Surabaya on two motorcycles and detonated the explosives at a security checkpoint at 8.50am on Monday.

Four police officers and six civilians were injured, along with the eight-year-old child. The four adult perpetrators died in the blast.

Police said the child was receiving treatment in hospital. “We hope the child will recover. We believe she was thrown 3 metres (10ft) or so up into the air by the impact of the explosion and then fell to the ground,” said Frans Barung Mangera, a spokesman for East Java police.

“Clearly it’s a suicide bombing,” he added. “We can’t open up all details yet because we are still identifying victims at the scene and the crime scene is being handled.”

Indonesia’s president, Joko Widodo, said: “This is the act of cowards, undignified and barbaric.” He vowed to make sure parliament passed new anti-terrorism laws by next month to combat networks of Islamist militants.

[Islamic State](https://www.theguardian.com/world/isis) claimed responsibility for the attack, the Islamist militant group’s Amaq news agency said, without providing evidence.

On Sunday morning a family of six – a couple and their four children aged between nine and 18 – conducted consecutive suicide bomb attacks on three churches in Surabaya.

Hours later an explosion at an apartment building in Sidoarjo, south of Surabaya, killed three people. Residents reported hearing multiple blasts from the fifth floor of the building at about 9pm on Sunday.

In all, 31 people have died in attacks and explosions since Sunday, including 13 suspected attackers or would-be attackers and 14 civilians, police said.

Sunday’s church attacks, the most deadly terrorist strike in [Indonesia](https://www.theguardian.com/world/indonesia) in more than a decade, and revelations that a family with young children were behind it, has shocked the country. After some successes in tackling Islamist militancy since 2001, there has been a resurgence in recent years, including in January 2016 when four suicide bombers and gunmen attacked a shopping area in the capital, Jakarta.

Police suspect the attacks on the churches were carried out by a cell of Jemaah Ansharut Daulah (JAD), a group that is thought to have recruited hundreds of Indonesian sympathisers of Isis The father of the family involved in the attacks was the head of the cell, police said.

Police initially said the family were among 500 Isis sympathisers who had returned to Indonesia from Syria, but they later said this was incorrect.

# Bulandshahr violence: Army jawan Jeetendra Malik arrested for SHO’s murder

# The soldier has been accused of killing the police inspector with his service weapon and has been named in the FIR.

Army man Jeetendra Malik, allegedly involved in the killing of police inspector Subodh Kumar Singh in Bulandshahr earlier this week, was arrested by the Uttar Pradesh police on Saturday midnight, reported news agency ANI. Malik, also known as Jeetu Fauji, was detained by his Army unit in Kashmir on Friday night.

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“We have arrested Jeetendra Malik and he was handed over by the Army at 12.50 a.m today. Preliminary interrogation has been done. He is being sent to Bulandshahr and will be produced before the court for judicial custody,” senior police officer Abhishek Singh told ANI.

According to the officials, Malik who was in his hometown in Bulandshahar on vacation accepted that he was present when the crowd gathered at the site. He, however, denied pelting stones on the police. “It’s not yet ascertained if he is the one who shot the police inspector or Sumit. Forensic of his mobile will be done,” Abhishek Singh added.

Malik’s name surfaced in the mob violence incident after a purported video showed him allegedly opening fire. The soldier has been accused of killing the police inspector with his service weapon and has been named in the FIR. Malik’s mother, Ratan Kaur, told the police that he was not involved in the violence. Jeetu’s elder brother, who is also in Army, claimed that he was “present at the site of violence” but left soon after the incident on Monday afternoon.

# Man who left for India after Cairns murder reportedly a suspect

Toyah Cordingley’s body was found at the isolated Wangetti beach on 22 October

A man who left for India after Toyah Cordingley’s body was found on a beach near [Cairns](https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/cairns) has reportedly been identified as a suspect in her murder.

[Queensland](https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/queensland) Police are liaising with Interpol and Indian authorities in the investigation of the man who packed up and left shortly after Cordingley’s body was found, Queensland’s Mail on Sunday reports.

Police won’t comment but investigations are continuing into the murder of the 24-year-old whose body was found by her father and other searchers at isolated Wangetti beach on 22 October.

It has been reported detectives have been tracking the suspect’s movements on a trip to Cairns on the day of Cordingley’s murder and match DNA that may link him to the murder scene.

Police have been critical of the report saying it was “not helpful and had the potential to jeopardise” the investigation which is ongoing.

# Debolina detained over Mumbai diamond trader’s murder; politician arrested

In a shocking development, a politician has been arrested and Debolina Bhattacharya interrogated and detained by Mumbai Police following the mysterious murder of a diamantaire, Rajeshwar Udani, officials said on Saturday.

The politician, Sachin Pawar, was said to be closely acquainted with the victim. He was earlier with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

Earlier, actress Debolina Bhattacharya was grilled for several hours by police in Ghatkopar three days after the missing Udani’s body was recovered in the forests of adjoining Raigad district.

However, officials remain tight-lipped over her role in the case but hinted that some more women from the entertainment industry may be summoned for questioning.

Udani, 57, had been reported missing by his family from his office from November 28. The police had registered a missing case and launched a search for him. His mobile was tracked in Rabale, Navi Mumbai, before it lost signal.

After nearly a week, on December 4, since he remained untraced and the family suspected something amiss, the police registered a kidnapping case.

His driver told the police that Udani asked him to be dropped near the Pant Nagar market where another vehicle came and he got into it.

His highly decomposed body, without any apparent injuries, was found late on December 5 and bereft of any identity paper. He was identified by his son from the clothes and shoes he was wearing.

Investigators suspect Udani’s kidnappers may have killed him at some other location before dumping the body in the Panvel forests.

Police investigations and call data records have revealed that Udani was a regular at some bars and in touch with several women, including from the glamour and entertainment industry, through Sachin Pawar, a former aide to a Maharashtra Minister, Prakash Mehta.

Admitting that Pawar was with him from 2004 to 2009, Mehta on Friday evening said since then he had severed all links with him and claimed that he had been sacked from the BJP after he contested a BMC election as an independent.

Police have questioned two dozen persons and are on the lookout for the vehicle which picked up the victim on the night he went missing.

Dancer-model Bhattacharya, 28, is also an award-winning actress seen in several TV serials notably as Gopi Bahu in the popular “Saath Nibhana Sathiya” besides reality shows.

# At least 12 dead in Brazil bank robbery shootout: Officials

BRASILIA: At least 12 people were killed on Friday, including six policemen, in an early morning shootout between police and bank robbers in a small town in northeastern Brazil. Five hostages, including two children, died in the shootout, local media reported, when police interrupted a gang trying to rob ATMs at two bank branches on the main street in Milagres in the interior of Ceará state.

# Gujarat woman found dead in train to Mumbai, robbery after Borivali feared

MUMBAI: A 40-year-old homemaker from Gujarat was found murdered in the ladies coach of the Bhuj-Dadar Superfast Express after it arrived at the terminal on Friday afternoon. The police suspect robbery, probably between Borivli and Dadar, as a gold necklace she usually wore was missing, along with cash.

Deriya Devi Chaudhary, who lived in Surat with her husband, was headed to Mumbai to visit relatives. The police said she used to travel on her own every year by train. Her sister lives in

The ladies coach that she boarded had only 20 berths. “At Surat, when Chaudhary got in, there were around seven-eight travellers. All of them got off by Borivli, and Chaudhary was alone. We suspect the assailant boarded at Borivli and may have tried to snatch her valuables. She must have put up a fight as there were injuries on her arm,” said a police officer. Eventually, the assailant slit her throat and left her on the floor of the coach. He left behind her bag.

The Bhuj-Dadar Superfast Express was to reach Dadar at 12.10 pm on Friday. While checking the coach, RPF found Chaudhary’s body on the floor between seats 11and 20. The body was caked in blood and her clothes were missing. A saree had been used to cover the body.

The police will now study CCTV footage at Borivli and Dadar stations to find out who entered and exited the coach. “Once her husband arrives in Mumbai, we will ask if any other valuables are missing,” said senior inspector S Dhiwar, Mumbai Central GRP. Chaudhary’s body has been sent for an autopsy and the report will clarify if sexual assault can be put out of the picture. "Our preliminary information is that 12 people died, including six police officers," a spokeswoman for the governor said by telephone. The G1 news website, quoting Milagres Mayor Lielson Landim, reported that the five dead hostages belonged to the same family. Their car had been hijacked on a nearby highway and taken into town by the armed gang. Broadcaster GloboNews said it was the family of a local businessman and that two suspects had been arrested by police. The gang escaped in two vans without taking any money, G1 said. A local press report said the body of one bank robber was found in an abandoned vehicle by police. Police were searching for gang members with the help of a helicopter, the mayor's office said.

Five held for robbery after a fight TNN | Nov 15, 2018, 05.44 AM IST Printed from GREATER NOIDA: Police claimed to have busted a gang of robbers and arrested all five members after an exchange of fire in Dadri on Tuesday. A stolen car and illegal arms were also seized. However, the brother of one of the accused alleged that cops had arrested his brother two days ago with another man and later claimed that they were robbers after the family refused to give a bribe for his release. According to cops, the five accused were identified as Irfan, Shahid, Javed and Aashik, all residents of Gaddiwada village in Bulandshahr, and Mohsin, a resident of Jarcha in Greater Noida. Police said they got a tip-off that the gang would be present near Dadri toll plaza on Tuesday night, and a police team was sent to the spot. “The accused were coming from Bulandshahr in a Maruti Accent and were followed by a police team towards Luharli village. After an exchange of fire, they were arrested and two country-made guns and the stolen vehicle were seized around 10om on Tuesday,” said Ram Sen Singh, SHO, Dadri police station. He added that all the accused were wanted for several cases of robbery in Bisrakh, Bulandshahr and Sikandrabad and were jailed earlier this year. “We are in contact with the police stations of the places where they were wanted for their criminal history,” Singh said. Meanwhile, Shahid’s brother Junaid said cops implicated his brother in a robbery case after the family could not fulfil the 12/9/2018 Five held for robbery after a fight - Times of India https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/noida/five-held-for-robbery-after-a-fight/articleshowprint/66627176.cms 2/2 demand of Rs 5 lakh demanded for his release. “My brother was arrested two days ago in Shakirpur village of Dadri with his friend Javed. He was detained and tortured in the police station. When we went to them, police sought Rs 5 lakh for his release, which we couldn’t give. So they accused my brother and his friend of robbery along with some criminals,” Shahid added. All five men were booked under sections 147 (punishment for rioting), 148 (rioting, armed with deadly weapon), 149 (unlawful assembly), 307 (attempt to murder) and 34 (common intention) of the IPC at the Dadri police statio. They were produced in a local court and sent to judicial custody on Wednesday. TNN

Two men shoot at stray dog after robbing man in Delhi The incident took place in Seelampur area, the police said, adding that they were ascertaining the reason behind the shooting of the dog as the unidentified robbers were yet to be arrested. INDIA Updated: Dec 03, 2018 08:18 IST Press Trust of India New Delhi Two bike-borne men shot at a stray dog in their bid to flee after allegedly robbing a man at gunpoint in northeast Delhi.(REUTERS) (https://www.hindustantimes.com/) Monday, Dec 10, 2018 New Delhi. Two bike-borne men shot at a stray dog in their bid to flee after allegedly robbing a man at gunpoint in northeast Delhi on Sunday, police said. The incident took place in Seelampur area, the police said, adding that they were ascertaining the reason behind the shooting of the dog as the unidentified robbers were yet to be arrested. Seelampur police station was informed about the shooting in Gautam Puri. This was followed by another call regarding an incident of robbery, they said. Upon visiting the spot, we found that the dog was shot in the leg, a police officer said, adding that the canine was rescued and was being taken care of. Reportedly, the miscreants were fleeing the spot after robbing Rs 15,000 from a 24-year-old Ravi Kumar, he said. A case under appropriate sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act was registered, police said, adding further investigation was underway

# Hyderabad businessman robbed of Rs 1 crore in jewellery and cash by watchman, 3 others

A Hyderabad-based businessman was reportedly robbed of Rs 1 crore worth of cash, diamonds and gold jewellery on Saturday, allegedly by the watchman and the watchman's wife. The Hyderabad police have launched a manhunt to nab the couple and their two accomplices.

Sunil Kumar Agarwal, a steel trader and resident of Abids, had gone out for dinner with his family on Saturday night, upon returning home they found the doors of the house were broken and items were stolen, according to reports. The police investigation revealed that his watchman Vikas and his wife Maya along with two accomplices were behind the robbery, according to the Times of India. CCTV footage from nearby locations showed the four of them fleeing in an auto rickshaw.

Vikas had joined as a watchman and his wife Maya as a domestic help at Sunil's residence just two months ago. According to Times of India, Sunil told police that the couple were polite and caring in their attitude. They had also allegedly refused the mobile gift from Sunil as the couple supposedly lived a simple life. The couple had been living in a two-room servant quarter on the ground floor of Sunil's residence, reports say.

Abids police reconstructed how the couple from Nepal carried out the robbery. Vikas and Maya were joined by two others soon after Sunil and his family left for dinner. Using a rod, they reportedly made a hole of the first-floor door to access the locks. After gaining entry they pried open the locked cupboards to steal the valuables.

The four then broke into Sunil’s office on the ground floor by breaking a glass. According to Deccan Chronicle, they also stole a digital video recorder.

“Though the couple during their stay claimed they do not have mobile phones, they lied to their employees. It appears they have a mobile phone, which they have been using secretly. Police teams have launched a manhunt for them,” said police sources to TOI.

Grad student from India killed in armed robbery in Kansas City

Sharath Koppu, a student at the University of Missouri Kansas City was shot and killed Friday by a robber at J's Fish and Chicken

Market in Kansas City. (Kansas City Police Department)

A "gifted student" from India was shot and killed while working behind the counter of a Missouri fast­food joint during a robbery,

according to reports.

The stick­up man shot Sharath Koppu, a 25­year­old graduate student at the University of Missouri in Kansas City, in the back at J’s

Fish and Chicken Market in Kansas City Friday as Koppu tried to flee, the Kansas City Star reported Saturday.

"He had the same dreams like everyone else, to make it BIG in the land of opportunity,” his cousin Raghu Chowdavaram said in a

solicitation on GoFundMe for funds to transport Koppu’s body back to India, the paper reported.

"Little did anybody know that life is about to take a big unfortunate turn on a fateful day of July 6th 2018," Chowdavaram said.

UMKC Chancellor C. Mauli Agrawal said in an email Saturday that Koppu was a “gifted student who had many friends among

student and faculty,” KSHB­TV reported. He was working on a master’s degree in computer science.

Kansas City police on Saturday released surveillance video from inside the restaurant of the suspected shooter, Fox4KC reported.

Koppu arrived in the U.S. from Hyderabad, where he was a software engineer, the Financial Express in India reported.

KANSAS MAN PLEADS GUILTY IN DEADLY BAR SHOOTING

Last year, another Hyderabad techie, Srinivas Kuchibotla, was shot dead in a bar near Kansas City in a suspected hate crime, the

paper reported.

His killer was a white man, Adam Purinton, who witnesses said yelled "get out of my country" before opening fire, the Associated

Press reported. A friend of Kuchibolta’s from India was wounded in the shooting.

Purinton, 52, pleaded guilty to murder and in May he was sentenced to life in prison, according to reports.

# Thinking on her feet, woman foils break-in, robbery

Her calls to the police made the attackers abandon their plans An alert woman’s quick and smart reaction when her family and her house was under attack from robbers saved the day. Roopa Devaraj, 38, a resident of BDA Layout, in 4th Stage BTM Layout, and her husband, were fast asleep when they heard strange noises at 3 am on October 8. As the noises seemed to be coming from the main door, her husband Devaraj asked her to check what it was. In her complaint to the police, Roopa said that since their house was located on the main road, she thought the noises were coming from the street and dismissed it and went back to sleep. However, when the sounds persisted, Roopa was up and alert, and wondered if it was her nephew Chandru coming home after his shift at a cab aggregator service. However Chandra was already home and sleeping in the same room as her son. When she went to the door to see if it was him, she heard voices of more than one person from behind the door. And then she realised that someone was trying to break the lock. Roopa said that she immediately alerted her husband who came out of the bedroom shouting at the miscreants. Meanwhile Chandru and Roopa’s school-going son woke up hearing the shouts. As the miscreants continued to hammer on the door, Chandru and Devaraj, stood leaning against it, to resist the assault. Speaking to BM, Roopa said, “When Chandru was holding the door from coming off the hinges, one of the miscreants cleaved the wood with a weapon and it scraped my son’s leg. Yet, he didn’t let go of the hold. With every blow, they seemed to be getting closer to breaking the door down,” said Roopa. When their hammering continued relentless, Roopa hit upon an idea. “I had some mobile numbers of the Begur station policemen on my phone and I decided to call them up. To make sure the miscreants heard me, I went to the window and started calling the cops. However, all my calls to five policemen went unanswered. Meanwhile I started shouting at them, telling them to leave as I had called the police,” said Roopa. Meanwhile, she heard one of the miscreants say, “ long etkollo,” meaning take out the machete. Roopa then called Madappa of the Begur police station. He immediately attended the call and when he heard the urgency in her voice, he said that a Hoysala was on the way. I warned the miscreants again that cops are were on their way. I think they heard my conversation with the police and decided to abandon the dacoity attempt.” Devaraj said that the miscreants walked away from their house, till the end of the road, instead of running. When Madappa and his colleague reached their house, the 12/9/2018 Bengaluru: CCTV footage shows robbers trying to break door in BTM layout; woman foils robbery with her presence of mind - Bengaluru Crime the attackers had escaped. The sequence of events as captured on the CCTV camera CCTV footage revealed that the attackers were in their 20s and they came armed with tools in a backpack. Since Roopa’s house door has a complex lock system, it took them nearly 10 minutes to break about 80 per cent of the lock. CCTV footage from a camera installed in the next lane reveals the trio came in a car and escaped in the same vehicle. Roopa says there are lot of senior citizens and working women staying alone in the area, and patrolling has to be intensified. Madappa suggested that they file a complaint with the Hulimavu police station as their neighbourhood came under its jurisdiction. Though Devaraj and the cops went in search of the trio, they could not find them. Roopa and her family who were supposed to go out of the city on Sunday, have cancelled their travel plans. Roopa is the secretary of Indian Primary and High School. Deputy Commissioner of Police (South-East) Dr MB Boralingaiah said, “We have taken up the case and investigations are on. We will also increase patrolling in the area and put some point books in the area.”

# Blue Whale Challenge? Girl commits suicide, ‘cut here to exit’ found written on her hand

There was 'cut here to exit ' written on her hand, giving rise to suspicion that she may have been a mobile game addict.

A 17-year old girl was found dead in Nagpur on Tuesday evening. She is suspected to have played a suicide game called the ‘Blue Whale challenge’. “The girl hanged herself by a dupatta to the ceiling fan of her room on the first floor of her house where she used to study,” said Police Inspector Vijay Talware of Beltarodi police station.

Talware added, “we found that there was ‘cut here to exit ‘ written on her hand, giving rise to suspicion that she may have been a mobile game addict. Her father, a retired air force personnel, has said that she used to play mobile games. But the exact reason behind the suicide would be known only after we receive a report from the forensic and cyber expert”.

He also said that the girl had taken a drop in her twelve standards study as she couldn’t secure admission in reputed colleges.

The Blue Whale game or Blue Whale Challenge is believed to be a suicide game wherein a group of administrators or a certain curator gives a participant a task to complete daily — for a period of 50 days — the final of which is the participant committing suicide.

# Bihar: Day before her wedding, IPS officer's daughter commits suicide by jumping off terrace

**Patna:**In a shocking case reported from the capital city of Bihar- Patna, the daughter of a retired Inspector General of Police allegedly committed suicide by jumping off the terrace of her residence in Patna on Sunday morning.

The news agency ANI reported that police team along with the Patna District Magistrate and Senior Superintendent of Police was present at the spot. The police officials have not found any suicide note at the spot.

Mirror Now reported the deceased was a doctor by her profession and she got engaged recently. Shockingly, she committed suicide a day before her marriage. The security guard of the housing society informed the family and the relatives who were gathered for marriage, about the incident.

Meanwhile, the police officials have sent the body to the district hospital for the post-mortem. News Agency ANI reported, Manu Maharaj, Senior Superintendent of Police, Patna said, prima facie it appeared to be a case of suicide. They have recovered a mobile from the spot. The victim's family is in a state of shock, so they have not questioned them yet. However, further police investigation in the case is underway.

# Tamil Nadu transgender cop attempts suicide alleging harassment by seniors

## R Nasriya, who joined the police force in August this year, shot a selfie video of her drinking rat poison and posted it on WhatsApp Monday night, saying she was taking the extreme step as the three superiors “behaved indecently” and ‘teased’ her.

A 22-year old transgender police constable in Tamil Nadu’s Ramanathapuram has been hospitalised after she attempted suicide alleging harassment by three of her superiors, police said on Tuesday.

R Nasriya, who joined the police force in August this year, shot a selfie video of her drinking rat poison and posted it on WhatsApp Monday night, saying she was taking the extreme step as the three superiors “behaved indecently” and ‘teased’ her.

After seeing the video, police rushed to her room in Ramanathapuram and admitted her to the local government hospital. “After a stomach wash, her condition is now okay,” they said.

District Superintendent of Police Om Prakash Meena ordered a departmental inquiry by a DSP rank official into the trans woman constable’s complaint.

In the video, she named the three police personnel and said “I am taking this extreme step because the three behaved indecently and made me suffer a lot by teasing and torturing. They are solely responsible for my death. Friends, please share this clipping with others and get the officials responsible for my death punished.”

Police said the constable was recently shifted to the passport section in the SP office after she had complained about harassment in the Armed Reserve battalion. However, she did not report for duty and resorted to the suicide attempt, they said.

She abstained from work twice for over 20 days each while posted in the Armed Reserve battalion in Ramanathapuram and in Tiruchirappalli, police said.

# Two onion-growers kill self in Nashik

Farmers in Nashik district, which accounts for 50 per cent of onion production in India, have claimed that they are unable to fetch good returns for their produce due to glut in production.

Two onion farmers from Maharashtra’s Nashik district have allegedly committed suicide in the last two days, apparently due to indebtedness and low rates commanded by the bulb in markets, police said Sunday.

The deceased are identified as Tatyabhau Khairnar (44) and Manoj Dhondage (33) who hailed from Baglan taluka in the north Maharashtra district.

Farmers in Nashik district, which accounts for 50 per cent of onion production in India, have claimed that they are unable to fetch good returns for their produce due to glut in production.

A Baglan taluka police official Sunday said Khairnar allegedly committed suicide by hanging himself in his onion shed in Bhadane village Friday.

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A Baglan taluka police official Sunday said Khairnar allegedly committed suicide by hanging himself in his onion shed in Bhadane village Friday.

# Mama, I love you: 12-year-old scribbled on palm before suicide, teacher blamed

## Around 4 pm, when the mother returned, she discovered her daughter’s lifeless body, a police officer said. A suicide note was also recovered.

A Class 7 student allegedly committed suicide at her house in west Delhi’s Inderpuri on December 1, police said, adding that her mother had told them the girl was often rebuked by teachers at school.

“After my daughter’s death, her friend told me that she was very sad as two of her teachers had called her ‘characterless’ in front of the whole classroom”, the mother told news agency ANI.

“The girl committed suicide around 3 pm on December 1,” Additional deputy commissioner of police (west) Sameer Sharma said. The 12-year-old was found hanging in her room by her mother.

“She had scribbled on her hand ‘Mama I love you...I am leaving this world,’ Sharma added

Her mother said she had been scolded by a teacher and she was upset. “We are looking into allegations by the mother,” the officer said.

She was last seen alive by her mother who saw her before leaving for the Tis Hazari Court, where she is an advocate, reports news agency IANS.

Around 4 pm, when the mother returned, she discovered her daughter’s lifeless body, a police officer said. A suicide note was also recovered.

According to the mother, the girl had complained of relentless humiliation by teachers. “My daughter complained the same teacher rebuked her every day. It was the same teacher who rebuked and humiliated her on Friday for 10 minutes before her class teacher in the biology lab.

“She had cried in the school bathroom following the episode,” the mother said.

“She had been insisting that I change her school but I did not know the extent of the crisis. I had not realised how extreme it has been and that she would commit suicide,” she told IANS.

“I was planning to take her out on her birthday this December 20. But now she has left us. I should have changed her school.”

The school management has set up an internal committee to probe the incident and will submit its report to the Delhi Police.

# Ludhiana: MBBS student allegedly commits suicide at DMCH

His father, also a medical practitioner, told police that his son was excellent in studies but since almost a year, he was "mentally distressed".

A second-year MBBS student allegedly committed suicide in his hostel room at Dayanand Medical College and Hospital (DMCH) in Ludhiana late on Sunday night. His body was found hanging in his room by his father who visited him every week from Shaheed Bhagat Singh Nagar (Nawanshahr).

The deceased was a 19-year-old MBBS student at DMCH. His father, also a medical practitioner, told police that his son was excellent in studies but since almost a year, he was “mentally distressed”.

He told police that his son had deactivated his social media accounts and even stopped using his mobile phone in the last one month.

Police said that the second-year student hardly used to interact with anyone at college and remained in his room most of the time. He was also receiving treatment for depression for the last one year and his parents used to visit him every week and take him out, but there were no signs of recovery, police said.

On Sunday, when he did not come out of his room for an entire day, not even to have meals in the hostel mess, the hostel administration informed his parents and police. His body was found hanging when they broke open his door. No suicide note was recovered, police said.

Inspector Mohal Lal, SHO division number 8 police station, said the body was handed over to the family after autopsy.

# Engineering student commits suicide by jumping from sixth floor in Karnataka

## According to the students, a professor from the Mechanical engineering department threatened Anand because of a shortage of attendance.

In a tragic incident, a 20-year-old engineering student committed suicide by jumping from the Mechanical engineering department building at National Institute of Technology Karnataka (NITK) campus.

The deceased has been identified as Anand Pathak, a resident of Maharashtra. Anand Pathak was a student of third year mechanical engineering.

Sources said he jumped from the 6th floor of the mechanical engineering department building.

According to the students, a professor from the Mechanical engineering department threatened Anand because of a shortage of attendance. The professor allegedly told the victim that he will not become an engineer and will fail the exam.

It is also alleged that the same professor continuously snubbed Anand which made him take the fatal step.

Students in the campus held protests demanding justice and that the professor who allegedly humiliated Anand to be taken to task immediately.

It is said that three students have committed suicide in the past due to alleged harassment at the hands of their their professors.

# Ghaziabad hotel suicide bid: Youth too dies

GHAZIABAD: A 23-year-old man, who had taken poison pill along with a woman he intended to marry, died of multi-organ failure on Saturday. The woman, Pooja Singh, had died on Friday while Subodh Kant, the youth, was battling for life in hospital. The two had decided to commit suicide apparently after their families called off their marriage allegedly over dowry. Pooja’s family had accused Sobodh’s parents of demanding a hefty dowry, an allegation they had contested. The two had checked into a hotel near Ghaziabad railway station around 1.30am on Friday and consumed sulphas, a poisonous substance. Jai Karan Singh, the SHO of Kotwali police station, said an inquiry would be done if any complaint is received. Neither the girl’s parents nor Subodh’s has lodged any police complaint so far. Sources said the families of Pooja and Subodh had met through a common friend in April this year and decided in the first week of July to go ahead with the marriage. But the wedding was reportedly put off for November 19 and eventually called off. Pooja and Subodh, however, kept meeting each other. Last week, Pooja had gone to Sobodh’s house and told him she wanted to marry him despite the opposition

# Delhi: 18-year-old athlete allegedly commits suicide at JLN stadium

Parvinder Chaudhary allegedly committed suicide on Wednesday morning by hanging himself from a ceiling fan in his hostel room in the athletics academy at Delhi's Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, ANI reported.

Palender Chaudhary, an 18-year-old sprinter who represented India at international level, allegedly committed suicide and was found hanging from a ceiling fan in his hostel room in the athletics academy at Delhi’s Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium. No reason for his death has been established by the police yet.

A friend of the deceased first saw him hanging from his room’s ceiling when he came to meet him on Tuesday and raised the alarm. His coach and a few guards took him to the stadium’s medical centre and from there he was brought to SJ Hospital for treatment yesterday night. Doctors declared him dead on Wednesday morning.

Chaudhary, who was practising and living in the JLN stadium for the last two months, has represented India in 100 and 200-metre race at international level and participated in the Youth Asia Athletic meet in Bankok in 2017.

An official of Sports Authority of India (SAI) told ANI that the young sprinter had an argument with his father the previous morning. “I was told he had an argument on phone with his father in the morning yesterday. Later his sister came to talk to him too. Unfortunately, we could not save him despite our best efforts,” the official said.

Mahesh Pal, Palender’s father, arrived at the hospital from Aligarh this morning. “He told me he needed money. I assured him that I will give him the money. I don’t know what happened later. I’ve no complaints against the people at the stadium,” he told ANI.

The reason of death is being probed. No suicide note was found during the police investigation.

# Officer Ends Life on the Celebrity Millennium

A Celebrity Cruises officer reportedly committed suicide on the Celebrity Millennium, according to an [article](http://crew-center.com/celebrity-millennium-officer-found-dead-his-cabin?fbclid=IwAR17qnhOTXPOD4MXfUwHE0k4OYHRoCNMlR9Y3jJhUojhDXPl7Llh34sGrkw) published yesterday by the Crew Center website.

On December 6th, Anton Ilichev, a young officer from Ukraine, was reportedly found hanging dead in his cabin’s bathroom, according to the article.

Crew Center states that Mr. Ilichev was working as a suite manager and had worked for Celebrity for several contracts. The Celebrity cruise ship was on a 14 Night Southeast Asia Cruise from Hong Kong to Singapore when this incident occurred. His current contract was about to end and he was scheduled to disembark in Singapore on vacation.

Crew Center expressed condolences to Mr. Ilichev’s family, friends and his fellow crew members. By all accounts, Mr. Ilichev was a popular and well liked crew member. Friends and his co-employees expressed [similar sentiments on Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/Crew-Center-221802457897962/).

Several crew members raised concerns that there is an absence of resources for mental health support and counseling for employees on cruise ships, commenting:

“There is no mental support whatsoever in such a difficult environment! Don’t you dare ask the doctor for a day off for simply being mentally exhausted, they’ll tell you that you are free to sign off. Crew members should have the chance for therapy/counceling onboard and should be encouraged to attend! But crew members sadly will always, always be just numbers.  Condolences to his family.”

As I mentioned in an article titled [Misery Machines and Crew Member Suicides,](https://www.cruiselawnews.com/2018/08/articles/disappearances/misery-machines-crew-member-suicides/) anyone who follows the cruise industry knows that suicides of crew members are hardly rare.

A 22-year-old Serbian crew member, Nikola Arnautovic, on the Carnival Fascination, hung himself four months ago. A petition was started on Change.org – [Save lives! Make psychologists compulsory for Carnival Cruise workers and 1 day off a week](https://www.change.org/p/carnival-cruise-line-save-lives-make-psychologists-compulsory-for-carnival-cruise-workers-and-1-day-off-a-week).

A British chef was found hanging in his cabin aboard the [Crystal Serenity](https://www.cruiselawnews.com/2015/07/articles/crew-member-rights/suicide-on-the-crystal-serenity/) cruise ship several years ago.  Two weeks earlier, a safety officer on the [Disney Dream](https://www.cruiselawnews.com/2015/06/articles/maritime-death/death-aboard-the-disney-dream/) committed suicide in a similar manner. And the day before that, a woman in Carnival’s entertainment department was found hanging in an officer’s quarters on the [Carnival Sensation](https://www.cruiselawnews.com/2015/06/03/suicide-on-the-sensation/).

An Indian dishwasher on the [Costa Magica](http://crew-center.com/costa-crew-member-found-dead-his-cabin) was found hanging in his cabin in February 2017. A galley worker also committed suicide a few years earlier on the [Island Princess](http://crew-center.com/princess-crew-member-commits-suicide-hanging) by hanging.

Of course, most crew members do not end their lives by hanging themselves. Most ship employees who choose to end their lives do so by jumping overboard.  During a period of less than three years between December 2009 and October 2012, at least twelve crew members jumped overboard or simply disappeared from cruise ships operated by Royal Caribbean/Celebrity Cruises. I wrote about the problem in an article titled “[Is Royal Caribbean Working Its Crew Members to Death?](https://www.cruiselawnews.com/2012/10/articles/disappearances/is-royal-caribbean-working-its-crew-members-to-death/)”  The grueling schedule and long hours crew members are required to work 7 days a week, 30 days a month with no days off over the course of a 6 to 10 month contract, for far less than the U.S. minimum wage, often leave ship employees, who are already isolated from their families, exhausted and demoralized.

In the past decade, many dozens of crew members have jumped into the sea. The common reaction by guests is pointlessly “you can’t fall from a cruise ship” as if casting blame on the dead crew member will somehow solve the problem.

Mental health services for cruise ship employees are non-existent. And the  emotional well being of crew members is not a topic that is discussed in the U.S. Few Americans seem concerned with the working conditions on cruise ships faced by citizens of the greater world community. Most U.S. citizens respond to the exploitation of crew members from India or Jamaica with the rationalization that whatever pittance the “foreign” crew members receive is more than the workers can receive back home. “If they don’t like the work, they can quit” is the common saying.

It is unknown exactly what work conditions Mr. Ilichev faced on the Celebrity ship or what he experienced in his personal life. Crew Center raised the issue of providing services for mental health of crew members in [Why aren’t there psychologists on board cruise ships?](http://crew-center.com/why-arent-there-psychologists-board-cruise-ships)  Cruise lines like Celebrity Cruises, invest many hundreds of millions, if not billions, of dollars on building increasingly huge cruise ships each year. They need to begin investing in their crew member’s well being at sea.

# SP leader commits suicide after an argument with wife

Sanjay alias Sheebu (32), a district panchayat member, shot himself with his licensed pistol at his residence in Bahraich district in Uttar Pradesh.

A Samajwadi Party leader allegedly committed suicide by shooting himself after an altercation with wife, police said Friday.

Sanjay alias Sheebu (32), a district panchayat member, shot himself with his licensed pistol at his residence in Bahraich district in Uttar Pradesh.

Sheebu is the son of former MLA Shabbir Ahmad. The body has been sent for postmortem, they said

# Police recover missing gold in daylight robbery

KANNUR: The police team investigating the case of a daylight theft in a jewellery shop at Pazhayangadi in the district on June 8 has recovered the entire lot of the stolen gold and also Rs 1.5 lakh from the two persons arrested in the case on June 24. According to Thaliparamba DSP K V Venugopal the duo –– K V Naushad and AP Rafeeque –– had looted the jewelley after a planning of nearly six months and had made all efforts to make sure that they were not caught. Police said they had looted 2.8kg of gold and around Rs 2 lakh after breaking in around 1.30pm on June 8, when its owner A P Ibrahim and workers had gone for prayers in the nearby mosque. Before entering the shop, the two damaged the CCTV camera at the entrance and also took away the digital video recorder inside. However, through scientific investigation and tracing thousands of phone call details and also many CCTV footages in the nearby areas police got the footage of the two going on a black scooter with the looted gold. Later, based on some circumstantial evidences, the two were questioned on many occasions but they did not confess. So, as a trick, they were let off. Police then followed them and nabbed them when they were trying to shift the stolen gold. On further investigation it was found that the scooter was stolen six months ago. After stealing it, they changed its colour from white to black and changed the number. Later, after the theft, it was repainted white, Police said, in order to conceal their identity the two had come as painting workers and nobody suspected anything when they covered the front portion of the jewellery with a screen. The two, who have been sent in judicial remand, will be questioned again and the police have sought their custody for one week, said the investigating officers

# Santiniketan elderly robbed at knife-point

SANTINIKETAN: A woman aged around 80 years was allegedly looted at dagger-point at home in Santiniketan’s Diganta Palli on Friday afternoon. One person was arrested by the police. According to Haimanty Dattagupta, she was alone at her home around 4pm when someone knocked on the doors. The moment she opened the door, a man took out a sharp dagger and threatened her to hand over her valuables. She handed over her bangles, a mobile phone, some cash and other valuables. Before leaving, the man reportedly locked her up in the washroom. After more than half an hour, the neighbours heard her screams for help and rescued her. Subsequently, the police started a probe and arrested one Arabinda Mondal alias Karno from Bhubandanga in Santiniketan. The stolen items were recovered from him. Mondal was produced in a Bolpur court where the cops prayed for a test identification parade. It will be conducted on Wednesday, before which, Mondal will be kept in judicial custody. Police superintendent Kunal Agarwal said, “We started an investigation immediately and the accused was arrested within hours. The local police station will keep a strong vigil in the area where many elderly people live. They are easy targets of robbers.” Expressing satisfaction over police action, a family member of the victim said, “While we are pleased with the prompt action taken by police after the incident, we are worried as something worse could have happened to her. The culprit locked her up in the bathroom where she remained confined for a long time.” Locals said officers from the recently set up Santiniketan police station regularly patrol the locality in the evening. Dattagupta said, “I did not think someone would strike in the afternoon. When I heard someone knocking on my door, I thought somebody had come for collection of Puja subscription. In spite of police patrols, I do not open the door in the evenings. I now realize that I need to be cautious about letting someone in throughout the day.”

# Crime Branch CID of Tamil Nadu police cracks Salem train robbery case

In a breakthrough, the Crime Branch CID of the Tamil Nadu police has cracked the sensational train heist case in which ₹5.75 crore cash assigned to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) was looted from a moving train a couple of years ago. The unprecedented robbery occurred on the Salem-Chennai Express on the night of August 8, 2016. A gang broke into the parcel van containing ₹342 crore of soiled but usable currency, and took away ₹5.75 crore. The stolen money was in ₹500 and ₹1,000 denomination notes that were later demonetised. The gang cut through the roof of the train making an opening measuring 2 ft by 1.5 ft. Technical evidence After months of strenuous investigation hit a dead end, a special team of the CBCID that was tracking different leads finally hit upon a technical evidence that led to the breakthrough. Sources in the agency told The Hindu on Sunday that a gang of criminals from Madhya Pradesh was involved in the heist. Ζ 12/9/2018 Crime Branch CID of Tamil Nadu police cracks Salem train robbery case. Going by the mobile phones that were active in the scene of crime, investigators believe that the suspects, fourto five men, broke open the roof of the coach as the train moved from Salem to Villupuram. “We have established cleartechnical evidence which confirms theirinvolvement. While analysing suspicious mobile phone numbers that were active at the Salem junction and along the route between Salem and Villupuram, we found certain similarities between some numbers. The users were from Madhya Pradesh and belonged to the same locality there. Enquiries revealed that the notorious gang was involved in several grave crimes in north India,” a CB-CID official said, adding that the gang operated on the roof and inside the coach all along even as armed guards of the Salem city police on escort duty inspected the parcel van from the platform side at all scheduled stoppages. While special teams were coordinating with central intelligence agencies and the Madhya Pradesh police to apprehend the gang, investigators were perusing CCTV footage at the Salem junction and toll plazas along national highways in Salem and Villupuram districts to zero in on visuals of the suspects ortheir vehicles.“We know who committed the crime. They are now absconding and several teams are working to track them down. It is only a matter of time before they are taken into custody,”the official said. ‘Insider involved’ On how the gang came to know of the high value consignment, the official said information was leaked by an ‘insider’. Asked if the gang had planned to loot the entire parcel of ₹342 crore, the official said the cash was put in 226 wooden boxes and it would have been impossible to open them all and take the money, given the time and other constraints. “Since the heist was detected only around 11 a.m. the next day, the criminals had adequate time to escape and drive for at least 10 hours,” he said. Parrying questions on whetherthey managed to exchange the demonetised currency for new notes, the official said the arrest of the gang would lead to the recovery of cash, if any left, weapons/machinery used to commit the offence, details of vehicles used, etc. Since there was no record of any serial numbers, the police may find it difficult to link any seizures with the stolen money. Investigators heavily relied on corroborative and circumstantial evidence, including technical, scientific and eyewitness statements, to fix the gang. During the course of the investigation, CB-CID teams visited various States and examined hundreds of suspects. The police kept a watch on places such as construction sites, where soiled currency could be used fortransactions in large quantities.

# Man, 57, arrested over armed robbery of Bank of East Asia

Police had searched the city for hours before catching the suspect, who was seen on CCTV brazenly pointing what appeared to be a pistol at employees

A 57-year-old man was arrested in Tin Shui Wai on Wednesday night for ­allegedly holding up the Bank of East Asia headquarters in Central before fleeing with tens of ­thousands of dollars.

Police had searched the city for hours before catching the ­suspect, who was seen on CCTV brazenly pointing what appeared to be a pistol at employees. He was believed to have taken HK$70,000 in cash.

The jobless man, whose name was not released by police, was ­arrested at about 7.50pm in Tin Yan Estate, Tin Shui Wai, where officers recovered the cash and weapon which was confirmed to be an air gun.

According to officers, staff at the bank – which is located at 10 Des Voeux Road in Central – ­reported the robbery to police at 3.32pm after a man made off with HK$70,000 from a counter.

Video footage showed the man wearing a black top during the robbery. A bank worker could be seen pulling piles of HK$20, HK$100 and HK$500 bills from a drawer and stashing the money in an orange plastic bag, while a colleague prepared more cash. The man snatched the bag and fled.

“We were notified that the man was holding what was suspected to be a pistol. He then fled towards the MTR station,” a ­police insider said.

Dozens of armed officers guarded the bank after the incident, while others searched for the suspect at the MTR station. Train services were unaffected.

This was not the suspect’s first brush with the law, according to police.

In January 2016, he was ­arrested days after he was said to have stolen a golden chain worth about HK$23,000 from a Sham Shui Po jewellery shop.

On that day, he walked into the shop to ask a shopkeeper to show him some gold. After he left without buying anything, the shop later realised the chain was gone.

A police source also said the man was involved in an armed robbery at a Dao Heng Bank branch on Hennessy Road in April 1987.

He fired a shot at the bank before holding 6 people hostage on a minibus in a stand-off that lasted for eight hours. Before he got to the bus, police had fired twice at him, but missed.

He was sentenced to 16 years in prison for the heist.

The man was also jailed for 10 years in 2003 for robbing several prostitutes and injuring a man the previous year.

A spokeswoman for the railway operator said it had received notice from the railway police at 3.40pm, that officers needed to carry out operations at Central and Hong Kong stations.

“Train services remained unaffected,” the spokeswoman added.

Later Wednesday, the bank confirmed the robbery had taken place at its main branch. But it refused to confirm how much had been stolen, saying only it had “lost tens of thousands of Hong Kong dollars”.

“The case was immediately reported to police for their handling,” the bank said in a statement. “There were no injuries in this incident.

“The bank believes the robbery was an isolated incident and that security at our branches is adequate. However, we will continue to review our security on a regular basis and make adjustments as appropriate.”

The robbery came a week after the bank announced its [profits rose by 151.1 per cent last year](https://www.scmp.com/business/companies/article/2134256/beas-2017-profit-more-150-cent-thanks-asset-sales).

It is not the first time for a robbery at the Bank of East Asia.

In May 2016, a middle-aged Cantonese man [tried to hold up a branch](https://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/law-crime/article/1941684/hong-kong-police-hunt-masked-robber-botched-bank-heist) in Cheung Sha Wan but ended up fleeing empty-handed.

The man entered the bank wearing a cap, face mask and a pair of work gloves. He told the teller at the counter that it was a robbery and showed her a suspected black pistol. The man fled empty-handed when the teller went to seek help from her manager.

No bank robberies took place in the city last year, the force said. There were three cases in 2016.

# Huge robbery in Yeshwantpur express, victims complained to Kachiguda railway police

Hyderabad: Huge robbery occured in Yeshwantpur express in the early morning hours of Saturday. The train left from Bangalore to hyderabad, when it entered mahaboob nagar district the train stopped at divitipalli. Train driver found no signal so he stopped the train. Robbers damaged the signals as their prior plan by pelting stones on the signals.

Immediately at  about 3 to 4 am five robbers attacked on S 5 and S 8 coaches and targeted the window passengers for half an hour. The passengers were in sleep when the incident occured.By threatening and attacking the 15 passengers they have stolen 24 tulas gold ornaments and 4 cell phones from the passengers.women passengers got severe injuries on the neck. Victim Women and other co passengers retalliated the robbers and foiled in their efforts as they attacked them. Since the robbery took place is at the forest area the thieves escaped easily by doing theft

Victim passengers complained to the Kachiguda railway police. They said no security was there in the train. There were 7 robberies happened in the same route within 2 months period.Passengers expressed their dissatisfaction over the security arrangements made by the railway police.

By filing a case railway police and law and order police took the investigation.Railway SP Ashok Kumar said that they will nab the thieves very soon.

# Kolkata lawyer’s wife arrested for his murder, extramarital affair suspected

## The body of lawyer Rajat Kumar Dey was found on the floor of the bedroom. His face had turned blue and there was a deep mark on the throat. His wife initially told police that he fell from the bed and had a heart attack

Six days after Calcutta high court lawyer Rajat Kumar Dey, 34, was found dead in mysterious circumstances at his home in Kolkata, police arrested his wife on Saturday night for allegedly murdering him. She had, they said, used the cable of her mobile phone charger to strangle him.

Anindita Pal Dey, 33, also a lawyer, was produced at Barasat court on Sunday morning and sent to police custody for eight days. Officers of New Town police station said that after the lawyer was killed on the night of November 25, she made self-contradictory statements for six days in an apparent bid to mislead investigators.

The couple has a two-year-old son. They lived in an apartment in New Town in the northern outskirts of Kolkata.

Dey’s body was found on the floor of the bedroom. His face had turned blue and there was a deep mark on the throat. His wife initially told police that he fell from the bed and had a heart attack.

Avvaru Ravindranath, deputy commissioner (detective department) of Bidhannagar City Police, said the accused broke down during interrogation on Saturday night and confessed her crime. “The contradictions in her statement became apparent after the autopsy report confirmed that Dey’s death was caused by strangulation,” Ravindranath said.

Police suspects that an extramarital affair might have led to the murder. The couple often fought over phone calls that Anindita used to make. In fact on the night of the murder she allegedly wanted to be alone in the bedroom and the couple quarreled over this.

“Both the accused and the victim chatted with people on social media before the murder. We have checked call and chat histories in their phones. Anindita received a call hours after the murder. We are focusing on this caller,” said an investigating officer on condition of anonymity.

In May last year, Bengal was shocked by the macabre love story of Manua Majumdar who scripted her husband’s murder with the help of her boyfriend. Majumdar, who is now in prison, made her boyfriend kill her husband and keep his mobile phone on during the act so that she could hear the victim cry in pain.

# Man confesses to rape and murder of at least nine girls, say police in India

# The suspect allegedly told officers that he would break his victims legs before raping and killing them.

Indian police say a man has confessed to raping and killing at least nine girls in and around the capital.

Police said the man, who has not been named, had admitted killing girls aged between three and seven in New Delhi and three other cities, including slums around Gurugram.

The 20-year-old was arrested on Monday on charges of raping and killing a three-year-old earlier this month.

"He used to first break the legs of the victims before attempting rape," said Subhash Boken, an assistance inspector and public relations officer with Gurugram police.

"Then he would murder them."

The man, who police say was unemployed aside from casual work as a daily labourer, said he looked for his victims in community kitchens that gave free food to vulnerable people.

He told police he lured young girls with sweets and money, then abducted them.

Reports of brutal abductions and murder of children are not uncommon in India.

A growing public outcry over young and marginalised children being killed in horrific circumstances has led to protests - and sparked government action.

In April, the punishment for raping girls under the age of 12 was increased to the death penalty.

It followed uproar over the [case of eight-year-old Asifa Bano](https://news.sky.com/story/protests-over-kidnap-rape-and-murder-of-girl-8-in-india-11328511), who was abducted from her nomadic Muslim tribe, raped, burned, bludgeoned with a rock and strangled.

Earlier this year, a wealthy businessman and his servant were also sentenced to death after the discovery of the remains of more than 18 people.

He was accused of killing and raping women and children who lived in slum areas around his home.

In a similar case in 2015, [**a man who was arrested over the murder of a six-year-old girl**](https://news.sky.com/story/suspect-admits-being-serial-child-sex-killer-10351986) confessed to the killing of 15 others, who he said he had abducted and assaulted when drunk.

But the case has also drawn attention to the abilities of the police to properly investigate such crimes.

Indian authorities are known to publicly claim success in solving serious cases before extensive evidence or a trial. The suspect in the latest case has also yet to be formally charged.

# Coimbatore man murders two daughters after fight with wife

COIMBATORE: A 48-year-old alcoholic man at Masakkalipalayam here murdered his two daughters on Friday morning after a fight with his wife. The murdered girls have been identified as P Hemavarshini, 15, and her younger sister, P Srija, 8. Hemavarshini was a Class X student and Srija was studying in Class III. Their father, Padmanaban, 48, who is a marketing executive with a private firm, murdered them after a fight with his wife, Selvarani, 37. Padmanaban was residing in a house in Neelikonar Street at Masakkalipalayam with his wife and two daughters. His mother was also staying with them. Padmanaban was an alcoholic and often quarrelled with his wife and mother, police said. On Thursday night, he fought with his wife and beat her up. Unable to bear the torture, she left for her parents’ home located at Vellalore. She asked her two daughters to accompany her. But Padmanaban threatened to commit suicide if his daughters went with their mother. So, the girls didn’t go with their mother. His mother stayed in a neighbour’s house on Thursday night. On Friday morning, she returned home and saw Padmanaban. She again went to the neighbour’s house where she spent more than an hour. Later, when she came back home, Padmanaban was not at home. She went to the girls’ bedroom and found them dead. She alerted neighbours who in turn alerted the Singanallur police. Preliminary inquiries revealed that Padmanaban might have strangled his two daughters. Two special teams were formed to arrest him. The police registered a case under Section 302 (murder) of the Indian Penal Code

# Haryana Man Gets Death Penalty For Murder Of Sister In Honour Killing

## On February 9, 2017, Kiran was murdered under suspicious circumstances in Juglan village. She was later cremated in the village by her family members.

Hisar:  A local court awarded the death penalty to a 26­year­old man Wednesday for murdering his sister. PROMOTED Asus Vivobook X507 (Celeron/4 GB/1 TB/15.6" FHD/Windo… ₹ 19,090\* Includes ₹ 2,500 cashback\* 12/9/2018 Haryana Man Gets Death Penalty For Murder Of Sister In Honour Killing https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/haryana-man-gets-death-penalty-for-murder-of-sister-in-honour-killing-1958414 2/2 Additional District and Sessions Judge Pankaj awarded the sentence to Ashok, 26, a resident of Juglan village in Hisar district. Ashok was held guilty of murdering his sister Kiran on February 9, 2017. According to prosecution, Rohtas of Siswal village had a love marriage with Kiran on August 8, 2015. The woman's family had opposed their marriage as Rohtas belonged to a different community. On February 9, 2017, Kiran was murdered under suspicious circumstances in Juglan village. She was later cremated in the village by her family members. A police complaint was subsequently lodged after the man, who had helped register their marriage, raised suspicion alleging that Kiran's death could be a case of honour killing. The police later arrested Ashok, the brother of the victim. A case was registered against Ashok under various sections of the Indian Penal Code.

# "Anthony abducted John."

# "John was kidnapped by Anthony."

# "In Russia, Anthony Stark abducted John on January 20, 1900."

# "On December 10, 1990, in Malaysia, John was abducted by Anthony for a ransom of 30000 dollar."

# "In Japan, Sam, the Russian leader kidnapped Bob for $2000000."

# "John snatched two Africans in Uganda to take revenge against them for making fun of him."

# "John was abducted by Anthony in Malaysia on December 10 1990 demanding $4 million."

# Man arrested after allegedly using sweets to abduct six-year-old girl at Christmas fair

Child was 'understandably scared' but not physically harmed, police say

A man tried to abduct a six year-old girl after offering her toys and sweets at a Christmas fair, police said.

The stranger allegedly attempted to grab the child while she was visiting Egham town centre in [Surrey](https://www.independent.co.uk/topic/Surrey) with her family. Officers were alerted within minutes of the incident on Saturday afternoon and a 47 year-old man was arrested..

[Surrey Police](https://www.independent.co.uk/topic/surrey-police) said the girl was not physically harmed but was “understandably scared”. The force [appealed for help](https://surrey.police.uk/news/man-arrested-following-attempt-child-abduction-in-egham/) piecing together the man’s “movements and motives”.

“It is important that we speak to any parents of children who think they were also approached by the man during the event yesterday – particularly if your suspicions have only been raised in light of yesterday’s arrest,” a spokesperson said in a statement.

“The man is described as white, around 50 years, around 5ft 9 tall and of a slight build. He was wearing a grey cap, a black jacket, jeans, trainers and glasses and was carrying a black rucksack.

“If your child was approached, or you have other information that can assist our enquiry, please call us.”

Police also attempted to reassure the public after the incident and asked people not to jump to conclusions.

A spokesperson added: “The man remains in custody and officers are continuing to question him, review local CCTV and speak to other witnesses that have come forward as a result of the media appeal. We would like to reassure parents that, while the man is unknown to the child, the child did not leave the immediate vicinity of their parent.

“Officers were on the scene within minutes of it being reported and promptly arrested the man. Incidents of this type are very rare and we would ask for the public to allow us to carry out our work and investigate fully, rather than jumping to conclusions.”

Police said they were continuing to question the 47 year-old suspect after arresting him on suspicion of attempting to abduct a child.

# 3 Foreign Caterers Are Kidnapped and Killed in Afghanistan

KABUL, Afghanistan — Three foreign catering workers were found shot dead outside the Afghan capital on Thursday after being kidnapped during their morning commute, the Afghan police said.

It was the latest in a yearslong series of such attacks, this time against employees of Sodexo, a global food services company that works for several international organizations in Kabul. The men killed came from India, Malaysia and Macedonia.

According to Hashmat Stanikzai, a spokesman for the Kabul Police Department, gunmen stopped the car in which the three men were being driven to work and forced them to switch to another.

But Nasrat Rahimi, a spokesman for the Afghan interior ministry, said it appeared that the men had gotten into the second car voluntarily and were accompanied by their Afghan driver. The driver returned an hour later and said the three men had been kidnapped.

Then, around midday, police officers investigating a report of a shooting in the Musahi district of Kabul Province found the three men’s bodies in the back seat of an abandoned car believed to be the one in which they were kidnapped, Mr. Rahimi said.

“We are deeply saddened and shocked to learn of the tragic loss of three of our team members in Kabul, Afghanistan, today,” the chief executive of Sodexo, Denis Machuel, said in an email. “On behalf of the Sodexo community, I want to say that our hearts are with their families, friends, and colleagues.”

It was unclear where in the city the victims had been working. Their driver was arrested and was being questioned by security forces.

The Malaysian Embassy in New Delhi confirmed the death of a Malaysian citizen in a news release, but did not identify him. The release said the kidnapping had taken place earlier in the week, but the police insisted it happened on Thursday.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the killings. Zabihullah Mujahid, the spokesman for the Taliban, denied in a WhatsApp message any involvement by the insurgents. Kidnappings in Kabul have been carried out by criminal gangs, as well as by the Taliban and their extremist branch, the Haqqani Network.

## Editors’ Picks

The list of attacks on expatriate workers in the city is a long one.

In 2014, 21 foreigners, including diplomats and aid workers, were [killed in a Taliban attack on a popular restaurant](https://www.nytimes.com/2014/01/19/world/asia/afghanistan-restaurant-attack.html?module=inline). In January this year, [insurgents stormed the city’s Intercontinental Hotel](https://www.nytimes.com/2018/01/21/world/asia/afghanistan-hotel-attack.html?module=inline), with nine international airline employees among the 22 killed.

Two professors from the American University of Afghanistan were abducted by the Taliban at gunpoint in Kabul in August 2017. The Taliban then [broadcast video of the professors](https://www.nytimes.com/2017/01/11/us/politics/taliban-video-professors-kidnapped-afghanistan-kabul.html?module=inline) asking for the release of insurgent prisoners in exchange for their freedom. They are believed to be alive, but no word has been heard from them in recent months.

In addition, on Tuesday, 20 people were killed and 26 wounded in an attack[on the refugee department](https://www.nytimes.com/2018/07/31/world/asia/afghanistan-isis-civilians.html?smtyp=cur&smid=tw-nytimesworld&module=inline) in the eastern city of Jalalabad. Many of the victims were workers for leading international and relief agencies, including the International Organization for Migration, the Norwegian Rescue Council and three others, all of them Afghans.

# Pakistan: 6 injured in bomb blast at MQM-P gathering

At least six people were injured in an explosion at a religious gathering organised by Muttahida Qaumi Movement-[Pakistan](https://www.business-standard.com/search?type=news&q=pakistan)(MQM-P) here in Karachi's Gulistan-i-Jauhar area on Saturday.

According to Geo TV, senior MQM-P leaders, including MQM-P Convener and [Federal IT Minister](https://www.business-standard.com/search?type=news&q=federal+it+minister)Khalid Maqbool, Khawaja Izharul Hassan, and others were present at the location when the blast took place.

The injured were taken to hospital for medical treatment.

[Senior Superintendent](https://www.business-standard.com/search?type=news&q=senior+superintendent)of Police East, [Azfar Mahesar](https://www.business-standard.com/search?type=news&q=azfar+mahesar)stated that a 'cracker bomb' was thrown near the venue of the congregation.

The area was cordoned off by the police and the investigation in the case is underway.

# Somalia: Toll rises to 53 from bomb blasts in Mogadishu

Four car bombs by Islamic extremists exploded outside a hotel in the capital, Mogadishu, Friday afternoon. After the three explosions in front of the hotel, a fourth blast hit as medics attempted to rescue the injured.

Somali hospital and police sources say the death toll from Friday’s bombings outside a hotel in Mogadishu has risen to 53 with over 100 injured.

Capt. Mohamed Hussein, a senior Somali police officer, said many of the injured suffered horrific wounds, raising fears that death toll could rise further. The figure given by Hussein is consistent with submissions from hospitals.

Ahmed Yusuf, a nurse at Madina hospital, said that Mogadishu’s hospitals are coping to treat the influx of wounded victims who continued to come in Saturday.

Four car bombs by Islamic extremists exploded outside a hotel in the capital, Mogadishu, Friday afternoon. After the three explosions in front of the hotel, a fourth blast hit as medics attempted to rescue the injured.

Somalia’s Islamic extremist rebels, al-Shabab, claimed responsibility for the bombs.

# Explosion Near U.S. Embassy in Beijing

## The man who detonated the device was injured, but no others were hurt in the incident

BEIJING—A man detonated an explosive device outside the U.S. Embassy in Beijing on Thursday, injuring himself but no one else, police said.

# After fourth Austin explosion, police warn of sophisticated ‘serial bomber’

AUSTIN — Anxious Texans huddled inside their homes Monday as investigators scrambled for clues at the scene of another mysterious explosion here, the fourth in a string of attacks this month that authorities say are the work of a sophisticated “serial bomber” who has been terrorizing this city with increasingly complex devices.

The latest blast, which injured two men walking through a residential area Sunday night, marked an escalation in both the tactics and skills displayed by the bomber or bombers, police said. While the three previous devices were hidden in [packages delivered to homes in residential neighborhoods](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/post-nation/wp/2018/03/13/austin-police-search-for-bombing-motive-say-explosives-made-with-skill-and-sophistication/?utm_term=.0a8627497297), the fourth device — anchored to a for-sale sign — was left on the side of the road and was rigged with a tripwire, showing “a higher level of sophistication, a higher level of skill,” said Brian Manley, the interim Austin police chief.

“What we have seen now is a significant change from what appeared to be three very-targeted attacks to what was, last night, an attack that would have hit a random victim that happened to walk by,” Manley said at a [news briefing](https://www.facebook.com/KXANnews/videos/10155755953743037/) Monday. “So we’ve definitely seen a change in the method.”

Manley said the fourth device had “similarities” to the three bombs that detonated in the Texas capital in the past three weeks, killing two people and injuring two others, one seriously. The explosion Sunday night plunged the city further into a frightening uncertainty that has left [residents on edge](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/post-nation/wp/2018/03/14/who-did-this-and-why-austin-remains-tense-after-deadly-bombings-as-police-look-for-answers/). Authorities have seemed vexed, completely at a loss to explain who could be setting off the devices — or why — and asking the unknown attacker to communicate with them. They also have offered rewards of up to $115,000 for information in the case.

The first three explosives all hit eastern Austin, affecting areas where black and Hispanic residents live, prompting some to question [whether the initial blast on March 2 would have prompted more urgency](https://www.washingtonpost.com/national/exploding-packages-tap-into-simmering-tensions-over-austins-racial-segregation/2018/03/15/595a7b24-28a4-11e8-874b-d517e912f125_story.html?utm_term=.ef00f52403a3) had it gone off in a more affluent, predominantly white neighborhood — like where the attack Sunday night happened, injuring two white men.

“This is a public threat,” Nelson Linder, president of NAACP’s Austin chapter, said Monday. “Now that the geography has changed, it’s going to widen people’s perspectives. Nobody can take this lightly; we’re all vulnerable.”

Linder added: “Like they tell us in the military, when you walk, look down at where you’re walking.”

Police have declined to describe the bombs in detail, saying only that they appear to be [the sophisticated work](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/post-nation/wp/2018/03/13/austin-police-search-for-bombing-motive-say-explosives-made-with-skill-and-sophistication/?utm_term=.0a8627497297) of a person or people who know what they are doing — and noting that the bombmaker has been able to assemble and deliver the devices without setting them off. After telling residents to remain wary of unexpected or suspicious packages, authorities are urging broader caution.

“We’re even more concerned now that if people see something suspicious, they just stay away from it altogether and contact law enforcement,” said Fred Milanowski, special agent in charge of the Houston division of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. “Because if they move that package or if they step on that tripwire, it’s likely to detonate.”

Milanowski said bombs using tripwires are activated when any pressure is applied to the wires, and he said that can include people “tripping over it or picking up the package.”

Investigators have said the attacks might have been motivated by racial bias, since the previous explosions killed two black people and wounded a Hispanic woman, though they acknowledged that this is just one theory. The explosion Sunday injured two white men — one 22, the other 23 — walking through Travis Country, a wealthy neighborhood in southwest Austin, far from the other three attacks.

The men were taken to a hospital with serious but non-life-threatening injuries, and Manley said they were in stable condition Monday.

“With this tripwire, this changes things,” said Christopher Combs, special agent in charge of the FBI’s San Antonio office. “It’s more sophisticated. It’s not targeted to individuals. We’re very concerned that with tripwires, a child could be walking down the sidewalk and hit something.”

Combs said the bureau had brought in more than 350 special agents to help with the investigation, describing it as an “unprecedented response.”

Dan Defenbaugh, a former FBI official who spent decades investigating bomb cases, said the use of a tripwire Sunday “dramatically changes the tactics involved.”

The shift in method — from a bomb targeting an individual or their family to a device that could kill a random passerby — evokes past attacks that created climates of fear, such as the Washington-area sniper shootings that gripped the D.C. region for weeks in 2002 as victims were shot at random. And, like during the Unabomber’s campaign of sending explosives through the mail, the Austin attacks thus far defy explanation and have come without any threat or warning.

“Once a bomb builder makes a device, they usually make it the same way each and every time,” said Defenbaugh, who managed the Oklahoma City bombing investigation. “That’s not happening here. I’m also troubled by the fact that there hasn’t been an extortion demand or communication.”

Defenbaugh praised federal law enforcement agencies for flooding the Austin area with hundreds of agents, but said all those personnel will need to be closely managed to ensure key tips don’t slip through the cracks. In the Oklahoma City bombing case, he noted, investigators gathered 1.8 million hotel records alone. The FBI is sending profilers from Quantico, Va., as well as investigative specialists and emergency response personnel from the surrounding areas.

“It’s a huge, complex effort,” Defenbaugh said, adding that investigators have two things working in their favor so far. First, ATF bomb experts are examining the remnants of the devices, which could offer significant clues to how they were made and by whom. Second, he said, no details of the bombs’ construction have become public, which enables investigators to quickly eliminate any tips involving bombs made using different materials.

“I’m sure it’s on the minds of a lot of law enforcement that they have a serial killer on their hands,” he said.

Many in the neighborhood where the fourth device detonated said they felt removed from the terror that had shaken other parts of town — until Sunday.

“It appears that no one is safe, and I’m very fearful for our community,” said Richard Herrington, 75, who was watching the NCAA men’s basketball tournament when he heard the explosion Sunday night. “It’s very concerning that this person is becoming more sophisticated.”

Ellen Troxclair, an Austin City Council member who represents the district where the Sunday explosion occurred, said she was shocked by seeing the blast there.

“The tripwire definitely instilled some fear into this neighborhood,” she said. “They just want to know what’s going on.”

# Two men set off bomb in restaurant in Canada; 15 wounded

TORONTO (Reuters) - Two unidentified men walked into a restaurant on Thursday in the Canadian city of Mississauga and set off a bomb, wounding more than a dozen people, local police said.

The blast went off in the Bombay Bhel restaurant at about 10:30 p.m local time. Fifteen people were taken to hospital, three of them with critical injuries, the Peel Regional Paramedic Service said in a Tweet.

The two male suspects fled after detonating their improvised explosive device, Peel Regional Police said in a Tweet. No one has claimed responsibility, and the motive for the attack was not known.

The men entered the restaurant and set down what appeared to be a paint can or pail, which exploded after they fled, Sergeant Matt Bertram told the New York Times. The bomb was filled with “projectable objects,” he said.

Police posted a photograph on Twitter showing two people with dark zip-up hoodies walking into an establishment. One appeared to be carrying an object.

Peel Police said one suspect was in his mid-20s, stocky, and wore dark blue jeans and a dark zip-up hoody pulled over his head, with black cloth covering his face. The second was thin, and wore faded blue jeans, a gray t-shirt and a dark zip-up hoody over his head, also with his face covered.

Roads in the area were closed and a large police presence was at the scene, with heavily armed tactical officers arriving as part of the large emergency response, local media reported.

The attack in Mississauga comes a month after a driver plowed his white Ryder rental van into a lunch-hour crowd in Toronto, killing 10 people and injuring 15.

Mississauga is Canada’s sixth-largest city, with a population of 700,000 people, situated on Lake Ontario about 20 miles (32 km) west of Toronto. Bombay Bhel is an Indian restaurant chain in the metro area of Mississauga.

India’s Foreign Minister Sushma Swaraj said in a tweet that the she was in constant touch with the Consul General in Toronto and the Indian High Commissioner in Canada and that the missions would work round the clock.

# Harvard Faces Lawsuits Over Sanctions on Single-Sex Clubs

## Fraternities, sororities challenge move aimed at groups including exclusive ‘final clubs’

A pair of lawsuits filed Monday by several fraternities and sororities challenge sanctions that Harvard University imposed on unofficial clubs that have played a longstanding role in the campus’s social scene.

The lawsuits, in federal and state court, claim the university discriminates against students based on their gender and their membership to single-sex organizations.

# Landowners Alongside Ohio Pipeline File Lawsuit Against It

CANTON, OHIO (AP) — Several landowners along northeast [Ohio](https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/ohio)'s NEXUS gas pipeline are suing the pipeline's owner and its construction company, saying the companies broke agreements.

Michael Thompson, the Canton-area attorney representing the landowners, has filed a dozen lawsuits in Stark, Summit, Wayne and Columbiana counties in the last couple of weeks against NEXUS Gas Transmission and [Wisconsin](https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/wisconsin)-based construction company Michels Corp. The Canton Repository reports NEXUS is a $2.1 billion pipeline that can carry up to 1.5 billion cubic feet of natural gas a day from the Utica and Marcellus shales.

Thompson says the litigation seeks to hold NEXUS accountable for infringing his clients' property rights and also seeks damages.

NEXUS spokesman Adam Parker says the company doesn't comment on pending lawsuit, but says it's been in contact with landowners.

# Why the Lion Air Crash Has Led to U.S. Lawsuits: QuickTake

While investigators are still trying to figure out what caused budget Indonesian carrier [Lion Air](https://www.bloomberg.com/quote/558867Z:IJ)’s Flight 610 to [crash](https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2018-10-29/indonesia-says-lion-air-jet-lost-contact-on-way-to-pangkalpinang) in October, killing all 189 aboard, an initial focus has been on the plane’s flight-control system. That could make what would otherwise be a straightforward process for dealing with claims from victims’ families a much more litigious affair. The crash involved an Indonesian airline flying a domestic route with all but two people on board from [Indonesia](https://www.google.com/maps/place/Indonesia/@-1.2053885,114.906875,5z/data=!4m5!3m4!1s0x2c4c07d7496404b7:0xe37b4de71badf485!8m2!3d-0.789275!4d113.921327). But the [737 Max 8 plane](https://www.boeing.com/commercial/737max/) was made by [Boeing](https://www.bloomberg.com/quote/BA:US), a company based in the U.S., where courts historically have been far more generous to plaintiffs than anywhere else in the world.

### 1. How will claims be handled in Indonesia?

For a domestic flight such as this one, between Jakarta and the provincial capital of Pangkal Pinang, Indonesian law requires airlines to pay compensation for each fatality of 1.25 billion rupiah ($86,600). A spokesman for Lion Air said it’s adding an [additional 50 million](http://www.lionair.co.id/home) rupiah per passenger for lost baggage. If any of the passengers were on the flight as one leg of an international itinerary, their survivors are covered by the [1999 Montreal Convention](https://www.iata.org/policy/Documents/MC99_en.pdf), which applies to international travel. It requires the carrier to pay damages up to 113,100 in "[Special Drawing Rights](https://www.imf.org/external/np/fin/data/rms_mth.aspx?reportType=SDRCV)," a currency unit created by the International Monetary Fund that is currently valued at $156,821. The rule applies even if the cause of the crash is unknown.

### 2. Do Lion Air families have other avenues of recourse?

They do if they’re able to establish a legal reason to act outside Indonesia. If another party, such as an airplane or component manufacturer, is arguably at fault, victims can sue using normal liability law. With questions swirling about the Boeing flight-control system, [several suits](https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2018-11-23/boeing-slapped-with-more-lawsuits-before-indonesia-crash-report) have been filed against the company in the U.S. That’s not unusual. Victims typically prefer suing in the U.S. when possible because of favorable law and damage awards that tend to be higher than elsewhere in the world.

### 3. What have investigators said?

A preliminary report by Indonesia’s National Transportation Safety Committee showed that throughout the flight, [faulty sensors](https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2018-11-28/lion-air-crash-probe-findings-focus-on-carrier-s-safety-culture) were feeding a safety system incorrect readings and the pilots were continually battling to prevent it from forcing the nose of the plane down right up until the crash. The report also raised questions about the pilots’ actions and how maintenance was performed.

### 4. Is it difficult to prove cause?

It can be, and it can take years. [The debate](https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2012-11-29/continental-cleared-of-criminal-responsibility-in-concorde-case) over what caused an Air France Concorde supersonic jet to explode in flames in 2000 continued for more than a decade.

### 5. What if a plane just disappears?

[Malaysian Airline System Bhd](https://www.bloomberg.com/quote/MAS:MK) made [early payments](https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2014-03-24/jet-s-mystery-disappearance-leaves-riddle-over-liability) to families in 2014, shortly after Flight 370 disappeared above the Indian Ocean. One complication can be differences in laws from country to country on what is required to declare someone dead without a body. Still, in cases where there’s evidence that someone was on a plane that crashed or disappeared, most courts can declare a passenger legally dead within weeks.

# Ore. trooper shot 12 times files $30M negligence lawsuit

The trooper is suing Washington County's 911 system, the sheriff and others, contending dispatchers failed to alert him that the suspect he was pursuing was armed

WASHINGTON COUNTY, Ore. — A state trooper shot 12 times by a murder suspect is suing Washington County's 911 system, the sheriff and others, contending dispatchers failed to alert officers that James Tylka was armed, suicidal and had just shot his wife when they radioed for police to find him on Dec. 25, 2016.

Nic Cederberg, the only state trooper patrolling in Washington County, lacked critical information when he made tactical decisions to chase Tylka "that he would not otherwise have made, was exposed and subjected to an unanticipated lethal attack and suffered critical, life threatening and permanently disabling injuries,'' the federal suit says.

Cederberg also contends that a Washington County sheriff's deputy should have arrested Tylka a month earlier after his estranged wife reported receiving harassing calls from Tylka threatening to kill her and harm her new boyfriend.

The negligence suit also names Legacy Meridian Hospital as a defendant, alleging an emergency room doctor failed to hold Tylka there for mental health treatment when he attempted suicide by overdosing on insulin on Nov. 30, 2016.

Cederberg is seeking $20.6 million in damages for past and future pain and loss of his quality of life. His wife, Portland police Officer Haley Shelton, who provided five months of around-the- clock care for her husband, is seeking $10 million in damages.

Kelly Dutra, director of Washington County Consolidated Communications Agency, said Tuesday she couldn't comment about the pending litigation.

Tylka shot and killed his wife, Katelyn Tyla, in front of his parents' home in King City about 10:15 p.m. on Christmas Day 2016. Tyla had just arrived to transfer care of their infant daughter to him.

Twenty minutes later, Washington County Consolidated Communications Agency issued a countywide call for all law enforcement to find a white Mitsubishi driven by Tylka.

Cederberg contends county dispatch supervisors and call-takers knew Tylka was armed and suicidal but didn't alert officers on at least two of the Sheriff's Office radio channels, which he monitored.

Washington County dispatch supervisors entered information into the county's computer-aided dispatch - separate from its radio channels -  that said Tylka was wanted as a homicide suspect and was suicidal, but Cederberg said he was unaware of those details, according to the suit.

About the same time, Cederberg had alerted the county dispatch that he was on the call about 10:40 a.m., but no one made sure that he was aware of Tylka's potential threat as he chased after Tylka's car, the suit says.

Cederberg spotted Tylka's car and chased it down a narrow, dark and largely isolated rural road. At the dead end, Tylka turned his car around and rammed the trooper's car and engaged in a furious shootout. Cederberg was shot a dozen times and Tylka shot himself in the head, killing himself as other officers arrived.

According to the suit, Cederberg sustained severe and permanently disabling physical injuries, as well as emotional pain, suffering, fear, anxiety and distress.  Cederberg filed the suit Monday afternoon.

Washington County Sheriff Pat Garrett said his office couldn't comment on the lawsuit but issued a brief statement Tuesday: "Trooper Cederberg acted heroically on the evening of Dec. 25, 2016. We recognize the sacrifices he made to protect our community that night and the sacrificies he has made throughout his career. We continue to send our best wishes to Trooper Cederberg and his family.''

Cederberg remains a trooper with state police, working a modified assignment to accommodate his recovery,  state police Capt. Timothy Fox said.

# New shareholder lawsuit filed against Wynn Resorts, directors

Ten months after Steve Wynn stepped down as chairman and CEO of Wynn Resorts Ltd., the company and its board of directors continue to face fresh shareholder lawsuits.

A former Wynn Resorts shareholder filed a lawsuit in Clark County District Court Nov. 27 against the company, executives and former and current board members alleging that sexual harassment accusations against the company’s former chairman and CEO devalued his stock.

Nevada resident Robert Bruce Bannister filed the lawsuit against company co-founder Wynn, CEO Matt Maddox, former Wynn executive Kim Sinatra and five former and four current members of the board of directors.

The lawsuit seeks a finding that the defendants breached their fiduciary duties, an award of damages sustained by Bannister, punitive damages against Steve Wynn in excess of $15,000 and all expenses.

The complaint alleges breach of fiduciary duty, aiding and abetting breach of fiduciary duty and civil conspiracy in the five-count action.

“Steve Wynn engaged in misconduct … and knowingly and intentionally breached his fiduciary duties by engaging in a pattern of sexual harassment and abuse and actively concealing such misconduct in violation of the company’s policies and codes as well as various laws and regulations,” the lawsuit says.

It also says the former and current directors “knowingly, intentionally and fraudulently violated and breached their fiduciary duties of good faith, fair dealing, loyalty, due care, candor and oversight as a result of the misconduct …”

Directors named in the lawsuit include current board members Jay Johnson, Pat Mulroy, Clark Randt and Alvin Shoemaker and former board members John Hagenbuch, Ray Irani, former Nevada Gov. Bob Miller, Edward Virtue and D. Boone Wayson.

Allegations in the lawsuit are based on a report in the Wall Street Journal published Jan. 26 that allege that Steve Wynn “forced sex upon a Wynn Resorts manicurist while on company property in 2005. Steve Wynn and/or the company paid a $7.5 million settlement to the alleged assault victim in 2005.”

Wynn has denied the accusations of sexual harassment and assault, but resigned as chairman and CEO in February and separated himself from the company in the weeks following his departure.

The lawsuit alleges that “defendants did nothing to protect the company and instead took actions to protect and insulate Steve Wynn from any consequences or repercussions rather than investigating his suitability under the company’s articles of incorporation.”

Shortly after Wynn stepped down, the Operating Engineers Construction Industry and Miscellaneous Pension Fund and the Norfolk County Retirement System of Massachusetts filed similar derivative lawsuits in Clark County.

Attorney Aviva Gordon of Gordon Law Las Vegas questioned the standing a former shareholder would have in a derivative action.

“If he sold his stock, then, to some extent, he got what his remedy would be,” Gordon said.

The lawsuit said Bannister “sold a certain number of Wynn Resorts stock after stock prices plummeted following publication of the Wall Street Journal article.”

Massachusetts meeting

The Massachusetts Gaming Commission has scheduled a closed executive session at Thursday’s meeting to discuss legal strategy in a lawsuit filed by Steve Wynn against Massachusetts Gaming Commission investigator Karen Wells.

A suitability hearing on Wynn’s Massachusetts licensing is on hold after state gaming regulators had planned to convene in early December.

A six-count lawsuit filed by Steve Wynn seeks to block the release of Wells’ investigative report based on it containing or relying on Steve Wynn’s attorney-client privileged communications from Wynn Resorts’ six-year litigation against former business partner Kazuo Okada.

The investigative report was spurred by Steve Wynn and the company’s failure to publicly disclose the settlement payment to the manicurist.

Aviva Gordon of Gordon Law Las Vegas said the closed session in Massachusetts would allow attorneys for the commission to flesh out strategy.

“I suspect the Nevada Gaming Commission also wants to protect its own privilege with counsel, which is why they would have it in an executive and closed session to have their lawyers explain the allegations that have been made and the ramifications and not to share it in a public setting,” she said.

# Trump Administration Sued Over Giraffes and Endangered Species List

## Lawsuit says 2017 petition asking Interior Department to consider listing giraffes as endangered has gone unanswered

WASHINGTON—Environmental groups filed a lawsuit Thursday accusing the Trump administration of failing to respond to a petition filed almost two years ago to add giraffes to the U.S. endangered species list.

The lawsuit filed by the Center for Biological Diversity and three other groups notes that their April 2017 petition asking the Interior Department to consider listing giraffes as endangered has gone unanswered. The Endangered Species Act requires the agency to respond within 90 days.

# $10M Judgment Awarded in Death of Oregon Jail Inmate

A federal judge has approved a $10 million judgment against Corizon Health, Washington County and other defendants, settling a lawsuit brought by the parents of a 26-year-old woman who died pleading for medical help while detoxing from heroin in jail.

PORTLAND, ORE. (AP) — A federal judge has approved a $10 million judgment against Corizon Health and other defendants, settling a lawsuit brought by the parents of a 26-year-old woman who died pleading for medical help while detoxing from heroin in an [Oregon](https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/oregon) jail.

The settlement offered by Corizon was accepted this week by Madaline Pitkin's parents, Mary and Russell Pitkin, The Oregonian/OregonLive reported .

Madaline Pitkin died April 24, 2014, on her seventh day at the Washington County Jail in Hillsboro after her arrest on a warrant and heroin possession charge. She had made four written pleas for help that medical staff mostly discounted or mishandled, according to court documents.

Medical staff eventually sent Pitkin to the jail's medical unit. She was so dehydrated she couldn't provide a urine sample. She died there the next morning, alone on the floor of a cell, documents said.

Staff had repeatedly ranked her withdrawal symptoms as mild, and nurses failed to track her low blood pressure, according to the lawsuit. No doctor was working in the jail when she died because the jail's head doctor had been fired, the lawsuit said.

An autopsy determined her cause of death was dehydration.

Her parents said they hoped sharing their daughter's story , which was chronicled by The Oregonian/OregonLive in April 2016, would help prevent similar deaths from occurring and hold private health care providers accountable.

"We felt we needed to stand up for her," said Russell Pitkin, sitting with his wife and lawyers Friday. "We've done all we can do to shine a light on it. It's just tragic. It's got to stop."

The eight-figure judgment is the largest ever awarded against Corizon Health, the nation's largest for-profit medical provider for prisons and jails. Corizon has faced multiple lawsuits nationwide that allege inadequate medical care similar to the Pitkins' lawsuit.

In a statement, Corizon said its medical team at the jail "failed Madaline Pitkin and her family."

"The amount of this settlement is unprecedented for our company and reflects how far removed the facts of this case are from our standards and expectations of care. For whatever small comfort this may provide, the lessons we've learned from this case have been catalysts for significant changes we have made and are still making to our clinical program," said Martha Harbin, director of external affairs.

Tim Jones, a lawyer for the Pitkins, said he hoped the case and the large settlement amount "impacts all jails" and puts counties on notice to pay attention to their medical providers' contracts.

The Washington County Sheriff's Office said in a statement that it has made many changes in providing health care to its inmates. Corizon stopped providing medical services at the jail on May 31, 2015.

"The death of Madaline Pitkin was a tragedy, and our thoughts are with her family," the sheriff's office said.

# Hosszú files lawsuit against FINA after blocked from taking part in International Swimming League event

Katinka Hosszú is among three leading swimmers to have filed a proposed class action lawsuit against the International Swimming Federation (FINA) for violating United States antitrust laws, it has emerged.

Together with Americans Michael Andrew and Tom Shields, Hungary's three-time Olympic gold medallist has hired California law firm Farella Braun & Martel, SwimSwam have reported.

The International Swimming League (ISL) have filed a separate lawsuit for the same reason.

The lawsuits involve FINA’s moves to block the 2018 Energy for Swim meet that was supposed to be hosted in Italy on December 20 and 21 and feature some of the world's top swimmers, including Hosszú, Britain's Adam Peaty and Chad le Clos.

"My passion has always been to push swimming in the direction where swimmers are partners of the governing body, not just muppets," Hosszú said.

"ISL takes swimmers seriously, not like FINA."

Hosszu and Andrew are due to swim at the Short Course World Championships next week in Hangzhou in China - an event organised by FINA.

The lawsuit is similar to the one filed against the International Skating Union in 2017, where a judge ruled that their moves to block skaters from competing in non-authorised competitions were in breach of European Union antitrust laws, except that this one is being filed in the US.

The lawsuit claims violations of the Sherman Antitrust Act of 1890, which forbids organisations from engaging in anti-competitive behavior.

The Sherman Act resulted in the breakup of Standard Oil and AT&T, among other organisations.

Attorneys for the plaintiffs also claim tortious interference with contractual relations or prospective economic relations, for collusion to unreasonably restrict competition, and for monopoly.

The lawsuits seek injunctive relief and monetary damages for the named plaintiffs and for all class members, which could include dozens of professional swimmers from around the world who signed contracts.

The class, if accepted, would not be limited to just Americans, even though the suit is filed in the US.

According to the release, the suit was only undertaken after FINA demanded a $50 million (£39 million/€44 million) fee to approve ISL events.

"On behalf of elite swimmers around the world, the plaintiffs charge FINA with unlawfully restraining competition in the market for top-tier international swimming competitions," a release from Farella Braun & Martel said.

"Their lawsuit follows FINA’s crackdown against a two-day competition that a new professional league planned to sponsor in Turin, Italy, in late December 2018.

"Organisers were forced to cancel that meet after FINA said it would ban from the Olympics any swimmer who swam in it.

"As result, swimmers lost the chance to compete for more prize money and were blocked from earning appearance fees.

"The popularity of competitive swimming has soared over the last decade.

"Its athletes believe a professional league that will compensate its best athletes and better reward them for a lifetime’s worth of hard training and sacrifice is long overdue."

The ISL, bankrolled by Ukrainian oligarch Konstantin Grigorishin, was responsible for coordinating the Turin event offering $2.1 million (£1.7 million/€1.8 million) in prize money that FINA blocked, and it has plans to roll out a series of matches in 2019 featuring approximately 300 of the world’s best swimmers.

"Governing bodies and commercial enterprise co-exist in other sports and even work together for the betterment of the sport," ISL chief executive Ali Khan said.

"But FINA’s priorities just are not aligned with those of the swimmers, and as a result the sport has not been allowed to evolve with the times.

"The ISL deserves a chance to offer swimmers more opportunity to compete and earn a living, and the swimmers deserve not to be shackled to FINA’s whim.

"And the laws here and in Europe require that ISL has that chance.”

According to the lawsuit, FINA earned about $118 million (£93 million/€104 million) in gross revenues from all aquatics events in 2016 and 2017, yet paid only 12.5 per cent of that amount to athletes in the form of prize money.

"Very few select swimmers make a living swimming, while FINA is making a killing," Andrew, a gold medallist in the 100 metres medley at the 2016 FINA World Championships Short Course, said.

"FINA’s main consideration is not for swimmers.

"FINA set our sport back into the dark ages by blocking ISL’s request.

"They can co-exist."

# IBM Is Being Sued for Age Discrimination After Firing Thousands

A lawyer known for battling tech giants over the treatment of workers has set her sights on [International Business Machines Corp.](https://www.bloomberg.com/quote/IBM:US)

Shannon Liss-Riordan on Monday filed a class-action lawsuit in federal court in Manhattan on behalf of three former IBM employees who say the tech giant discriminated against them based on their age when it fired them. Liss-Riordan, a partner at Lichten & Liss-Riordan in Boston, has represented workers against Amazon, Uber and Google and has styled her firm as the premier champion for employees left behind by powerful tech companies.

“Over the last several years, IBM has been in the process of systematically laying off older employees in order to build a younger workforce,” the former employees claim in the suit, which draws heavily on a ProPublica report published in March that said the company has fired more than 20,000 employees older than 40 in the last six years.

The lawsuit comes as IBM faces questions about its firing practices. In exhaustive detail, the ProPublica [report](https://features.propublica.org/ibm/ibm-age-discrimination-american-workers/)made the case that IBM systematically broke age-discrimination rules. Meanwhile, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission has consolidated complaints against IBM into a single, targeted investigation, according to a person familiar with it. A spokeswoman for the EEOC declined to comment.

In the last decade, IBM has fired thousands of people in the U.S., Canada and other high-wage jurisdictions in an effort to cut costs and retool its workforce after coming late to the cloud computing and mobile tech revolutions.

“Changes in our workforce are about skills, not age,” Ed Barbini, a spokesman for IBM said in an emailed statement. “In fact, since 2010 there is no difference in the age of our U.S. workforce, but the skills profile of our employees has changed dramatically. That is why we have been and will continue investing heavily in employee skills and retraining -- to make all of us successful in this new era of technology.’’

If the judge allows a class action lawsuit to proceed, it could result in a drawn-out and costly court battle, and potentially end with IBM paying hundreds of millions of dollars to its former employees, according to Michael Willemin, an employment lawyer with Wigdor LLP who isn’t involved in any IBM-related cases.

# Bayer Essure Lawsuits Skyrocketed as FDA Pushed Stronger Warnings

Amanda Rusmisell wanted [Bayer AG](https://www.bloomberg.com/quote/BAYN:GY)’s Essure contraceptive device to wipe out any chance of a surprise pregnancy. What she didn’t bargain for was being left in blinding pain and bleeding so badly she couldn’t leave her house.

Rusmisell is among more than 16,000 women in the U.S. suing the German drugmaker over the [Essure](http://www.essure.com/) device, marketed as a safe alternative to surgical techniques such as tying the fallopian tubes to prevent pregnancies.

The number of Essure suits has skyrocketed over the last two years after U.S. regulators forced Bayer officials to beef up [warnings](https://www.fda.gov/newsevents/newsroom/pressannouncements/ucm604098.htm) about the device’s risks -- including bleeding, pain and organ damage -- and put sales restrictions on the product. Bayer announced July 20 that it would stop selling the implant in the U.S. at the end of the year because of declining sales. The company had already [pulled](https://www.cbsnews.com/news/bayer-essure-implant-sales-halted-outside-us/) the product from all other countries.

“If I’d known I was in store for years of pain and misery, I’d have never agreed to use” the Essure implant, Rusmisell, a 45-year-old employment recruiter from Charlotte, North Carolina, said in an interview. She was forced to undergo a hysterectomy to have the contraceptive removed.

Bayer denies any safety problems with Essure, said Christopher Loder, a company spokesman. “Over the past two decades, Essure’s favorable safety profile has been confirmed in 40 published studies involving more than 200,000 women,’’ Loder said. The FDA continues to conclude that “Essure’s benefits outweigh any potential risks,’’ he said.

Bayer is battling the Essure lawsuits as the company works to remake itself as one of the world’s biggest life-sciences companies.

### Integrate Monsanto

Earlier this month, Bayer completed the $63 billion acquisition of St. Louis-based [Monsanto Co.](https://www.bloomberg.com/quote/MON:US), becoming the world’s biggest seed and agricultural chemicals maker. With its $1.42 billion purchase of Merck & Co.’s non-prescription drug line in 2014, the company became the world’s second-largest drugmaker behind Johnson & Johnson. It also has sold off its plastics business, and wants to get half its sales from health and half from agriculture.

Essure, created by [Conceptus Inc.](https://www.bloomberg.com/quote/CPTS:US) in 1998, was first approved for sale in the U.S. in 2002. The device features two metal coils implanted into a woman’s fallopian tubes during a regular doctor’s visit. Once the coils expand, they cause scar tissue to form which blocks the tubes.

Bayer bought Conceptus in 2013 for $1.1 billion to bolster its lineup of contraceptives. At the time, Leverkusen, Germany-based Bayer’s Yaz and Yasmin oral birth-control pills were falling because of competition from low-priced copies and suits over those products.

### Contraceptive Lawsuits

In multiple lawsuits, women contend Conceptus and Bayer hid that Essure implants damaged organs and caused excessive menstrual bleeding, allergic reactions and hair loss. They allege fraudulent marketing that asserted the device was safe and the “most effective method of permanent birth control available.”

Over a three-year-period starting in 2002, more than 5,000 women filed complaints with the U.S. [Food and Drug Administration](https://www.bloomberg.com/quote/3400398Z:US), saying they sustained injuries or suffered unwanted pregnancies, still births and miscarriages while using the Essure device.

Bayer maintains the company properly disclosed side effects. The complaints to the FDA were often inaccurate or incomplete and the numbers sometimes reflected multiple complaints from the same women, according to the company.

Essure’s label included warnings about pain and other risks from the beginning, Bayer said. Some of the adverse events claimed by the women can’t be caused by Essure, and the risks are below those of a tubal ligation sterilization procedure, the company contends.

“All birth-control options have risks,’’ said Loder, the Bayer spokesman. “No reliable scientific evidence exists to suggest that any new safety concerns exist with Essure.’’

### Patient Miscues

The device is 99 percent effective in preventing pregnancies, Bayer officials say. Essure patients, however, are warned they must use backup birth-control methods for the first three months after installation, until the fallopian tubes can become fully blocked by internal tissue growth. Women have to be tested to confirm that the device is working before abandoning other methods, according to the company.

Bayer officials have said they’ve sold more than 1 million of the inserts worldwide, though the American market was the last where it was available. The company said last year it stopped selling Essure outside the U.S. for “commercial reasons” and not because of safety concerns.

“The overwhelming majority of Essure patients are satisfied with the device,’’ Loder said. An FDA study in 2015 reported that 99 percent of clinical trial participants rated Essure as good or excellent, he said.

American women injured by the device demanded that FDA officials force the company to take Essure off the U.S. market. Instead, the FDA required Bayer to strengthen safety warnings on the label and barred Bayer in April from selling the device to doctors and hospitals that don’t guarantee to inform women about its risks. Patients must be shown a brochure outlining the device’s potential side effects and then both she and her doctor must sign it, under the FDA mandate.

# Apple Faces Multiple Lawsuits Over Slowed-Down iPhones

## Complaints could prolong attention on company’s controversial battery strategy

Dozens of iPhone owners are taking Apple Inc. to court over its disclosure that it slowed down old phones to preserve battery life, in what could become one of the biggest legal challenges involving the company’s smartphone since its 2007 debut.

Some five dozen iPhone customers have filed at least 59 separate lawsuits since December accusing Apple of slowing their phones to spur people to buy new iPhones, according to court records.

# Top US biomedical institute settles gender-discrimination lawsuits

The Salk Institute has reached a deal with two of three female scientists who alleged unequal treatment.

The Salk Institute for Biological Studies has settled [a pair of gender-discrimination lawsuits brought last year](https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-018-05109-w) by senior female scientists.

Cancer researchers Katherine Jones and Victoria Lundblad have agreed to drop all claims against the institute in La Jolla, California, according to a joint statement released on 7 August.

“In recent weeks the Institute’s leadership and Drs. Kathy Jones and Vicki Lundblad commenced discussions in hopes of resolving our disputes,” reads the statement signed by Jones, Lundblad and Salk’s president, neuroscientist Rusty Gage. “Those productive conversations have led to a resolution of all claims between these parties that will enable us to put our disagreements behind us.”

The statement does not provide any further information on the settlement, which the parties reached on 6 August. A spokesperson for the Salk Institute declined further comment on the matter, as did Deborah Dixon, the lawyer who represents Jones and Lundblad.

A third gender-discrimination lawsuit against the Salk Institute, [filed last year by molecular biologist Beverly Emerson](https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-018-05025-z), is still pending. Emerson alleges that systemic bias at the institute hampered her access to research funding, laboratory space and other resources. In January, the Salk Institute declined to renew Emerson’s contract, ending her three-decade tenure there. (Jones and Lundblad are still on staff.)

Emerson’s lawyer, Alreen Haeggquist, says that her client opted out of settlement conversations with the Salk Institute. A court in San Diego, California, is scheduled to hold a hearing on Emerson’s case on 17 August.

# Judge limits scope of gender-discrimination lawsuit against Salk Institute

Cancer researcher Beverly Emerson’s suit will go to trial in December.

A California court has thrown out a retaliation claim in a [gender-discrimination lawsuit](https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-018-05109-w) against the Salk Institute for Biological Studies. On 30 August, a judge dismissed molecular biologist Beverly Emerson’s claim that the institute, in La Jolla, California, let her contract expire in December 2017 because of the discrimination suit, which she had filed in July of that year.

The court also ruled that a key piece of evidence for that claim — an e-mail from Salk’s former president, Elizabeth Blackburn, suggesting that litigation might hurt Emerson’s career — is confidential material that should not go before jurors.

Emerson alleges that systemic bias at the institute limited her pay and professional advancement and blocked her from obtaining resources such as research funding.

During a [hearing on the case on 17 August](https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-018-06013-z) in San Diego, California, Salk’s lawyers argued that most of the individual events that occurred during Emerson’s three decades at the institute — such as a delayed promotion — happened too long ago to be included in the suit. Under California law, people have one year to file charges of gender discrimination after an incident, unless they can prove that the occurrence is continuous.

Emerson’s lawyers countered that the instances illustrated a repeating pattern of bias. “The court when the evidence is reviewed as a whole, cannot conclude as a matter of law that there is no continuing violation,” wrote judge Eddie Sturgeon in his ruling.

The gender-discrimination trial is scheduled for 7 December.

# Amazon Contractor Settles Warehouse Conditions Lawsuit

Employees at a Los Angeles-area facility used by several retailers alleged unpaid work, unsafe conditions and retaliation.

A leading logistics contractor and a group of staffing companies agreed to pay as much as $1.9 million to resolve allegations of wage-and-hour violations and retaliation at a Los Angeles-owned storage facility that houses Amazon.com products, among others.

A group of warehouse workers filed the proposed class action in 2014, claiming Amazon contractor California Cartage Co. and several staffing firms violated the state’s minimum wage law and the city’s “living wage” statute. The workers also alleged that the defendants didn’t give employees time to rest during periods of excessive heat, and retaliated against those who complained.

Amazon.com Inc., which isn’t a defendant, declined to immediately comment. The Los Angeles allegations echo other lawsuits in recent years alleging the online giant used contractors that skirted regulations to cut costs. Earlier this month, New York-based non-profit China Labor Watch released a report alleging inadequate safety training and precautions at a Chinese factory owned by Foxconn, which produces Amazon’s Echo speakers and Kindle e-readers. Amazon said it had audited the factory and asked Foxconn to remedy violations.

In 2014, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in favor of Amazon contractor Integrity Staffing Solutions, overturning a lower court ruling that would have allowed Amazon warehouse employees to seek pay for time spent waiting in line for security checks. In 2016, a [Washington state judge](https://thiermanbuck.com/washington-amazon-lunch-break-lawsuit-can-proceed/) certified a class of potentially thousands of current and former Amazon employees in a lawsuit alleging the company violated state law by not paying them for time spent in security lines during lunch breaks.

Also that year, former delivery drivers who had been employed by Amazon contractor Silverstar filed a lawsuit alleging that they were deprived of overtime pay and that Amazon shared legal responsibility due to the extent of Amazon’s involvement in evaluating and directing their work. That case later [settled](https://cookcountyrecord.com/stories/511301200-trucking-firms-contracted-by-amazon-settle-drivers-joint-employer-ot-wage-class-action). The Washington litigation is ongoing, as are similar cases under Arizona, California and Nevada law involving either Amazon, its contractors or both. Amazon has regularly denied any wrongdoing.

In the Los Angeles case, the facility at issue is used by Amazon as well as Lowe’s, New Balance, Kawasaki Motors Corp, TJMAXX and Sears, according to the Warehouse Worker Resource Center, a pro-labor nonprofit. The litigants clashed over whether workers who sued were covered by a municipal policy requiring that some firms that lease city property pay a living wage.

In 2016, a judge granted a motion to dismiss those claims, saying the companies were exempt. But he denied a request to toss allegations that the companies had retaliated against workers. In February, a National Labor Relations Board judge ruled that California Cartage had illegally interrogated employees about their efforts to address workplace issues at the facility and made implied threats to employees about the consequences of taking collective action.

The proposed settlement, which attorneys for both sides set forth in a June 12 state court filing, would terminate the employees’ appeal of a separate, $800,000 wage-and-hour class action pact that California Cartage and other defendants reached in 2015.

The plaintiff workers declined to comment. The logistics giant NFI Industries Inc., which acquired California Cartage last year, didn’t return a call seeking comment. NFI is a privately held company that operates more than 41 million square feet of warehouse and distribution space, according to the company. As part of the proposed settlement, the defendants deny any wrongdoing.

A final approval hearing is set for Oct. 25 in California state court.

# Nike Hit With Lawsuit From Ex-Employees Alleging Discrimination

## Allegations follow a series of complaints about inappropriate workplace behavior at the sportswear giant

Two women filed a lawsuit against Nike Inc., alleging it discriminated against them in pay and career advancement, the latest development amid scrutiny over the company’s workplace culture.

The women say Nike paid them less than male counterparts at the company. The suit, filed Thursday in the U.S. District Court in Portland, Ore., contained other allegations of inappropriate workplace behavior, some of them from unnamed plaintiffs.

# Former IRS Employee in Georgia Sentenced for Identity Theft

A former employee with the Internal Revenue Service in Atlanta has been sentenced to two years in prison after she pleaded guilty to aggravated identity theft.

ATLANTA (AP) — A FORMER employee for the Internal Revenue Service in Atlanta has been sentenced to two years in prison after she pleaded guilty to aggravated identity theft.

The U.S. Justice Department said in a news release that Stephanie Parker worked as a contact representative between September 2012 and March 2013.

Prosecutors say on at least five occasions, Parker obtained taxpayers' Social Security numbers and addresses and used the information to file fraudulent tax returns.

Prosecutors say Parker directed the fraudulent tax refunds to bank accounts controlled by her friends. Prosecutors say at least once, she had money withdrawn from one of those accounts and used it for personal expenses.

Parker had pleaded guilty in August. She must also serve one year of supervised release and pay nearly $6,000 in restitution to the IRS.

# Serial Squatter Gets 6 Years in Prison for Identity Theft

A woman accused of being a serial squatter by fraudulently leasing properties and failing to pay rent has been sentenced to six years in prison.

DENVER (AP) — A WOMAN accused of being a serial squatter by fraudulently leasing properties and failing to pay rent has been sentenced to six years in prison.

The Denver Post reports 43-year-old Heather Schwab was sentenced in Adams County on Monday after previously pleading guilty to felony identity theft. Prosecutors say that on Feb. 15, she signed an 18-month lease and wrote two checks for $4,400 — rent and deposit — for a Thornton home. Both checks bounced.

She also was accused of posing as someone else when she rented another property in April, and prosecutors say she's committed several similar offenses dating back to 1996 in [Colorado](https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/colorado) and [Texas](https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/texas).

Her husband, 48-year-old William Schwab, pleaded guilty Monday to conspiracy to commit identity theft in connection with the scheme.

# Mom Allegedly Drowns Twin 10-Month-Old Boys in Motel Where She'd Been Given a Free Stay

A California mother is accused of drowning her 10-month-old twin boys in the bathtub of a motel where she had been staying after leaving a women’s shelter, PEOPLE confirms.

Police in Tulare say Heather Langdon, 37, faces murder charges for the deaths of her sons, Mason and Maddox Murguia.

According to investigators, Langdon allegedly drowned her babies in the motel bathtub on Thursday. She was staying at the motel for free after being escorted from a women’s shelter.

Police say Langdon was asked to leave the shelter after causing an unspecified disturbance.

A women who lives near the motel told local media she saw Langdon the morning the boys died.

“She was like, ‘I almost drowned them. I almost drowned them’ and then I flagged down the police,” explained Maria Marez.

“She kept saying that: ‘I almost drowned them. I almost drowned my babies,’ and she was trying to help the babies but I didn’t know that they were already deceased,” Marez said. “She was just standing there looking around. She looked kind of worried, like something was wrong.”

It is unclear if Langdon — who is behind bars without bail — has appeared before a judge to enter pleas to her charges.

It was also unknown if she has hired a lawyer who could comment on her behalf.

Police have yet to discuss a possible motive and continue to investigate what preceded the drownings.

# Days Before Murdering Entire Family for 'Fresh Start,' Chris Watts Gushed to Mistress in Love Note

Addictive, unique, wonderful — “an amazing, inspirational and electric woman.”

This is how Colorado father Chris Watts described his romantic infatuation this summer. But he wasn’t talking about his wife. He was gushing over his mistress, a co-worker with whom he had begun an affair that, authorities believe, eventually drove him to murder his entire family on Aug. 13 in the pre-dawn darkness at their Frederick home.

Prosecutors have said Watts, 33, was thinking of a “fresh start” with a “new love” when he strangled his wife of nearly six years, 34-year-old Shanann Watts, with his bare hands and smothered their daughters Bella and Celeste, also likely with just his bare hands.

At the time of her murder, Shanann was 15 weeks pregnant with a boy to be named Niko.

The unbearably intimate murders and Chris’ calculating deceptions before his arrest — including pleading TV interviews about his missing family — attracted international attention.

Chris changed his story about what happened to his wife and kids several times, eventually claiming Shanann was responsible for their daughters’ deaths and that he killed her in a moment of rage.

But in November he admitted to all of his charges, in a plea agreement to avoid the death penalty, and will spend the rest of his life in prison.

“Why did this have to happen? His motive was simple, your honor,” Michael Rourke, the Weld County district attorney, said at Chris’ sentencing in November. “He had a desire for a fresh start and to begin a relationship with a new love that overpowered all decency and feelings for his wife and daughters and unborn son.”

Newly released documents in the case, obtained by PEOPLE, detail the extent of Chris’ passion for Nichol Kessinger, who worked with him at an oil and gas company.

# Teen Girl Forced Into Prostitution Must Spend 51 Years in Prison for Murder Conviction, Court Says

A 30-year-old Tennessee woman who has controversially been imprisoned since she was a teenager for murdering a man who solicited her for sex must remain behind bars for at least 51 years, the state’s supreme court said this week.

The decision, issued Thursday, is a blow to Cyntoia Brown’s years-long efforts to overturn her sentence in the 2004 shooting of Johnny Mitchell Allen, a 43-year-old real estate agent.

Brown has long maintained she was forced to be an underage prostitute by a boyfriend who then took the money that she would make. She claimed that after Allen picked her up in August 2004, she shot him in self-defense because she saw him reach for a gun while the two were in bed.

The jury rejected her story, however, and prosecutors said she was motivated by her desire to rob Allen. She was tried and convicted as an adult.

Brown, now 30, argued that her lifelong imprisonment was unconstitutional under a 2012 U.S. Supreme Court ruling which found that juveniles could not receive mandatory life sentences without parole.

That appeal was rejected, and Brown subsequently contended her punishment was “cruel and unusual” under the same 2012 ruling.

This second appeal remains under the consideration of the federal Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals which, characterizing existing state law as unclear, asked the Tennessee Supreme Court to weigh in with its opinion on whether Brown could be paroled for her murder conviction.

The state supreme unanimously agreed that under Tennessee law Brown can only become eligible for early release after serving at least 51 years of her sentence, when she will be 69.

“Under state law, a life sentence is a determinate sentence of 60 years. However, the sixty-year sentence can be reduced by up to 15 percent, or 9 years, by earning various sentence credits” for good behavior and participation in educational and vocational training, the Tennessee Supreme Court decided.

Brown’s case has attracted the attention of celebrities such as Kim Kardashian and Rihanna, and it was covered in a 2011 PBS documentary.

“The system has failed. … I’ve called my attorneys yesterday to see what can be done to fix this,” West tweeted last year.

# Police Reveal Hero Officer Who Responded to Thousand Oaks Mass Shooting Was Killed by Friendly Fire

Sgt. Ron Helus, the hero officer who lost his life while trying to save hundreds of others during the Thousand Oaks mass shooting last month, was killed by friendly fire.

After being struck five times during a shootout at Borderline Bar & Grill with the gunman, who later took his own life, Helus, 54, was shot once more by a rifle from a California Highway Patrol officer, Sheriff Bill Ayub with the Ventura County Sheriff’s Department said in a news conference Friday.

The bullet struck Helus in the chest and heart, ultimately killing him, Ayub explained.

“Today I’m deeply saddened to inform you that Sgt. Helus was also struck by a sixth bullet, which we now know through forensic analysis from the FBI’s crime laboratory, was fired from the CHP officer’s rifle,” Ayub said in the news conference.

“Tragically, that bullet struck vital organs, and was fatal.”

At this time, police are still determining whether or not the friendly fire was “accidental, or a missighting, or perhaps a mistaken identity is something we’re still investigating.” Sgt. Helus and the CHP officer were the first on the scene and entered the bar around the same time.

“When Ventura County Sheriff’s Sgt. Ron Helus and a CHP officer entered the bar, the suspect attacked almost immediately, firing multiple rounds at both men,” Ayub said. “Sgt. Helus was struck five times by gunfire from the suspect. Both men quickly retreated and fired their rifles at the suspect.” It was then that CHP officer, who has not been named, shot Helus. Helus later died at the hospital.

CHP Coastal Division Chief L.D. Maples later explained in the news conference that the CHP officer, who he described as a “consummate professional” didn’t know he killed Helus and was informed Thursday.

“It was a surprise to all of us. He was devastated,” Maples said. According to CBS Los Angeles, the CHP officer is on voluntary leave.

Sgt. Helus was shot and killed along with 11 other people at the Boderline Bar & Grill on Nov. 7. He leaves behind his wife and their son Jordan.

# Right-Wing Extremist Who Plowed His Car into Crowd Found Guilty of Murdering Heather Heyer

A 21-year-old right-wing extremist was found guilty Friday of murdering a protester at a chaotic “Unite the Right” protest in Charlottesville, Virginia, last year, according to the Charlottesville Daily Progress, NBC News and the Washington Post.

Heather Heyer, 32, was killed when James Alex Fields Jr. deliberately rammed his car into a group of counter-protestors at the rally. CNN reports that his attorneys argued he panicked amid the chaos, fearing for his safety — a defense the jury rejected after less than a day of deliberations.

Prosecutors said Fields was deliberate and angry as he accelerated toward the group, smashing into pedestrians and a parked car and injuring dozens.

“This is not the face of someone who is scared,” Charlottesville Assistant Commonwealth’s Attorney Nina-Alice Antony said in court, according to the Post, referring to a close-up image of Fields before the crash.

“This is the face of anger, of hatred,” Antony said. “It’s the face of malice.”

Fields — whom his attorney reportedly conceded “holds extreme right-wing views,” and whom the Post described as “an avowed supporter of neo-Nazi belief” — traveled from Ohio to attend the rally in Charlottesville, organized in support of preserving Confederate memorials.

The two-day rally devolved into disarray and, eventually, deadly violence.

In addition to first-degree murder, Fields was also convicted of various charges related to injuring those near Heyer with his car, the Progress reports: five counts of aggravated malicious wounding, three counts of malicious wounding and one count of hit-and-run.

As the two sides had differed over Fields’ intent last year, the defense and prosecutors sharply divided over their descriptions of his state of mind.

Fields, his attorneys contended, was remorseful for what he had done and did not mean to murder anyone.

Not so, said the prosecution. Three months before killing Heyer, he had shared a meme on Instagram showing someone slamming into a group of protestors with the caption “You Have the Right to Protest, But I’m Late for Work.”

“And when he passes that happy crowd in front of him on Fourth Street,” said prosecutor Antony, “those images pop into his head and he seizes on the opportunity to make his Instagram posts a reality.”

# Man accused of pushing passerby in front of oncoming truck charged: prosecutors

A man who was accused of pushing a pedestrian in front of an oncoming truck in downtown Los Angeles last week was charged Friday for that crime in addition to two other "random and unprovoked attacks," ABC News reported, citing prosecutors.

The suspect, identified as 31-yeard-old Garrett Boldt, was seen in surveillance footage from Wednesday morning, sitting on a sidewalk before appearing to jump up and startle a woman before sitting back down.

He then jumped again and appeared to shove a man into the path of an oncoming truck, police said. The driver of the truck slammed on his breaks but the victim was still pinned under the wheel, the video shows. Prosecutors said the victim suffered serious injuries.

The suspect is seen appearing to pick up something off the ground before calmly leaving the scene, police said. Prosecutors claim the object was a bracelet that the victim had dropped during the shoving.

Boldt was also accused of two other "random and unprovoked" attacks last week, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office said Friday.

Prosecutors said the suspect had allegedly tackled a woman to the ground Tuesday and had punched a woman a bus stop the day of the alleged shoving.

Boldt was arrested Wednesday and charged Friday with premediate attempted murder, among other charges.

Boldt's next court hearing is scheduled for December 20. He faces a maximum sentence of life in state prison if he's convicted.

# 3 shot in Miami suburb, 3 suspects at large, police say

Investigators in Opa-locka, Fla., were searching for three suspects Saturday night after three people were shot with what police said was an AK-47 rifle.

Two of the victims suffered traumatic injuries and were airlifted to a local hospital, while the third victim suffered non-life-threatening injuries, Miami FOX affiliate WSVN-TV reported.

One of the suspects fired at a responding officer but missed, the report said. The incident started just before 9:30 p.m., according to the report.

K-9 unit officers were checking whether the suspects had entered nearby apartments or were able to flee the area on foot.

Opa-locka is about 13 miles north of downtown Miami.

# FBI: Man charged in kidnapping, death of North Carolina teen

LUMBERTON, N.C. – Police have arrested and charged a man with killing a 13-year-old girl who was kidnapped last month from a North Carolina mobile home park.

The FBI said early Saturday that Michael Ray McLellan has been charged in connection with the kidnapping and murder of Hania Noelia Aguilar. The announcement comes the same day that a memorial service for Aguilar is set to take place at a local high school.

The 34-year-old McLellan faces first-degree murder, rape and eight other felony charges. He'd been released from prison in June and was still on parole from a 2017 felony breaking and entering conviction, according to the News & Observer of Raleigh.

He was previously convicted in 2007 of assault with a deadly weapon and was released on parole in 2016, the newspaper reported.

He is being held without bond in the Robeson County Detention Center. He will appear in court at the Robeson County Courthouse on Monday.

McLellan was in custody at the time of his arrest on charges unrelated to the Aguilar case, police said.

On Nov. 5, police said Aguilar went outside to start a relative's SUV to prepare to leave for the bus stop when a man forced her into the vehicle and fled.

Her disappearance sparked an intensive search. Drones, dogs, and scores of searchers on foot spent the following weeks combing the area. Police found her body several weeks later in a body of water about 10 miles (16 kilometers) south of the mobile home park where she was kidnapped.

"This is the outcome that we all feared," Lumberton Police Chief Michael McNeill told reporters after the body was found. "We did not want to hear this. We wanted to bring Hania back home and bring her back home alive to our community. It hurts."

Police said they followed more than 850 leads and conducted nearly 500 interviews. The FBI's lab at Quantico, Virginia did a forensic exam on the stolen SUV, which was recovered a few days after Aguilar's initial disappearance. The North Carolina State Crime Lab provided test results on Aguilar's body. Police said the exams helped result in the charges against McLellan.

A large turnout is expected at Aguilar's funeral Saturday at Lumberton High School. Her father, who lives in Guatemala, was denied an expedited visa to attend his daughter's funeral.

Police said the investigation is ongoing and additional charges could be filed.

Larceny Suspect Demands Social Media Photo Removed, Arrested

Police say a man suspected of stealing a computer from a New Mexico church was arrested after he demanded a surveillance photo of him be removed from social media.

LAS CRUCES, N.M. (AP) — Police say a man suspected of stealing a computer from a New Mexico church was arrested after he demanded a surveillance photo of him be removed from social media.

KTSM-TV in El Paso, Texas, reports Eric Martin Carnero was arrested last week and charged with larceny stemming from a June 6 theft at Calvary Chapel Three Crosses in Las Cruces.

According to police, the 40-year-old Carnero stole a backpack containing a laptop computer from the church

The owner of the backpack posted surveillance camera still images of the suspect on a social media page. That generated several responses identifying Carnero as the suspect.

Carnero, himself, responded to the social media post and asked that his image be removed.

It is not known if Carnero had an attorney.

Police Officer Accused of Stealing Gas, Charged With Larceny

A Rhode Island police sergeant has been charged with larceny for allegedly stealing gasoline from the town.

# Police Officer Accused of Stealing Gas, Charged With Larceny

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP) — A Rhode Island police sergeant has been charged with larceny for allegedly stealing gasoline from the town.

State Police said Wednesday that 55-year-old Tiverton Sgt. William Munroe was arrested by members of the Special Investigations Unit and charged with 14 counts of larceny, following a monthlong investigation.

The Fall River, Massachusetts resident is scheduled to be arraigned later Wednesday at Second Division District Court in Newport.

It's unclear if Munroe has an attorney who could comment on his behalf. His case is not yet listed in online court records.

State Police say Munroe was observed filling a large gasoline container at the same time he was fueling his marked police cruiser multiple times at the town gasoline pumps in October. Munroe allegedly used the container to fuel his personal vehicle.

# Three charged in larceny of retail store during storm

JACKSONVILLE, Onslow County — The Jacksonville Police Department has arrested three Jacksonville men after conducting an investigation into a looting incident that took place during Hurricane Florence.

On Friday, September 14, 2018 at 10:27 p.m., during the hurricane, officers of the Jacksonville Police Department responded to The Athlete’s Foot, 2075 N Marine Boulevard. Officers discovered a broken front window, but due to the severity of Hurricane Florence, the investigation was held until officers were able to contact store owners and verify any stolen property. Three males were reportedly seen entering the business and fleeing the scene.

The investigation led to an undercover operation on Tuesday, in which the suspects, who were utilizing the online app “Letgo”, attempted to sell the stolen goods to undercover officers. All three men were charged and taken into custody without incident. Dozens of pairs of stolen shoes, along with dozens of stolen articles of clothing were recovered, many with security devices and tags still attached. The charges, bonds and details are below.

“The seamless teamwork of the Jacksonville Police Detective Division and Special Operations Division Detectives, along with the assistance from the Patrol Division, is commendable” said Chief Mike Yaniero, Director of Public Safety. “

# OWEGO WOMAN CHARGED WITH GRAND LARCENY

A Tioga County grand jury has handed up an indictment following an investigation prompted by a complaint made by a bank employee.

Authorities say 32-year-old Sandra Villa of Owego was indicted for fourth-degree grand larceny, a felony.

According to the Tioga County Sheriff's Office, Villa was arrested Monday.

Investigators say they received a report from a worker at Tioga State Bank of "suspicious activity involving money."

A news release issued Tuesday did not elaborate on the complaint or specify how much money was involved in the case.

Villa was arraigned before a Tioga County Court judge and released on her own recognizance.

# Police reports 9/11/18: Wellsville woman charged with felony larceny in Crosby’s theft

WELLSVILLE — A Wellsville woman was charged with felony larceny following a theft from a Crosby’s gas station.

Tryssa L. Costello, 19, of Wellsville, was charged Friday with third-degree grand larceny, a class D felony.

The Wellsville Police Department, which announced the arrest Monday, said charges stem from incidents that took place in May and June at the Crosby’s on North Main Street.

According to New York state penal law, a charge of third-degree grand larceny is brought when someone steals property of more than $3,000, or steals an automated teller machine or the contents of an automated teller machine.

Costello was processed, arraigned, released, and is due back in Wellsville Village Court later this month.

Olean Police

• Monday, 1:45 p.m., no injuries were reported in a two-car accident. A vehicle operated by Elizabeth C. Spiller, 63, of 414 S. Third St., Olean, was stopped in traffic coming up to the roundabout on North Union and Wayne streets. Her vehicle was reportedly rear-ended by a vehicle operated by Larry C. Rossman, 49, of 29 Buehll St., Apt. 1, Bath, who failed to stop. Rossman was charged with following too closely, an infraction.

Salamanca Police

• Sunday, 12:59 p.m., Shawnee Q. Oldshield, 52, of 349 ½ Wildwood Ave., Salamanca, was charged with disorderly conduct and second-degree obstruction of governmental administration, both class A misdemeanors. He was held pending processing and further charges and is due in Salamanca City Court Sept. 21.

• Sunday, 5:38 p.m., Pamela S. Bowen, 48, of 34 Catherine Dr., was charged following a traffic stop with third-degree aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle, a class A misdemeanor; operating an uninspected motor vehicle, a violation; and operating a motor vehicle with a suspended registration, an infraction. Bowen was released on an appearance ticket and due in Salamanca City Court Sept. 26.

• Sunday, 9:23 p.m., Daniele M Calkins, 25, of 15 E. Jefferson St., was charged with driving while intoxicated and operating a motor vehicle with a blood alcohol content of 0.08 percent or greater, both unclassified misdemeanors; first-degree aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle, all class A misdemeanors; and unsafe lane change and unsafe turn, both infractions. He was released on an appearance ticket and due in Salamanca City Court Sept. 19.

Wellsville Police

• Saturday, no time provided, Christopher D. Vargas, 19, of Wellsville, was charged with possession of alcohol by person under 21 years of age, a violation. A 17-year-old was charged with first-degree unlawfully dealing with a child, a class A misdemeanor, and unlawful possession of marijuana and possession of alcohol by person under 21 years of age, both violations. Charges stem from an incident on Lagoon Road. They were issued appearance tickets, released to a third party and are due in Wellsville Village Court on Sept. 11.

Cattaraugus County Sheriff’s Office

• PORTVILLE — Donald C. Taggerty, 49, of Portville, was charged at 10:15 p.m. Saturday with third-degree assault and resisting arrest, both class A misdemeanors, resulting from a domestic incident that occurred on Lillibridge Road. Taggerty was arraigned in Portville Town Court, issued appearance tickets and released on his own recognizance.

# Parent charged with grand larceny at Bristol, Virginia school

Robert Sorrell Feb 9, 2018

BRISTOL, Va.—Police say a man returned to the scene of a crime on Friday when he went to pick up his children at Washington-Lee Elementary School in Bristol.

Adam Lee Taylor, 29, of Bristol, was charged with grand larceny in connection with a theft which was caught on school surveillance on Thursday, according to Sgt. Steve Crawford of the Bristol Virginia Police Department.

Taylor apparently had been attending a school function on Thursday when he began walking through the facility and was spotted taking items, Crawford said. School Resource Officer Jeanette Loudy began investigating the theft Friday morning and identified Taylor.

Crawford said police expected Taylor to return. When he did Friday afternoon, a school employee spotted him on an outside camera and alerted police. Loudy intercepted Taylor outside the school’s foyer and took him into custody.

“Unfortunately, a routine arrest had to occur on school property today,” School Superintendent Keith Perrigan said. “Students or staff were never in danger and BVPD reacted with professionalism and tact. We are blessed to have [school resources officers] in every school.”

# Warrant Wednesday: Grand larceny, assault suspects sought

Stephanie N. Dessureau, 34, is wanted on a bench warrant out of Clifton Park Town Court for grand larceny. Dessureau was charged in October 2017 over filing fraudulent paperwork with the state Department of Motor Vehicles to clear a lien from her vehicle. Troopers said she traded that vehicle in and benefited by eliminating $54,000 in debt owed to the original lien holder. She is believed to be in the Selkirk area.

Laikuan Ward, 27, is wanted on a bench warrant for petit larceny issued by the Town of Dryden Court, Tompkins County. Cabrera was originally arrested for stealing money from a gas station while he was employed there. He never returned to work.

Erick Grigoroff, 27, is wanted by State Police and the town of Cortlandt Court for assault and criminal possession of a weapon. Troopers said Grigoroff assaulted several victims and caused serious injuries with a knife. Grigoroff was last known to live in Peekskill, Westchester County. He is to be considered armed and dangerous.

# Man Convicted of Murder in Shooting Death of Virginia Man

A man has been convicted of breaking into a Virginia home and killing a man in front of his wife.

NEWPORT NEWS, VA. (AP) — A man has been convicted of breaking into a [Virginia](https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/virginia) home and killing a man in front of his wife.

The Virginian-Pilot reports 38-year-old Monte Michael Stokes was found guilty of second-degree murder last week in the 2016 death of Eduardo Hernandez Amezcua. Amezcua was shot in the head in front of his wife days before Christmas that year.

Amezcua's wife Amber testified that she awoke that night to the sound of breaking glass and found her husband fighting a stranger, who authorities would later identified as Stokes.

# Grace Millane: Man appears in New Zealand court charged with murder of UK backpacker

A 26-year-old man accused of killing British backpacker Grace Millane appeared in court in Auckland, New Zealand for the first time on Monday.

The defendant was charged with the murder of the 22-year-old late on Saturday, and as he left the court reports suggested a member of the public shouted “scumbag”.

On Sunday police discovered a body in Waitakere Ranges Regional Park, on the outskirts of Auckland which they believe to belong to Ms Millane, from Wickford in Essex.

Detective Inspector Scott Beard told reporters on Sunday that the discovery of the body “brings the search for Grace to an end”.

“It is an unbearable time for the Millane family and our hearts go out to them.”

Court documents allege the killing took place between the 1 December and 2 December – the date of Ms Millane’s 22nd birthday - and the address of the man charged with her murder is given as the same Auckland hotel where the “fun-loving” backpacker was last seen alive.

A judge told Ms Millane’s family: “I don’t know what we can say to you at this time, your grief must be desperate.

“All of us hope justice for grace is fair and swift and ultimately brings you some peace.”

Temporary reporting restrictions currently prevent the defendant being identified. His lawyers have 21 days to appeal a rejected request for his name to be suppressed.

Ms Millane was travelling the world after graduating from university and was last seen alive in a CCTV image from CityLife Hotel.

While the search for her body has ended detectives are now trying to piece together the moments that led up to her death.

Grace Millane: Body found in missing British backpacker investigation

Man to be charged with murder of British backpacker Grace Millane

Dad of missing British backpacker Grace Millane makes emotional appeal

They have appealed for anyone who saw a red Toyota Corolla rental car in the area during the early hours of 3 December to come forward.

Ms Millane’s father travelled to New Zealand to appeal for information on her whereabouts and described her as fun-loving and family-oriented.

# Officials: Murder Defendant Killed in Yakima Jail Assault

Authorities are investigating after a murder defendant in the Yakima County Jail inmate was killed in what appears to have been an assault by other prisoners.

YAKIMA, WASH. (AP) — Authorities are investigating after a murder defendant in the Yakima County Jail was killed in what appears to have been an assault by other prisoners.

The victim was identified at 36-year-old Jacob Ozuna, who died at a hospital early Monday following the attack late Sunday night. The Yakima County Sheriff's Office says five inmates, all men ranging from 19 to 25 years old, from Yakima, Toppenish, Wapoto and White Swan, have been identified as suspects.

The Yakima County Department of Corrections says a jail officer called for help after finding several inmates standing over Ozuna, who was unconscious. Corrections officials say the inmates involved were gang-affiliated.

# 4 men charged with capital murder in shooting death of Houston store clerk

Hafeez Qureshi was the man who took care of everyone around him — his wife, children, grandchildren, siblings and coworkers.

He was beloved at the convenience store where worked at, always bringing his coworkers home-cooked meals and even helping them out financially. Loyal customers followed him to the different stores where he worked as a clerk throughout the years, most recently Sonny's — some would even keep him company while he was closing up the Alief-area store at night,

On Saturday, his final day of work before retiring, 66-year-old Qureshi was killed at 8:30 p.m. by four armed burglars at the store in the 9000 block of Dairy Ashford. He left behind his wife, two grandchildren, two daughters and three sons — one of whom is special needs.

# McLawhorn Found Guilty In Murder Of Nashville Nurse

NASHVILLE, Tenn. - Christopher McLawhorn has been found guilty on all five charges he was facing in the murder of Nashville nurse, Tiffany Ferguson.

McLawhorn was convicted of felony murder, first degree premeditated murder, especially aggravated burglary, and two charges of theft.

The jury deliberated for less than two hours Thursday afternoon before returning to the courtroom with the verdict.

He has been scheduled to be sentenced on November 1.

As day four in court got underway, Detective Chad Gish took the stand and presented evidence recovered from McLawhorn’s phone. Gish specializes in digital and mobile forensic analysis for the Metro Nashville Police Department.

Gish said McLawhorn’s phone had 96 text messages, 54 of which had been deleted. There were 22 calls in the log and 17 of those were deleted.

McLawhorn’s phone also had records of Google searches, including looking at an article about Ferguson being stabbed to death.

Gish also pointed out that after searching about fingerprints and “Nashville nurse killed,” McLawhorn went on a pornography website and searched “murderotica suffocation.”

He then allegedly accessed a bondage suffocation video. Two hours later, he went on NewsChannel5.com and read about Ferguson being identified as the victim.

Two hours later, he searched about DNA and then back to NewsChannel 5’s website.

While, there were DNA and fingerprints found at the crime scene, forensic tests were not able to confirm they were of McLawhorn.

Detective Gish said McLawhorn and his friend “Guitar Josh” exchanged text messages after Ferguson was killed. One text asked “Guitar Josh” to say that McLawhorn was drinking and hanging out if police questioned him.

The defense asked the judge to acquit McLawhorn instead of sending it to the jury after the state’s last witness testified. The judge denied the request.

McLawhorn then waived his right to testify, prompting closing arguments to begin.

As the state explained a timeline of events and the moments Ferguson died, her family and friends listened in tears, some even left the courtroom.

The defense argued, “There is reasonable doubt all over this case,” and questioned the state’s witnesses saying police wanted to make a quick arrest.

Jury deliberations began around 3 p.m.

On Wednesday, prosecutors had lead detective Anthony Chandler take the stand to explain several surveillance videos he said captured McLawhorn during the hours before and after Tiffany Ferguson was killed on February 28, 2017.

According to prosecutors, Ferguson and a friend arrived at her Wedgewood-Houston condo shortly after 2:30 a.m. The friend could be seen leaving the condo, with the door unlocked, about 30 minutes later.

Meanwhile, Chandler said around the same time McLawhorn and a homeless friend, Nicholas Dalrymple, were caught on surveillance cameras around downtown.

Around 5 a.m., detectives said surveillance cameras from the complex showed the suspect pulling on car handles, then walking into Ferguson's condo. Moments earlier, police officers were near the area for a suspicious person call after Dalrymple contacted police about McLawhorn allegedly stealing from cars.

Video showed McLawhorn running away at the exact time Ferguson's roommate called 9-1-1 at 5:39 a.m.

Surveillance footage from a nearby business captured an individual with his shirt off and a unique back hair pattern walking through the property. Investigators believe that it was McLawhorn because he also had matching back hair description when photos of his body were taken during questioning.

Additionally, detectives found tread prints at the business that matched McLawhorn's boot.

Later that morning, video showed McLawhorn go into a pawn shop. Prosecutors said he pawned a ring belonging to Ferguson's roommate and seemingly looked calm.

The medical examiner explained Ferguson's stab wounds; however, the pictures in that testimony were too graphic to show. Many of Ferguson's family and friends had to step out of the courtroom.

# Dial Monaco for Murder

Daughter’s partner accused of ordering killing of city’s richest woman

As murder defendants go, Wojciech Janowski hasn’t helped his case much.

First he denied having anything to do with the 2014 killing of the richest woman in Monaco, the mother of his longtime partner. Then he admitted to police that he’d ordered the assassination. Then he retracted his confession.

The trial of those accused in the murder in Nice of Helene Pastor, who was worth an estimated $3.7 billion the year she died, got underway this week. Already, the details laid out in the courtroom reveal what prosecutors call a team of bumbling, clueless—albeit brutal—killers.

“I’m innocent. I committed no crime. That’s all,” said Janowski on Monday, the opening day of the trial, speaking in lightly accented French when asked by judge Pascal Guichard to state his position in the case.

Investigators say Janowski paid 140,000 euros ($165,000) to four men to carry out the murder of Pastor, who was 77. The purported motive: He feared that Pastor might keep him at a distance from the wealth of the family, the clan that built much of Monaco’s skyline and owns thousands of apartments in the city-state. Pastor’s driver, Mohamed Darwich, also died from the shots fired into her black Lancia Voyager.

The killings sent shock waves through Monaco and France. Pastor, whose family company has been operating since 1920, was extremely private. In a principality with some of the highest property prices in the world, Helene’s income from rentals allowed her to give her daughter and her son, Gildo, allowances of 500,000 euros a month each.

Janowski’s defense team will endeavor during the month-long trial in Aix-en-Provence, France, to instill doubt in the mind of the jury and suggest that the 69-year-old Pole was pushed into a forced confession whose implications he didn’t quite grasp.

Another striking feature of the trial: the amateurism of the accused perpetrators, two men prosecutors say were recruited via Janowski’s personal fitness trainer and an intermediary. They left so many clues that they were behind bars only a few weeks after having allegedly gunned down Pastor on May 6, 2014, as she emerged from a hospital in Nice, where she’d been visiting her son.

Nice Judicial Police Chief Philippe Frizon spent most of Tuesday morning listing the “huge mistakes” the suspects made, which enabled police to go all the way up the chain of command. “Typically, we’re not able to go higher up than the perpetrators,” he said.

Crucially, the two men, Samine Said Ahmed and Al Hair Hamadi, used a pair of prepaid cellphone lines bought the day of the murder to call taxis to take them to the scene of the crime. That made it easy for police to get the corresponding numbers from the cab company and then retrace their movements from Marseille to Nice and back. Hamadi also carried a Foot Locker plastic bag, making him stand out on video-surveillance tapes.

The next mistake: Hamadi, the lookout man, kept the phone he’d been using and inserted a fresh SIM card, allowing police to trace it and Hamadi less than 10 days after the murder. Shortly after that, the name of Ahmed emerged as the suspected shooter, thanks to DNA-identification work.

Ahmed denies having participated; Hamadi has admitted his role to a certain extent.

It was clear to police that someone had ordered the two men to commit the crime. To find who, investigators asked themselves: “Who has an interest in Pastor disappearing?” Frizon said. Those inquiries led them to Pascal Dauriac, the personal trainer for Janowski and his partner Sylvia Ratkowski—Pastor’s daughter. Dauriac is pleading guilty.

Ratkowski and Janowski were summoned to the police station on June 23, 48 days after the murder. The Pole had nothing to say when he was interrogated later in the evening. He even waived his right to a lawyer or an interpreter, and was kept in custody.

Three days later, after Ratkowski had been cleared of suspicion and Dauriac had implicated him, Janowski cracked.

“Yes, I ordered this murder,” he told police investigators, speaking in French, according to the indictment. “I killed myself by doing what I did,” he said.

Janowski further explained that he had ordered the killing to put an end to the destructive relationship Ratkowski had with her mother, which he described as abusive. Investigators see another motive: the death of Pastor would let her daughter inherit a large part of her mother’s wealth, which he could hope to control.

Indeed, while Janowski wasn’t married to Ratkowski or in her will, police inspectors say the probe showed he ran the couple’s finances—and was siphoning off more than three-quarters of Ratkowski’s monthly allowance for his personal use.

Eric Dupond-Moretti, Janowski’s lawyer, suggested malice was at work all throughout the June 2014 police interrogation. He noted that his client was in custody for questioning for a total of 91 hours that week.

The Pole retracted his confession later in 2014, arguing that his grasp of the French language wasn’t good enough to fully comprehend what he was admitting. He has lived in Monaco, a French-speaking principality, for about 30 years.

“I’ll never forgive him,” Ratkowski said of Janowski when she talked again to investigators later in 2014. “I hope he’ll get a heavy conviction for what he did to my mother and Mohamed and for all the years where he lied to me and where he stole my money. I had a blind trust in him and he was the man of my life—at least that’s what I thought.” They have one child together.

The trial is set to run until Oct. 19, with the jury deliberations to follow.

# ‘Serial killer’ US Border Patrol agent charged with murder of 4 prostitutes after woman escapes

A fifth woman managed to escape her attacker and notify authorities

Texas authorities charged a US Border Patrol supervisor with murder following what they called a two-week serial killing spree that left four female sex workers dead and ended when a fifth woman escaped at a service station and found help.

Juan David Ortiz, 35, an intelligence supervisor for the US Border Patrol, was charged with four counts of murder as well as aggravated assault and unlawful restraint, Webb County District Attorney Isidro Alaniz said in a tweet.

Ortiz was arrested after the fifth woman managed to flee.

State troopers found Ortiz hiding in a truck in a hotel car park in Laredo at around 2am Saturday. The border city about 235km (145 miles) southwest of San Antonio.

“We do consider this to be a serial killer,” Alaniz said.

Alaniz said that after the suspect picked up the fifth woman she quickly realised that she was in danger.

“When she tried to escape from him at a service station that’s when she ran into a (state) trooper,” Alaniz said.

He said that authorities believe Ortiz had killed all four women since September 3. The names of the victims were not immediately released.

Alaniz said two of them were US citizens but the nationalities of the other two were not yet known. All of them were working as prostitutes and one was a transgender woman, he said.

“The manner in which they were killed is similar in all the cases from the evidence,” said Alaniz.

He declined to discuss the evidence or say how the women were killed.

The bodies of two of the women were discovered this month along Interstate 35 in rural northwest Webb County, the Laredo Morning Times reported, while the third and fourth were found in the same area this weekend.

Alaniz said investigators are still trying to determine a motive for the killings. Authorities said they believe Ortiz acted alone.

“It’s interesting that he would be observing and watching as law enforcement was looking for the killer, that he would be reporting to work every day like normal,” Alaniz said.

Ortiz was a 10-year veteran of the Border Patrol.

US Customs and Border Protection issued a statement saying that it was fully cooperating with the investigation.

“Our sincerest condolences go out to the victims’ family and friends. While it is CBP policy to not comment on the details of an ongoing investigation, criminal action by our employees is not, and will not be tolerated,” the agency said.

The Texas Department of Public Safety, whose Texas Rangers are investigating, did not return several messages seeking comment.

# 14-year-old charged in rape, murder of 83-year-old neighbor

Her last day of life ended brutally.

Dorothy Mae Neal, who was 83 and a familiar figure in her neighborhood, often seen walking with her cane to the bus stop, was raped and beaten to death allegedly at the hands of a 14-year-old neighbor, Baltimore police said, according to USA Today.

Tyrone Harvin was charged with first-degree murder and rape. He was charged as an adult, in accordance with Maryland law, said police spokesman T.J. Smith.

Alerted by concerned neighbors who had not seen Neal for days, police found Neal unresponsive on Aug. 26 in her apartment in West Baltimore, reported the Baltimore Sun. She was taken to a hospital, where she died.

Eartha Davis, a neighbor, recalled seeing Neal always venturing out of her apartment to catch a bus. Neighbors described Neal as independent and trusting.

“It’s sad when anyone dies, but she was an elderly woman,” Davis said. “It’s very scary. It’s the first time I heard of anything so close.”

Smith said that as police investigated the savage attack, they came across signs – which were not described publicly – that the suspect was young. But, Smith added, “I don’t think any of us were thinking a 14-year-old could be capable of something like this.”

USA Today said that Harvin lived on the same street as Neal. Some neighbors on the street helped look after Neal, Smith said, and Harvin may have been one of them. Police said there were no signs of a forced entry.

Physical evidence helped police identify Harvin as the attacker, Smith said, adding: “Every homicide is sad and tragic, but when we talk about our vulnerable victims, it just adds a level of tragedy to it. We’re talking about people sometimes who are completely defenseless.”

# Carpentersville man, 73, charged with friend's 2011 murder

A 73-year-old Carpentersville man has been arrested and charged in connection with the October 2011 slaying of a close friend after new information, including DNA evidence, linked him to the killing, according to prosecutors and court records.

Dennis M. Kuzara, of the 0-99 block of Oxford Lane, faces two counts of first-degree murder in the death of Isabella Trejo, authorities say. The 57-year-old Carpentersville woman was found stabbed to death in her Oxford Road apartment after failing to appear at a family funeral, prosecutors said.

Trejo's relatives became alarmed when she missed the Oct. 2, 2011, funeral and alerted security at her apartment complex, authorities say. She later was discovered in her bed, dead from multiple stab wounds, authorities said.

Prosecutors said the case remained under investigation and recent evidence came to light that "directly connected" Kuzara to Trejo's murder.

Kuzara was taken into custody Friday after an arrest warrant was issued, Kane County court records show. His appeared in court Saturday and his bail was set at $2 million, meaning he must post $200,000 to be released from the county jail while the case is pending.

He is next due in court Dec. 12. If convicted of first-degree murder, he would face a minimum sentence between 20 and 60 years in prison.

Kuzara does not have any previous felony arrests in Kane, McHenry, DuPage or DeKalb counties, records show. He was charged with misdemeanor battery in April 1989 in Carpentersville but acquitted in September of that year.

Kuzara also sued Pace Suburban Bus in September 2012 seeking $50,000 damages stemming from an accident, but the case later was dismissed and Kuzara was not awarded any money, records show.

# Former Hong Kong Minister Convicted in Bribery Scheme

## Patrick Ho Chi-ping found guilty of paying African officials to secure oil rights for Chinese company

A former Hong Kong home-affairs minister who toured the world marketing China’s global investment and infrastructure program was convicted Wednesday of bribing African officials to secure oil rights for a Chinese energy conglomerate.

The high-profile case that played out in Manhattan federal court, at a time of tensions between the U.S. and China, followed similar cases related to [alleged bribery at the United Nations](https://blogs.wsj.com/riskandcompliance/2017/11/20/u-s-pursues-alleged-chinese-africa-bribery-through-finance-ties?mod=article_inline) involving China-connected figures.

A jury convicted Patrick Ho Chi-ping, who ran the charity arm of Shanghai oil company CEFC China Energy Co., of seven of eight counts, including of violations of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, which bars bribes of foreign officials to get or keep business.

# Bribery Trial Spotlights China’s ‘Belt and Road’

## Justice Department prosecutes pitchman for company key to Beijing’s global program

SHANGHAI—China’s global investment and infrastructure program is about to face scrutiny in a New York courtroom when one of its most prominent promoters stands trial on bribery charges.

Patrick Ho Chi-Ping, a 69-year-old Hong Kong surgeon-turned-politician-turned-pitchman, toured the world in recent years marketing China’s international development strategy as “globalization 2.0.”

His promotional vehicle was a Virginia charity active at the United Nations; its funding came from a privately owned Shanghai oil company that invested in expanding China’s global push, the Belt-and-Road Initiative, signing nearly $20 billion in deals in Africa,

# Oil Co. Officer Pleads Guilty In Venezuelan Bribery Case

A former procurement officer of Venezuela’s state-owned energy company pled guilty on Monday in Texas federal court to obstructing an investigation into a scheme involving U.S.-based companies that allegedly paid bribes.

# Venezuelan Ex-Treasurer Admits He Took $1 Billion in Bribes

## Official is linked to TV-channel chief in foreign-currency racket

A former Venezuelan national treasurer who pleaded guilty to money laundering admitted he took bribes of over $1 billion from businessmen to allow them to conduct illicit foreign-currency transactions even as the once-oil-rich country’s economy collapsed, the U.S. said Tuesday.

In a statement, the U.S. Justice Department said Alejandro Andrade pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to commit money laundering under seal last December in federal court in Miami. The statement said that Mr. Andrade, a former bodyguard for the late Venezuelan President Hugo Chávez, accepted millions of dollars in bribes from Raúl Gorrín, the president of Globovision, a Venezuelan pro-government television channel, to allow him and others to make foreign-currency transactions at favorable rates. An indictment of Mr. Gorrín on charges of money laundering and bribery was unsealed Monday in Miami.

# Venezuela’s Ex-Treasurer Gets 10 Years in U.S. Bribery Case

A former national treasurer of Venezuela was sentenced in Florida on Tuesday to 10 years in prison for taking more than $1 billion in bribes to help wealthy Venezuelans exploit a rigged exchange system and move money to the U.S. and elsewhere, the U.S. Justice Department said.

Alejandro Andrade Cedeno [pleaded guilty](https://www.justice.gov/opa/press-release/file/1112826/download) in federal court in West Palm Beach, Florida, to taking cash as well as homes, cars, champion horses and luxury watches. Andrade, who admitted to a money-laundering conspiracy and agreed to help prosecutors, agreed to forfeit cash and assets including real estate, horses, vehicles and bank accounts, court records show.

Andrade, 54, who was once a bodyguard to the late President Hugo Chavez, said he took the bribes to steer contracts to brokerage houses that conducted bolivar exchanges. Andrade chose which brokerages would sell bonds from the treasurer’s portfolio that were denominated in U.S. dollars. His conspirators could then “obtain substantial profits on the exchange transactions,” according to court documents.

Even after Andrade moved in 2012 to Wellington, Florida, the bribes continued until last November, he said in pleading guilty under seal last Dec. 22. Andrade said that the bribes he took from conspirators included money from the billionaire Raul Gorrin Belisario, who bought the Globovision television network in 2013.

“Since the beginning of this matter, Mr. Andrade has cooperated fully with the prosecutors, and he is eager to continue his cooperation,” said his attorney, Curtis Miner.

Under his agreement, prosecutors can return later to court to ask U.S. District Judge Robin Rosenberg to reduce his sentence in exchange for his cooperation, Miner said.

“There is a lot that is not known publicly about Mr. Andrade nor about the work that he has done in the past 10 years, which will be made known at a later date,” Miner said. “But, as Mr. Andrade told the judge today -- he has not been involved in any way with the government of Venezuela since 2011.”

Gorrin, 50, was indicted on charges that he violated the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act and conspired to launder money, using the proceeds of his crimes to buy properties in southern Florida and New York. The U.S. seeks forfeiture of two dozen Gorrin properties, including luxury homes and apartments. On Sept. 21, a federal judge declared Gorrin, a Venezuelan citizen with a home in Miami, a fugitive from the U.S.

The Justice Department detailed the extent of Andrade’s corrupt wealth in unsealing his case this month and revealing his cooperation with prosecutors. They also announced the indictment of Gorrin and the [guilty plea](https://www.justice.gov/opa/press-release/file/1112821/download) of Gabriel Arturo Jimenez Aray, a Venezuelan who owned Banco Peravia in the Dominican Republic.

“The targets and subjects of this investigation are wealthy and powerful individuals who have used various and extensive financial instruments to move their money around the world,” prosecutors said in a June 13 filing about Jimenez made public this month.

The case is one of two Justice Department attacks on corruption that has crippled Venezuela as it goes through one of its worst economic crises. In a related case, Miami prosecutors charged nine people in a money-laundering scandal involving $1.2 billion stolen from Venezuela’s state-owned oil producers Petroleos de Venezuela SA, known as PDVSA.

# DEA Agent Arrested on Federal Bribery and Drug Charges

A Drug Enforcement Administration special agent has been arrested on federal bribery and drug conspiracy charges following allegations that he accepted payment from a drug dealer in exchange for information.

A Drug Enforcement Administration special agent has been arrested on federal bribery and drug conspiracy charges following allegations that he accepted payment from a drug dealer in exchange for information.

U.S. Attorney Cody Hiland said Nathan Koen was arrested Tuesday on a federal complaint that alleged he accepted bribes and helped a drug dealer's criminal activities for two years. Koen was detained following an appearance before a U.S. magistrate judge.

Koen had worked at the DEA's Little Rock office since September 2016. If convicted, he faces up to 15 years in prison for the bribery count and up to life in prison for the conspiracy count.

# Pennsylvania state lawmaker gets probation in bribery case

A state representative convicted of taking $4,000 in bribes from a confidential informant received probation Friday from a judge who was critical of the undercover investigation that snared her.

Democratic Rep. Vanessa Lowery Brown, of Philadelphia, was sentenced to 23 months of probation and ordered to repay the money to the state attorney general’s office.

Neither Lowery Brown nor her defense attorney would say whether she intended to resign immediately. She was unopposed and won a sixth term in the Nov. 6 election, but officials say her felony bribery conviction makes her ineligible under the state constitution to hold office.

“I’m deeply sorry and extremely remorseful that my actions have taken me from my community,” Lowery Brown told Judge Scott Evans.

She thanked the friends, family and supporters who packed the courtroom, and said, “I just take full responsibility for my actions.”

Lowery Brown, 52, who represents a West Philadelphia district, is the sixth black elected official from the city to face legal consequences for their involvement with Tyron Ali, who had secretly been working for the attorney general’s office.

Dauphin County prosecutor Michael Sprow argued for jail time, reminding the judge that she accepted $3,000 of the money while inside her state Capitol office.

“The public placed its trust in this defendant to serve with integrity … and she failed to do so,” Sprow said.

Prosecutors in the case previously netted guilty or no-contest pleas by four other onetime state lawmakers and a former traffic judge in the city, all Democrats, for taking cash or gifts from Ali. Three other sitting state lawmakers resigned as part of their pleas.

A jury convicted Lowery Brown in October of bribery, five counts of conflict of interest and failing to properly file a financial disclosure form. She said outside the courtroom before sentencing that she planned to appeal. She had no comment afterward and left the courtroom with a coat over her head to avoid being photographed.

Prosecutors persuaded a jury that she took the money in exchange for official favors, while her own lawyers had argued she was entrapped.

Defense attorney Jack Dempsey described her efforts on behalf of residents in what he called a “poor, heavily challenged district,” including food and clothing drives, and noted she had been a single mother and was raising a granddaughter. He said she has a job offer from a West Philadelphia housing and community development nonprofit agency.

“She’s just a wonderful person,” character witness Bishop Benjamin F. Peterson Jr. told Evans. “She’ll give you the shirt off her back. She has a heart of gold.”

Lowery Brown told a grand jury in 2014 she knew taking the money was wrong. She had previously agreed to plead guilty but backed out and went to trial.

Then-state Attorney General Kathleen Kane abandoned the Ali-related investigation in 2013 after concluding it improperly targeted black officials, but the Philadelphia district attorney at the time, Seth Williams, revived the case.

Kane, who is white, and Williams, who is black, have both since been convicted of criminal offenses related to their offices. Both Democrats are currently serving time in a county jail and federal prison, respectively.

Evans said aspects of the investigation “were troubling, to say the least,” referring to “racial overtones, political implications.”

“I found much to be disturbing in this investigation,” Evans said.

Defense attorney Patrick Casey said there was “significant evidence she was targeted based upon being a Democrat.”

When Evans announced his sentence, Lowery Brown’s supporters applauded and cheered “hallelujah.”

Asked about the judge not ordering he jail time he sought, Sprow said he respected the judge’s sentence.

# Microsoft Hit With U.S. Bribery Probe Over Deals in Hungary

Justice Department, SEC investigation follows similar ones into Microsoft business partners in five other countries

Microsoft Corp. is being investigated by U.S. authorities over potential bribery and corruption related to software sales in Hungary, according to people familiar with the matter.

The investigation follows a series of similar probes into Microsoft business partners that surfaced in 2013 in five other countries. Microsoft made a push earlier this decade to expand in emerging markets, as well as smaller, middle-income countries like Hungary. In some cases, those bets have turned into legal and reputational challenges.

# Alabama Attorney, Company Official Convicted in Bribery Case

A prominent Alabama attorney and a coal company executive have been convicted on federal charges involving bribery of a state lawmaker.

BIRMINGHAM, ALA. (AP) — A prominent [Alabama](https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/alabama) attorney and a coal company executive were convicted Friday on federal charges involving bribery of a state lawmaker.

The verdict against Joel Gilbert, a partner with Balch & Bingham law firm, and Drummond Co. Vice President David Roberson was announced after a four-week trial. Jurors found them guilty of conspiracy, bribery, three counts of honest services wire fraud and money laundering.

Prosecutors said the two men bribed former state Rep. Oliver Robinson to oppose the Environmental Protection Agency's expansion of a Superfund site and prioritizing the site's expensive cleanup. Robinson pleaded guilty last year to bribery and tax evasion. He has not yet been sentenced.

U.S. Attorney Jay Town said after the verdict that the case was not about the EPA or about pollution.

"This was a case about greed at the expense of too many," he stated in a prepared release. "The findings of guilt for these three individuals, by trial or plea, should forewarn anyone who would be corruptly motivated to act in similar unlawful interest. Voters deserve public officials who seek to represent them honestly and fairly. When elected officials, corporate executives or their lawyers violate our federal laws, they should expect to suffer the fate of these three guilty defendants. We appreciate the dedication of the federal agencies that worked tirelessly on this case."

A third defendant, Balch attorney Steven McKinney, was dismissed from the case one day before closing arguments began. U.S. District Judge Abdul Kallon didn't elaborate on the dismissal and his attorneys were not immediately available for comment.

Drummond Co. issued a statement after the verdict.

"We are disappointed by the jury's decision to convict our employee, David Roberson. While we respect the judicial process, we consider David to be a man of integrity who would not knowingly engage in wrongdoing," it said.

"When an environmentalist group raised allegations regarding our operations in the Birmingham area, Drummond responded by hiring one of Alabama's most well-respected environmental law firms. As testimony in the trial showed, we were assured the firm's community outreach efforts on our behalf were legal and proper."

According to prosecutors, the men formed a contract through Balch with Robinson's nonprofit organization to pressure state officials to oppose the EPA, to meet with EPA representatives, and vote on a joint resolution in the legislature to denounce the expansion and Superfund site being named on the EPA's National Priorities List.

Defense teams for both men said Robinson acted alone, and the contract with his foundation was for legitimate community outreach work. They said Robinson's allegations about Gilbert and Roberson shouldn't be trusted.

# Sanofi Pays $25 Million to Settle Bribery Charges

## French drugmaker made payments to win business in multiple countries, the SEC says

French pharmaceutical company Sanofi agreed to pay $25.2 million to resolve Securities and Exchange Commission allegations that its subsidiaries made bribery payments to win business.

The alleged schemes spanned multiple countries and involved bribes to government procurement officials and health-care providers to receive tenders and increase prescriptions of the company’s products, the SEC said. The alleged payments violated the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, which bars bribes of foreign officials for business purposes, the SEC said.

# Two Former SBM Offshore Executives Sent to Prison For Bribery

The company has paid more than $475 million in penalties to U.S. and Dutch authorities

Two former executives of Dutch oil-services firm SBM Offshore NV were sentenced Friday to prison for violating U.S. foreign bribery law.

Anthony Mace, the company’s chief executive from 2008 to 2011, received three years in prison and was ordered to pay a $150,000 fine. Robert Zubiate, a former SBM Offshore sales executive, received 30 months in prison and has to pay a $50,000 fine.

They each pleaded guilty in November 2017 to one count of conspiracy to violate the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act in connection with a scheme to bribe foreign officials in Brazil, Angola and Equatorial Guinea. The FCPA bars the use of bribes to foreign officials to get or keep business.

# Former Chinese Political Star Jailed for Life Over $27 Million Bribery

The case mirrors the downfall of another former Chongqing chief, Bo Xilai, whose arrest jolted the previous party shuffle in 2012. Bo, who was touted at the time as a potential future leader, is now serving a life sentence in prison for graft and abuse of power.

It has not been possible to reach Sun for comment, and it is unclear whether he has a lawyer.

During the period cited in his indictment, Sun also served as agriculture minister and held positions in Jilin province and the capital Beijing. His posts in Chongqing and on the Politburo were subsequently filled by former Guizhou party chief Chen Miner, another rising star and a close ally of Xi’s.

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# Ban Ki-Moon’s Nephew Sentenced to Prison in Bribery Case

The scheme involved a botched real estate deal in Vietnam

Joo Hyun Bahn, the nephew of former United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, was sentenced Thursday to six months in prison over a scheme to bribe a foreign official to secure a real estate deal in Vietnam.

Mr. Bahn, who lived in New Jersey and goes by the name Dennis Bahn, pleaded guilty in January to one count of violating the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, which bars the use of bribes to foreign officials to get or keep business. He also pleaded to a conspiracy count.

Mr. Bahn also reached a settlement with the Securities and Exchange Commission, the agency said Thursday. His penalty in that case was deemed satisfied by the forfeiture and restitution ordered at his sentencing in the criminal matter.

# Billionaire Bollore Is Charged in French Bribery Investigation

Billionaire Vincent Bollore and two other men were charged by French investigators late Wednesday as part of a probe into the possible use of bribes in two African countries to obtain port contracts from public officials.

The case stems from a case focusing on suspicions of foul play when Bollore SA was awarded contracts to operate container terminals in Lome, Togo, and Conakry, Guinea, according to a statement from his company. A Bollore SA executive and an official at Havas, an advertising company linked to Bollore, were also charged, according to a person familiar with the matter. All three men were released last night.

Investigating judges suspect that managers of Bollore SA used Havas to facilitate the elections of presidents Alpha Conde in Guinea and Faure Gnassingbe in Togo nearly a decade ago by providing communications advice at a discount price, according to the person, who declined to be identified because the details of the probe are confidential. At the time of the events in 2010, Bollore was Havas’s controlling shareholder.

The 66-year-old Bollore “remains presumed innocent” as the investigation continues, the company said. In France, charges are announced prior to any decision on whether to refer the case to trial and can be dropped later. The move allows his defense team to have access to the case files underpinning the allegations, which they haven’t seen so far, and “have the opportunity to answer these unfounded accusations,” according to the statement.

The charges are a sign that French authorities are stepping up their prosecution of international corruption cases. Investigators have other big-ticket cases in the pipeline. They are probing Societe Generale SA over allegations of bribery related to the bank’s work with the Libyan Investment Authority, while Airbus SE reportedly risks a fine in excess of $1 billion in a case also run by U.K. watchdogs.

For years, French regulators were notoriously slow and ineffective in their pursuit of international corruption, earning the country a rebuke from the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development.

The case against Bollore, one of France’s richest men with a net worth of $6.6 billion, began following the complaint of a former business partner, the company said in a statement Tuesday.

# Louisiana Men Plead Not Guilty to Mississippi Prison Bribery

4 Louisiana men are pleading not guilty to charges that they tried to bribe a Mississippi sheriff with $2,000 in casino chips, seeking jail contracts.

JACKSON, MISS. (AP) — Four Louisiana men are pleading not guilty to charges that they tried to bribe a Mississippi sheriff with $2,000 in casino chips, seeking lucrative jail contracts.

Entering not guilty pleas in federal court in Jackson Tuesday were 70-year-old Michael LeBlanc Sr. of Baton Rouge, 40-year-old Michael LeBlanc Jr. of Prairieville, 59-year-old Tawasky Ventroy of Opelousas and 50-year-old Jacque Jones of LaPlace.

All are accused of scheming to win contracts to sell inmates phone service and commissary goods at a jail in Mississippi's Kemper County. The indictment also says the men paid former Mississippi Corrections Commissioner Christopher Epps $2,000 for help in getting contracts. Epps was convicted of taking more than $1.4 million in bribes.

All four men remain free on bail.

A judge set a Dec. 10 trial date.

# Uresti enters guilty plea in bribery case

In an unexpected series of developments, former state Sen. Carlos Uresti pleaded guilty Friday to a bribery conspiracy charge in a speedy hearing in San Antonio federal court.

In a hearing before U.S. Magistrate Judge Henry Bemporad that was arranged at the last minute — in which no notice was provided to the public court calendars — Uresti pleaded guilty to directing bribes through then-Reeves County Judge Jimmy Galindo, who pleaded guilty last year.

Uresti’s plea deal was sealed, but prosecutors said they will recommend that he serve whatever sentence he gets in the bribery case concurrently with the 12 years in prison he’s already received in a fraud case stemming from Uresti’s involvement in a failed oil field services company called FourWinds Logistics.

Uresti remains free on bond.

Sentencing is scheduled for Jan. 14 before Senior U.S. District Judge David Ezra, who had a sealed hearing Thursday to discuss, among other things, a motion by Uresti’s co-defendant and Lubbock businessman, Vernon C. Farthing III, to move the trial.

Ezra denied the motion, according to Farthing’s lawyer, Cynthia Orr.

“It wasn’t secrecy,” Assistant U.S. Attorney Joe Blackwell said minutes after Uresti and his lawyer, Mikal Watts, left the courthouse. “It was just fast-moving.”

Watts defended Uresti, a longtime friend, in a text.

“Carlos Uresti is a good man,” Watts said. “ He put his family first in deciding to put this all behind him.”

Uresti had been set to stand trial Oct. 22 in the bribery case. The case against Farthing is still set for Oct. 22.

Federal prosecutors obtained an indictment in May 2017 against Uresti and Farthing, charging them with conspiracy to commit bribery and conspiracy to commit money laundering. Uresti only pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit bribery.

It’s not unusual in federal court for plea agreements to be filed under seal, though most are not sealed.

As part of Uresti’s plea, he has agreed not to appeal his conviction in the FourWinds case.

“He has contributed much to this community as a State Senator,” Watts said. “He will contribute much when he returns to our community as well.”

# 4 Louisiana Men Indicted for Prison Bribery in Mississippi

Four Louisiana men have been indicted on charges that they tried to bribe a Mississippi sheriff to give them jail-related contracts.

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) — Four Louisiana men have been indicted on charges that they tried to bribe a Mississippi sheriff with $2,000 in casino chips to give them lucrative jail contracts.

The September indictments, unsealed Thursday in Jackson, are a long-delayed continuation of the corruption investigation surrounding former Mississippi Corrections Commissioner Christopher Epps. He's currently in a federal prison in Texas, serving a nearly 20 year sentence after he admitted taking more than $1.4 million in bribes from private contractors.

The indictment also alleges the men paid Epps $2,000 and promised him more in the future to secure his help in influencing sheriffs and to secure commissary contracts selling goods to inmates in regional jails overseen by the state.

Indicted on conspiracy and bribery charges are 70-year-old Michael LeBlanc Sr. of Baton Rouge, 40-year-old Michael LeBlanc Jr. of Prairieville, 59-year-old Tawasky Ventroy of Opelousas and 50-year-old Jacque Jones of LaPlace. The elder LeBlanc started in the prison world as an architect but branched out into other services and once was an owner of a large private prison company.

The four are scheduled to be arraigned Oct. 16 in Jackson. Each faces up to 15 years in prison. It wasn't immediately clear who their lawyers are. Phone calls to LeBlanc businesses weren't immediately returned Thursday.

Federal prosecutors say the elder LeBlanc talked to Epps in October 2014, in hopes of winning contracts for phone and commissary services. At the time, Epps was already cooperating with the FBI. Private vendors sell phone calls and goods to prisoners, often under contracts that provide legal payments to jail and prison operators.

Epps had a history of pushing particular vendors, some of whom were in turn paying him bribes. Prosecutors say Ventroy, a LeBlanc employee, brought Epps a $2,000 cash bribe later in October 2014.

Then, Michael LeBlanc Jr. met with Kemper County Sheriff James Moore. What they didn't know, according to the indictment, is that Moore was secretly working undercover for the FBI when he took $2,000 in casino chips from the younger LeBlanc in the restroom of the Golden Nugget Hotel and Casino in Biloxi on Dec. 8, 2014. The indictment alleges Moore was also promised additional future bribes. U.S. Attorney Mike Hurst said in a press release Moore was never under investigation. Although the indictment only outlines bribes in 2014, Hurst said the LeBlancs paid bribes from 2012 to 2015.

The elder LeBlanc has long done jail and prison work in Mississippi. His MWL Architects designed at least five jails in the state. Development of two jails — in Alcorn and Chickasaw counties — was spearheaded by former state Sen. Irb Benjamin. The ex-lawmaker admitted bribing Epps to ensure the state would provide enough inmates to make jails financially profitable for the counties. Benjamin is in federal prison in Arkansas after pleading guilty to bribery. He admitted paying Epps between $180,000 and $225,000 to secure Epps support regional jails as well as drug and alcohol programs his company ran at two inmate work centers.

Benjamin said Epps also threatened to withhold inmates from Chickasaw County unless officials signed a prison phone contract with vendor Sam Waggoner. Waggoner pleaded guilty in 2015 to bribing Epps and is serving five years. He's currently at a prison hospital in Fort Worth, Texas.

Ron Welch, a lawyer who has monitored Mississippi jails, said in 2018 that he once met LeBlanc in Epps' office.

"He just struck me as one of those hustlers, like Waggoner and them," said Welch, adding that LeBlanc was the "most sophisticated" of vendors he ran across in Epps' orbit.

LeBlanc previously was an owner of private prison company LCS Corrections Services, selling it to larger private prison operator GEO Group for $307 million in 2015. Of the price, $298 million went to repay debt, GEO financial documents show.

LeBlanc, his companies, relatives and associates have donated more than $200,000 to political candidates, mainly in Louisiana, according to records from the National Institute on Money in State Politics.

LeBlanc and his deceased brother, Patrick, faced scrutiny in San Antonio in 2007 over donations to the Bexar County sheriff and the sheriff's campaign manager when their company was providing commissary services to inmates. The sheriff resigned and pleaded guilty to misdemeanor charges over accepting a free trip to Costa Rica from LeBlanc and his brother, and not reporting the contribution. The sheriff's campaign manager pleaded guilty to taking thousands of dollars in charitable donations and campaign contributions, diverting $32,000 to his personal use, according to published accounts. The LeBlancs were never charged in Texas.

# Egypt Arrests Four Food Supply Officials for Taking Bribes

Egypt’s corruption watchdog arrested four officials suspected of taking bribes from commodity suppliers.

Those held include the head of Food Industries Holding Co., a state-run company responsible for importing some food commodities, as well as an adviser to Supply Minister Ali El-Moselhy. The officials are suspected of accepting more than 2 million Egyptian pounds ($111,550) in bribes from major commodity companies to help secure orders and facilitate payments, the state news MENA agency reported.

Separately, an official at Egypt’s customs silos and two employees at a grain import and export company were ordered to be held for another 15 days, a northern Giza court said Tuesday. They’ve been detained pending an investigation into allegations of bribery, abuse of office, profiteering and waste of about 30 million Egyptian pounds worth of public funds. It’s unclear if the two cases are related.

The Supply Ministry and the General Authority for Supply Commodities, which manages Egypt’s grain purchases, weren’t immediately available for comment.

Egypt vies with Indonesia as the world’s biggest wheat importer and is closely watched by the market. Food is a politically sensitive industry in the country, where millions of people rely on state-subsidized bread, and in the past disruptions have sparked public protests and unrest.

The arrests are the latest shake-up in the market, which has faced supply disruptions, trader boycotts and allegations of smuggling and fraud in the past few years. Recently, the country’s wheat imports were delayed after three cargoes sold by AOS Trading company were held back, people familiar with the matter who asked not to be identified said. Two of the Russian wheat shipments were withheld in Russia and one in Egypt, the people said.

# New York Trader Pleads Guilty to Bribes for Lucrative IPO Tips

A New York stock trader pleaded guilty to paying thousands of dollars in cash bribes to a broker at an investment banking firm in exchange for preferential access to lucrative IPOs, New Jersey U.S. Attorney Craig Carpenito said.

Adam Rentzer, 52, of Roslyn, New York, admitted Monday in Trenton federal court to one count of violating the Travel Act by engaging in commercial bribery. He faces as long as five years in prison and a fine of $250,000 when he’s sentenced Jan. 11, according to the U.S.

Rentzer was described by prosecutors as a trader who bought and sold securities in initial and secondary public stock offerings, including those marketed by two New York-based investment banking firms that employed broker Brian Hirsch.

Rentzer admitted that between mid-2013 and January 2017, he and an unidentified co-conspirator paid cash kickbacks to Hirsch -- who worked on the wealth syndicate desk -- based upon an agreed-upon percentage of the profits realized from the sales of shares purchased in the stock offerings, Carpenito said.

Prosecutors said that by accepting Rentzer’s bribes, Hirsch knowingly violated policies and procedures of both brokerage firms that employed him. While the government didn’t identify Hirsch’s employers, Financial Industry Regulatory Authority records show Hirsch worked at Barclays Capital Inc. from 2008 to 2015 and then at Stifel, Nicholaus & Co. Inc. from 2015 to 2018.

John Carman, a lawyer for Rentzer, didn’t immediately respond to a voicemail message seeking comment on the plea.

Hirsch pleaded guilty to the bribe scheme in December and is scheduled to be sentenced Nov. 18, prosecutors said.

The U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission filed a parallel civil complaint against Rentzer. According to the suit, regulators said that in most instances, Rentzer sold his stock into the market as soon as possible and turned a "substantial profit" estimated to be about $800,000. Rentzer also secretly shared his profits with Hirsch in the form of about $200,000 in cash kickbacks, according to regulators.

The case is U.S. Rentzer, 18-cr-0572, U.S. District Court, District of New Jersey (Trenton).

# CBI arrests its deputy SP in bribery case involving special.

NEW DELHI: The CBI has arrested its Deputy Superintendent of Police

Devender Kumar in connection with bribery allegations involving its

Special Director and second-in-command Rakesh Asthana+ , officials said

Monday.

Kumar, who was earlier the investigation officer in a case involving meat

exporter Moin Qureshi, has been arrested on the allegations of forgery in

recording the statement of Sathish Sana, who had alleged to have paid

bribes to get relief in the case, they said.

It is alleged that a statement of Sana was purportedly recorded on September 26, 2018 by the investigating team headed by

Asthana, but it emerged in the CBI probe that on that given day the businessman was in Hyderabad, they claimed.

In his statement, Sana had purportedly said that he had in June this year discussed his case with Telugu Desam Party's Rajya Sabha member C M Ramesh who, after speaking to the CBI director, had assured him that he would not be summoned again.

CBI arrests its deputy SP in bribery case involving special director Rakesh Asthana -

"From June onwards, I was not called by the CBI. I was under the impression that investigation against me is complete," he is believed to have said.

The CBI has now alleged that Kumar had fabricated this statement as an "afterthought...to corroborate the baseless allegations made by Asthana against CBI director Alok Verma to the CVC (Central Vigilance Commissioner)", they claimed.

They said the agency was also looking into the alleged role of other members of the special investigation team headed by Asthana.

The agency also clarified that it didn't take permission from from the government under section 17A of Prevention of Corruption

Act while filing a case against Asthana as it did not apply in this instance.

On allegations pertaining to CBI additional director AK Sharma's family having shell companies in partnership with undesirable

contact men (UCM), CBI says "it has no comments to offer" as CVC is already looking into those charges.

Asthana, who was booked by the agency on bribery charges in an unprecedented action, had complained against CBI director

Verma on August 24, 2018 that he had taken bribe of Rs 2 crore from Sana to give him relief in the matter.

Yesterday, the investigating agency had filed an FIR under sections pertaining to Prevention of Corruption Act amongst others

against Kumar and three others, including agency's second-in-command Asthana.

As per information shared by SS Gurm, superintendent of police, New Delhi’s CBI AC III unit, ‘a regular case was registered

against Asthana and Kumar as well as against private persons Manoj Prasad, Somesh Prasad and other unknown public servants and private persons.’

The case against Asthana was registered by the investigating agency on October 15 on the basis of a complaint from Satish Sana, facing probe in the 2017 case allegedly involving meat exporter Moin Qureshi, alleging the officer had allegedly helped him to get a clean chit.

The CBI has also arrested Prasad, believed to be a middleman, when he returned from Dubai on October 16.

Gujarat-cadre IPS officer Asthana, who is heading the Special Investigating Team handling crucial cases such as AgustaWestland chopper scam and loan fraud by business tycoon Vijay Mallya. The team is also probing the Moin Qureshi case.

# St. Louis Chiropractor Sentenced in Police Bribery Scheme

A St. Louis chiropractor has been sentenced to 30 months in prison and fined $350,000 for a scheme that involved bribing police officers to get information used to solicit clients.

ST. LOUIS (AP) — A ST. Louis chiropractor has been sentenced to 30 months in prison and fined $350,000 for a scheme that involved bribing police officers to get information used to solicit clients.

Mitchell Davis was sentenced Wednesday in U.S. District Court. He pleaded guilty in December and has paid $696,000 in restitution to 12 insurance companies that overpaid for unnecessary and unauthorized services.

Federal prosecutors say Davis and his wife, Galina Davis, used nonpublic information from St. Louis police accident reports to solicit clients. Mitchell Davis pressured some clients into exaggerating symptoms to increase insurance payouts.

Galina Davis and two former police officers have pleaded guilty and await sentencing. Two other former officers are awaiting trial.

Investigators say the officers earned $5 to $15 for each report illegally provided to the couple.

# Former Long Island Official Found Not Guilty on Bribery Charges

The former supervisor of the Town of Oyster Bay, was acquitted of 27 criminal counts

A federal jury found a former Long Island official not guilty on Thursday following a public-corruption trial in which jurors said they were struggling to reach a verdict for two other defendants.

John Venditto, former supervisor of the Town of Oyster Bay, was acquitted of 27 criminal counts, including bribery and extortion.

“We are thrilled with the verdict, acquitting Mr. Venditto of all 27 counts against him,” said his lawyer, Marc Agnifilo, in an email. "It’s a great day for him, his family and the jury system.”

# Three sentenced to prison in major Latvenergo bribery case

In particular, Latvenergo's former vice-president Aigars Melko was sentenced to four and a half years, while company Energy Consulting head Andrejs Livanovics as well as Latvenergo technical director Gunars Cvetkovs were sentenced to three and a half years.

In addition, €146,500 obtained illegally are to be confiscated and transferred to the state budget. The state will also enforce €182,600 from Cvetkovs and €290,000 from Melko, as these are thought to have been acquired illegally.

The case can still be appealed, and the defendants were not arrested in court. They were earlier made to pay hefty fines, but the case went to appeal.

According to the indictment in the case, Latvenergo officials and employees were receiving bribes from August 2007 to June 2010 so Latvenergo would pick Alstom Power Sweden AB's bid for reconstruction of hydraulic units at the Plavinas power plant. The total amount of bribes, in this particular case, was €627,100.

Livanovics was charged with giving bribes, and Melko and his former colleague Cvetkovs with taking bribes.

The Corruption Prevention Bureau opened the criminal case against Latvenergo officials in 2010. Searches were carried out at their offices, and several leading Latvenergo officials were detained, including former Latvenergo President Karlis Mikelsons and his deputy Melko.

In the fall of 2012, the Corruption Prevention Bureau asked the prosecutor's office to bring charges against seventeen persons in total over bribery during the reconstruction of Plavinas power plant and Riga 2nd cogeneration plant.

According to the Corruption Prevention Bureau, the now former Latvenergo officials have received a total of approximately €8 million in bribes, and were to receive another €11 million in bribe money but were detained before it could happen.

# Crystal City officials sentenced for taking bribes

Three former Crystal City councilmen were sentenced to federal prison Monday for taking bribes from a contractor who was seeking business favors.

Former Mayor Pro-Tem Rogelio Mata was given 33 months, his brother Roel Mata got 21 months and Gilbert Urrabazo received 24 months. They will begin serving their time on Jan. 22, 2019.

“We’re kind of disappointed, I thought 10 to 20 years was reasonable plus restitution to the city,” said Crystal City Mayor Frank Moreno, who addressed the court at the sentencing hearing in Del Rio. He was one of three city officials to attend.

“City Manager Santos Camarillo also testified to all the corruption they did and how the city was left all messed up financially,” he added.

Moreno said the city found itself about $3 million in the hole after the corrupt officials were ousted.

All three defendants, who had pleaded guilty to a single count of bribery, expressed their remorse to U.S. District Judge Alia Moses on Monday before punishment was imposed.

The sentencings close the book on a South Texas municipal corruption scandal that nearly bankrupted the low-income city 130 miles south of San Antonio. It also sent two other officials to prison for long terms.

William James Jonas III, the former city manager and city attorney, is now serving 35-years for multiple convictions, and former mayor Ricardo Lopez is serving an eight-year term. Both were found guilty after going to trial last year.

The three councilmen sentenced Monday were also ordered to pay $11,291.73, which represents the total bribes paid to them and Jonas.

# Chinese Billionaire Developer Gets Four Years in Prison for UN Bribery

A Chinese developer convicted of paying bribes to win backing for his plans to build a United Nations conference center in Macau was sentenced to four years in prison.

Billionaire Ng Lap Seng, 69, was convicted in July of conspiracy, bribery and money laundering, in the biggest UN corruption scandal since the oil-for-food program in the early 2000s. Prosecutors claimed Ng funneled hundreds of thousands of dollars to former UN General Assembly President John Ashe and other officials.

"I’m very sorry for any suffering I’ve caused my family, my friends and my employees," Ng told U.S. District Judge Vernon Broderick Friday, reading from a prepared statement, his hands shaking. "I promise, I will never repeat my mistakes."

Broderick rejected Ng’s request that he be sentenced only to the 30 days he’s already spent in jail. He ordered Ng to pay a $1 million fine, to forfeit $1.5 million and to pay the UN $303,000 in restitution.

"It is important to send a message, to the people at the UN itself and to other institutions in this country, that perverting the decision-making or attempting to pervert the decision-making through bribes will not be tolerated," Broderick said.

Ng, who speaks Cantonese, listened to a translation of Broderick’s comments through headphones. More than two dozen family members and friends attended the sentencing in Manhattan federal court. Some of them had traveled from China and sat in the gallery with headphones, listening to the translation.

Ex-UN President Charged in Bribery Scheme Dies Suddenly

Francis Lorenzo, a UN diplomat who pleaded guilty and cooperated with prosecutors in hopes of a lenient sentence, told jurors in Ng’s trial that Ng had wanted to build a permanent home for an annual UN conference on economic cooperation among developing countries.

Prosecutors said Ng’s plan was to build the center, to be located on a man-made island off the coast of Macau, for free to boost the value of a related complex that included apartments, offices, high-end shopping, a casino and a luxury hotel, which he also intended to develop. Ng and others involved were arrested before the center was built.

The government sought at least six years in prison for Ng. Ng’s lawyers, citing his poor health and the millions of dollars he’d donated to charity, asked that he be allowed to return to China without serving any time.

Ng has been confined to his multimillion-dollar Manhattan apartment, with four bedrooms and 3 1/2 baths, a cook and masseuse, since shortly after his arrest. He told probation officials that his living expenses in New York are about $20,000 a month.

"He’s frankly living a lavish lifestyle," Assistant U.S. Attorney Janis Echenberg told Broderick.

Six people were charged in the case, including Ashe, who died in a weightlifting accident in 2016. In addition to serving as president of the general assembly, Ashe was the ambassador to the UN from Antigua and Barbuda. All others pleaded guilty.

The case is U.S. v. Ashe, 15-cr-00706, U.S. District Court, Southern District of New York (Manhattan).

# Man Charged in Arson Fire at Oakland Construction Site

Federal authorities in Northern California have arrested a man suspected of starting a blaze at a construction site in Oakland, were several buildings under construction have been recently set on fire.

OAKLAND, CALIF. (AP) — Federal authorities in Northern California have arrested and charged a man suspected of starting a blaze at a construction site in Oakland, were several buildings under construction have been recently set on fire.

The San Francisco Chronicle reports Dustin Bellinger was arrested Tuesday in Oakland.

The U.S. Attorney's Office charged the 45-year-old part-time construction worker with one felony count of maliciously damaging or destroying a building by means of fire or an explosive.

Investigators linked Bellinger to an Oct. 23 arson fire that burned itself out inside a construction site. That same morning an intentionally set blaze destroyed a nearby 126-unit building under construction.

Federal prosecutors have not charged Bellinger with that fire or said if he's a suspect.

# Oklahoman Charged With Murder, Arson in Stepfather's Death

A 32-year-old man faces murder, arson and other charges in connection with the death of his 60-year-old stepfather in northeastern Oklahoma.

CLAREMORE, OKLA. (AP) — A 32-year-old man faces murder, arson and other charges in connection with the death of his 60-year-old stepfather in northeastern Oklahoma.

Rogers County online court records show Kevin Foster of Bixby is charged with first-degree murder, first-degree arson, desecration of a corpse and other counts in the Nov. 15 death of Rick Swan of Claremore.

Swan's charred body was discovered in a burned travel trailer parked inside a barn. Swan was married to Foster's late mother, but the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation hasn't released a motive in his death.

Foster's being held in the Rogers County Jail without bond. Court records do not indicate that he is represented by an attorney who could speak on his behalf.

# Sheriff: 9-Year-Old Arson of Martial Arts Studio Solved

Authorities say they've found the people who set fire to a South Carolina martial arts studio, vandalizing it with racist graffiti nine years ago.

YORK, S.C. (AP) — Authorities say they've found the people who set fire to a South Carolina martial arts studio, vandalizing it with racist graffiti nine years ago.

York County Sheriff Kevin Tolson says a tip earlier this year led investigators to re-examine the June 2009 fire at Pak's Martial Arts Center in Rock Hill.

Tolson said at a news conference 27-year-old Robert Lester and 24-year-old Catherine Neal were arrested Tuesday and charged with second-degree arson, second-degree burglary and conspiracy.

Tolson refused to give details on how the old case was cracked or why the studio was targeted, saying there may be more arrests.

Daniel Pak runs the rebuilt studio with his father. He thanked police, saying he was anxious the perpetrators would attack again.

It wasn't known if Lester or Neal have lawyers.

# Four Dead in Colts Neck (NJ) Arson Fire

COLTS NECK - Four people, including two children, were found dead at a $1.5 million estate in Colts Neck that went up in flames on Tuesday, according to law enforcement sources with knowledge of the investigation. Three victims were found inside the home and the fourth, a man, was found shot to death outside the home, according to sources.

# Man Charged With Arson in Southern California’s Holy Fire

LOS ANGELES — Amid a historic wildfire season, a man suspected of intentionally setting fire to the small residential area where he lived in Southern California was charged Thursday with multiple felony counts involving arson. His charges could carry a maximum sentence of life in prison.

The man, Forrest Gordon Clark, is accused of setting the Holy Fire in Cleveland National Forest, which has grown to nearly 10,000 acres since it began on Monday afternoon and remained just 5 percent contained as of Thursday, according to the United States Forest Service. The wildfire has prompted more than 20,000 evacuations and threatened more than 7,000 homes.

No fatalities had been reported in connection to the fire, but at least a dozen homes and other structures have been burned.

The role Mr. Clark is alleged to have played in the fire has provoked anger and outrage within Orange County and across the state of California, which is currently experiencing an unprecedented wildfire season that has strained emergency response resources.

While wildfires occur throughout the West every year, scientists see the influence of climate change in the extreme heat waves that have contributed to the intensity of fires this summer. Prolonged periods of abnormally high temperatures are a signal of a shifting climate, they say.

The 175,000-acre Carr Fire in Northern California, which remains just 48 percent contained, has wreaked havoc on Shasta County and the town of Redding. At one point the blaze prompted nearly 40,000 evacuations and has burned more than 1,000 homes to become the sixth most destructive fire in the state’s history.

The Mendocino Complex Fire, about 100 miles north of San Francisco, has burned more than 300,000 acres and, just 50 percent contained, is already the largest wildfire in the state’s history. The Ferguson Fire in Mariposa County near Yosemite National Park has led to the continued closing of Yosemite Valley. Ten people have died from the fires in the last four weeks.

The Holy Jim Fire is smaller than those blazes but has threatened thousands of homes in an area. What started as a small fire in the Holy Jim Canyon area has exploded in size, growing overnight Thursday to 9,600 acres from 6,200 acres a day earlier. Hot temperatures in the area and very low humidity have exacerbated the fire, which nearly 700 fire service workers are involved in fighting.

The fire has spilled over the Orange County line into Riverside County.

Footage of Mr. Clark being arrested captured by a local CBS affiliate station showed him standing outside his home shirtless and in handcuffs, while the other homes around his burned. At one point during the arrest, Mr. Clark began stripping the rest of his clothing, which was also captured in news photographs.

Michael Milligan, the Holy Jim volunteer fire chief, told The Orange County Register that Mr. Clark displayed erratic behavior and had a longstanding feud with his neighbors. Mr. Milligan said Mr. Clark had sent him threatening messages predicting Holy Jim would burn down.

The Orange County supervisor, Todd Spitzer, said Wednesday during a news conference announcing the arrest that Mr. Clark “needs to suffer the fullest punishment of the law.”

“We know this district burns, but it should never burn because of an intentional act. This shouldn’t be called the Holy Jim fire, it should be called the Holy Hell fire,” he said.

“This is a monster,” he added.

Little is known about a potential motive at this point, but public records show Mr. Clark has had several unspecified run-ins with law enforcement.

More than half a million fires are set by arsonists each year in the United States, according to a report by the United States Fire Administration, costing $3 billion in damages. Nearly one in four fires set between 2010 and 2014 were arson, according to data by the United States Interior Department.

# More Than 100 Cars Burned in Mass Arson Attack in Sweden

GOTEBORG, Sweden — The Swedish authorities on Wednesday were investigating the burning of more than 100 vehicles on the nation’s west coast, in what they said was a coordinated arson attack by groups of young men.

The attack began shortly after 9 p.m. Monday, when several cars were reported to be on fire in the main square of Vastra Frolunda, a suburb of Goteborg, Sweden’s second-largest city.

By the time those blazes were over, “33 cars had been lit on fire and about 50 cars had been damaged,” Thomas Fuxborg, a spokesman for the Swedish Police, said in a phone interview.

A few minutes after the fires broke out in Vastra Frolunda, there were reports of cars on fire in Hjallbo, a district in northeast Goteborg. Fires were also reported in Kronogarden, a district of Trollhattan, about 45 miles north of Goteborg, the police said.

“We think these attacks were coordinated using social media,” Mr. Fuxborg said, adding that the police were investigating the crimes as acts of arson, vandalism, rioting and incitement to violence.

“Society is going to react very harshly against this,” Sweden’s prime minister, Stefan Lofven, told Radio Sweden, adding: “We have raised the punishment for vandalism. We will also propose this fall to address the attacks on the police that often occur in the wake of this kind of activity.”

The car fires are likely to become a political issue as Swedish elections loom. Generally, health and medical care, schools and education, integration and immigration, the environment, and care for the elderly top the priorities for most Swedes. But a recent poll showed that 10 percent of the population lists law and order as the most important issue in the vote on Sept. 9, the Swedish newspaper Svenska Dagbladet reported on Saturday.

Mr. Lofven, a Social Democrat, is running for re-election, and he spent Tuesday afternoon visiting the affected area in Vastra Frolunda.

On Tuesday, the police arrested a 16-year-old boy and a 21-year-old man in connection with the fires there. A third man who had fled to Turkey was picked up at an airport there late Tuesday, said Christer Fuxborg, a police spokesman.

Setting fire to vehicles in Scandinavia is not uncommon, but the phenomenon has stymied the police and criminologists. “On average, there are four incidents a day in Sweden, and August is the month where we tend to have the most burning cars,” said Manne Gerell, a criminologist affiliated with Malmo University.

In the summer of 2016, Malmo, Sweden’s third-largest city, experienced more than 70 car fires within a few weeks. The police took to using drones to search for the culprits.

On Monday, when the fires began in Vastra Frolunda, Krista Koppel, 74, was in her apartment nearby. She said that she had heard the sound of firecrackers and people shouting outside and had gone to her balcony on the eighth floor, where she has a view of the parking lot.

“I saw about six to eight male persons totally covered in black,” she said. “They were smashing the rear windows in the cars. Then they had some Molotov cocktails and they threw them into the cars — about 20 cars in total.” She added that her car had also been damaged. When they ran out of Molotov cocktails, the perpetrators went away, she said.

Ms. Koppel, who has been living in her neighborhood for 40 years, said she had always felt safe — until Monday.

“I was very upset, and I cried, and I thought why was this happening? It was so terrible,” she said. “Of course, nobody dared to go outside and stop them. There were so many of them, and you don’t know if they have guns.”

In Hjallbo, a group of eight to 10 boys and young men set fire to some 15 cars at six addresses, Thomas Fuxborg, the police spokesman, said.

In Kronogarden, which has a history of “confrontations between police and youth gangs,” he said, seven cars were damaged “and about 40 youths threw stones at police officers and rescue workers and blocked the entrance to the area with burning car tires.”

Another car was set on fire in Alafors, a rural community between Goteborg and Trollhattan, and a moped burned in Lysekil, a coastal community north of Goteborg, he added.

In a region that frequently tops quality-of-life indexes, such social unrest has left police officers scratching their heads as they struggle to find the root cause of the fires. Residents cite disparate theories to explain the attacks, including blaming them on Russians trying to foment unrest before the election.

Dr. Gerell, the criminologist, said that Monday’s car fires were similar to the Malmo blazes, but that they did not seem to follow the usual pattern of social unrest. “Usually, when there’s lots of burning cars, you also have rioting occurring simultaneously,” he said. “That was not the case in Malmo in 2016, nor does it appear to be the case in Goteborg.”

The attacks in Goteborg were widely recorded and spread on the internet, he noted, and instead of a crowd of angry youths, they appeared to be more systematic. “It looks kind of calm and organized,” he said.

# Arson Suspect Arrested as Cranston Fire Rages in California

A man suspected of starting a wildfire in California that has spread over thousands of acres and prompted widespread evacuations was arrested on Wednesday night, the authorities said.

The man, Brandon N. McGlover, was charged with five counts of arson to wildland, according to a news release from Cal Fire, a state agency responsible for fire protection. The Cranston fire, as it is known, has spread rapidly across a mountainous area east of Los Angeles.

As of 4 p.m. Thursday, the fire had expanded to cover 7,500 acres with 5 percent of it contained, said Lyn Sieliet, a United States Forest Service spokeswoman. Mr. McGlover, 32, is also accused of starting multiple smaller fires, according to the news release.

The Cranston fire started at about noon on Wednesday, according to the Forest Service. The entire community of Idyllwild, a mountain town about 100 miles east of Los Angeles, and other areas of the San Jacinto Mountains were evacuated on Wednesday evening.

At about noon Wednesday, the agency reported that the fire had an area of about 25 acres. The fire had spread over 1,200 acres by 4 p.m. and then more than doubled in scope less than two hours later.

“It’s hot, it’s dry and the terrain is really steep,” Ms. Sieliet said. “The humidity is low and there’s a light wind, so all of those conditions contribute.”

There are currently 88 large fires active across the United States, according to the National Interagency Fire Center. California has six, but farther north, there are 15 such fires in Oregon and 11 in Alaska.

On Wednesday, a wildfire encroaching on Yosemite Valley that is now 43,000 acres forced the evacuation of visitors at the most popular time for tourists at the national park there. Last year 44 people were killed in California wildfires, which brought destruction estimated at $10 billion.

There were no known injuries to civilians or emergency personnel from the Cranston fire, Ms. Sieliet said.

On Thursday, Gov. Jerry Brown of California declared a [state of emergency](https://www.gov.ca.gov/2018/07/26/governor-brown-declares-state-of-emergency-in-riverside-and-shasta-counties-due-to-fires/) in Riverside County because of the Cranston fire. The declaration also applied to Shasta County, in Northern California, where a 20,000-acre fire is blazing.

Lt. Eric Dickson, a spokesman for the Police Department in Hemet, Calif., a city west of Idyllwild, said the department’s officers found Mr. McGlover driving in his car after they were alerted to look out for a white Honda sedan that could be connected to the fires. In the vehicle, the authorities found possible fire accelerants, Lieutenant Dickson said.

Mr. McGlover, who is from Temecula, Calif., a city southwest of Idyllwild, had his bail set at $1 million, the lieutenant said.

As of Thursday afternoon, about 2,500 homes [had been evacuated](https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/6032/) and nearly 700 responders were mobilized to contain the flames, Ms. Sieliet said. Winds were blowing the fire eastward and northeastward during the afternoon.

Tony Allen, the owner of Bluebird Cottage Inn, which is nestled in the San Jacinto Mountains, said that he and 15 guests left the area on Wednesday as the fire was spreading northeast from its location about a mile south of his business.

The fire destroyed five homes in the area, according to the Forest Service, but Mr. Allen said his inn was safe for now.

“The houses there were just ash; there was not really anything left standing,” he said. “It was sort of surreal.”

The authorities expect additional charges to be filed against Mr. McGlover, said Capt. Fernando Herrera, a spokesman for Cal Fire. In California, arson of forest land is a felony punishable by up to six years in prison.

Matt Kraemer, a school principal in Idyllwild, said the school mobilized buses to evacuate summer campers to a building about 25 miles away. Mr. Kraemer said the fire was on a path to destroy his school until it veered in a different direction with the wind.

“It upsets me a great deal,” he said, “that somebody would be that evil that they would create that much damage and endanger so many.”

# Man Is Charged With Arson in Massive Fire at Brooklyn Mall

Dozens of firefighters suffered minor injuries battling seven-alarm blaze at Kings Plaza Shopping Center

A 23-year-old man was arrested and charged with arson in connection to a massive fire that broke out in the parking garage of a Brooklyn shopping mall Monday, the New York Police Department said.

The seven-alarm blaze erupted at the Kings Plaza Shopping Center’s garage at about 8:30 a.m. Monday. Dozens of firefighters suffered minor injuries, officials said.

The suspect, Avon Stephens, was arrested after he was seen on surveillance video in the vicinity when the fire erupted, according to the NYPD. It wasn’t know if he had a lawyer.

# Body found in burned home in Orangeburg; man facing arson charge; death investigated

The death of an Orangeburg woman is under investigation after firefighters found her body in her burning Sellers Avenue home early Wednesday morning.

An ex-convict, Kenneth Lamont Jenkins, 37, of Crestlite Drive, Columbia, was charged with second-degree arson and grand larceny.

Investigators are trying to determine how 53-year-old Regina Denise Brown died. Jenkins has not been charged in her death.

Investigators allege that Jenkins “willfully and maliciously set fire to Ms. Regina Denise Brown’s home.”

Warrants also allege that he watched the house burn from outside the residence before he fled in Brown’s 2000 Lincoln Navigator.

A woman passed by the Sellers Avenue home around 4 a.m. Wednesday and saw it on fire, so she called authorities, according to an incident report.

When firefighters arrived on the scene, they checked to see if a vehicle was in the yard, which usually indicates that someone may be at the residence, the report states.

Firefighters and a neighbor didn’t see Brown’s SUV in the yard, so they assumed she was not home.

As crews began to extinguish the fire, they worked to put out hot spots in the rear of the home. A firefighter then asked crews to stop because he discovered Brown’s body.

Orangeburg Department of Public Safety officers then contacted the S.C. Law Enforcement Division for assistance in the investigation.

Jenkins appeared before Orangeburg Associate Municipal Judge Chasity Avinger on Friday morning.

“Taking into consideration the conditions of the offenses, your criminal history and the concern that I do have legitimately about the danger posed to the community upon your release, I am going to deny bond at this time,” Avinger said.

Jenkins served 18 years in prison for armed robbery and possession of a stolen vehicle. He was released in the past three months.

Jenkins told the court that he hasn’t had a charge on his record since 2000 and that he hasn’t had a traffic ticket since his release from prison.

“I’ve been seeking out for mental health. If you were to set bond, that’s where I would go,” he told Avinger.

He also stated that he’s not a flight risk, telling the court that he works and stays in Orangeburg.

Travis Green attended the hearing.

He described Brown as a close friend of more than a decade.

“This was a situation that nobody was prepared for,” he said.

“Orangeburg is really taken aback by this whole situation because Regina was loved by everyone,” he said.

“She’s a great person. She’s a great hairstylist, great personality. Always upbeat. Always a smile on her face,” he said.

“It’s a sad situation for the LGBT community,” he added.

“There’s a handful of us in Orangeburg County, so it’s as if we’ve got to stick up for each other now to ensure that we are protected,” he said, noting that Brown is connected to the LGBT community because she’s a transgender woman.

“People need to know that we’re humans just like everybody else,” he said.

Green said he last saw Brown about a month and a half ago.

“She gave me a genuine hug as usual,” he noted.

Pamela Sweeper, one of Brown’s cousins, said she regarded her “as a cousin, a friend and a sister.”

“She was the type of person that if she had it, she would give it. She never hurt no one. She never said a harsh one to no one,” Sweeper said.

“She was a person that everyone loved. Always a welcoming spirit towards everyone,” she added.

Brown followed in her mother’s footsteps as a beautician and hairstylist, Sweeper said.

Ton’yeka Baker, one of Brown’s nieces, said, “I love her. She was so nice.”

“All she did was worry about hair. I’m pretty sure I saw her the day before (she died),” she said.

“She had curls in her hair. Her hair was done. It was nice. She was dressed nice,” Baker said.

Brown worked as a hairstylist for 30 years, with 10 years at Regis in the Prince of Orange Mall, family members said.

If convicted of second-degree arson, Jenkins faces a minimum of three years and a maximum of 25 years in prison.

The case is open and remains under investigation.

# Man charged with arson in Lake Land'Or

A Caroline County man has been accused of burning one home and badly damaging another last week in the Lake Land'Or subdivision, police said.

Charles John Mills, 21, of Ruther Glen is charged with arson, felony vandalism and breaking and entering, Sheriff Tony Lippa said. Mills is being held without bond in the Pamunkey Regional Jail.

According to Lippa, county firefighters, deputies and rescue workers responded to a home on fire Oct. 26. While searching for witnesses, Lippa said, deputies found Mills not far from the scene. He was arrested for public intoxication that day.

Meanwhile, authorities determined that the fire had been purposely set. No one was home at the time of the fire and there were no injuries.

While investigators were still at the scene, a construction crew arrived to work on a house under construction not far from the fire scene and found that the house had been broken into.

Thousands of dollars worth of damage had been done. The walls, floors, appliances and windows were damaged throughout the house, police said. Investigators processed the home for forensic evidence and charged Mills with the vandalism and breaking and entering charges that same day.

The arson charge was filed against Mills Wednesday. He is scheduled to be arraigned in Caroline General District Court next week.

Lippa said it is not clear what connection Mills had to the homes or what the motive for the damage might have been.

# Man Arraigned on Arson Charges After String of Fires

A man has been arraigned on three counts of third-degree arson after a string of suspicious fires at a barn, a trailer and at least two other structures in a rural part of Michigan's Lower Peninsula.

DEERFIELD TOWNSHIP, Mich. (AP) — A man has been arraigned on three counts of third-degree arson after a string of suspicious fires at a barn, a trailer and at least two other structures in a rural part of Michigan's Lower Peninsula.

WZZM-TV reports 32-year-old Theodore Chester Cosnowski III of Howard City was read the charges in court Tuesday following his arrest the day before on a warrant.

State police say an 18-year-old from Morley and a 20-year-old from Howard City also are suspected in the fires in Mecosta County's Deerfield Township.

Crews responding early Monday to a fire found three structures ablaze in the area about 140 miles (225 kilometers) northwest of Detroit. The Mecosta County Sheriff's Office says another fire was reported in neighboring Montcalm County.

# Man Charged With Arson, Terrorism in City Hall Fire

A man has been charged with arson and terrorism in fires that damaged the entrance of a Pennsylvania city hall a nearby vehicle last month.

LANCASTER, PA. (AP) — A man has been charged with arson and terrorism in fires that damaged the entrance of a [Pennsylvania](https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/pennsylvania) city hall and a nearby vehicle last month.

Dwain Stewart London Jr., 29, is charged with two counts of terrorism, two counts of arson, reckless burning or exploding, institutional vandalism and conspiracy.

Authorities consider the May 23 blaze at the Lancaster City Hall not merely property damage but an "act of intimidation," Lancaster police chief Jarrad Berkihiser told reporters Tuesday.

London has told police he was home at the time of the fires. Court documents don't list an attorney representing him, and a message left at a number listed in his name wasn't immediately returned Tuesday.

Berkihiser said surveillance video showed London purchasing gas hours before the fire and an unidentified passenger emerging from his vehicle, entering the store, and then carrying a small red container that appeared to be a gas can. Police said his gait matches that of a man seen on video before and after the fire. That person is being sought.

Mayor Danene Sorace said London had been at a City Council meeting the night before speaking about actions the city was taking concerning family properties. Berkihiser declined comment on the motive.

Sorace said damage to the 130-year-old doors and stone front of the building as well as the vehicle has cost the city more than $100,000.

# Man charged with arson in connection with Dearborn Heights fire

Robert Raymond Patrick III, 49, was charged in connection with an arson in Dearborn Heights.

The Redford man was charged with second-degree arson, second-degree home invasion, and receiving and concealing stolen property over $1,000 in value.

He is being held on a $100,000 cash bond. He’ll be back in court Nov. 14 for a probable cause conference and Nov. 21 for a preliminary exam.

Patrick was arrested at a local store shortly after he allegedly set fire to a house Oct. 29.

While police were at the store to arrest him for being disorderly, they discovered burns on his clothing and stolen goods from a house near the store where firefighters were still trying to douse a blaze.

According to Dearborn Heights Fire Chief Dave Brogan, the call to the 6900 block of Mayburn came in at 8:15 p.m. Firefighters were at the house, which is in the north end of the city near Warren and Telegraph, within five minutes.

“It was dispatched as a garage fire,” he said. “When we arrived, it was actually a two-story house with heavy fire coming out of both upstairs windows.”

Brogan said that changed the mindset of the firefighters quickly.

“They were expecting a detached garage, not a house,” he said. “Crews quickly went to attack the interior through the front door.”

He said when they went in, there was very little fire on the ground floor, but the stairs and second story were engulfed.

Fire Marshal Doug Bailey said it was clear from the start it was arson.

“He put a box of clothing on the stove, then took some to the bottom of the stairs,” he said. “There were a lot of items stored on the stairway that caught fire and caused the fire to spread quickly.”

Brogan said because of the fire on the stairs, crews had to put ladders up and go through windows in order to attack the fire safely.

“They had it under control pretty quickly,” he said.

During the investigation, it was discovered that the house had been broken into via a rear window. Brogan said there were signs it had been gone through before the fire was set.

When the suspect was arrested, he had items on him belonging to the homeowners.

“He did a robbery in the home and I think to cover up his crime, he set the house on fire,” Bailey said. “He had stolen a bunch of cash, jewelry, passports and more. When they caught him, he still had it all on him.”

Brogan said the call to the Dearborn Heights Liquor and Wine Shoppe, just a few blocks away, came while they were still fighting the fire.

“Police questioned him when they realized he may have started the fire,” he said. “They were called because he had come in there screaming and yelling, very intoxicated.”

Bailey said the man also had been to Ray’s Bar, but was refused service before he went to the party store.

As for the burned house, most of the damage was contained to the upstairs, the stairwell and a big burn on the kitchen floor. Otherwise, the house is salvageable, according to Bailey.

# CULLMAN WOMAN CHARGED WITH ARSON

CULLMAN - Cullman County Sheriff’s Office (CCSO) deputies and investigators on Tuesday arrested a Cullman woman for second-degree arson.

Kimberly K. Pearson, 46, was arrested after deputies determined that Pearson allegedly set fire to her residence. A spokesman for the CCSO said Pearson had been in an argument with her husband earlier that same day.

Pearson was released on a $15,000 bond.

# N.Y. man charged in arson of Oxford house

A 42-year-old Yonkers, N.Y. has been arrested on arson and other charges in the torching of an Oxford house in July 2016.

Leon “Pops” Carson was charged with first-degree arson, first-degree reckless endangerment, conspiracy to commit insurance fraud, tampering with evidence, first-degree burglary, first-degree criminal mischief and interfering with an officer.

The fire that happened on July 29, 2016 determined that the fire at 586 Oxford Road was deliberately set.

“Witness statements obtained in the investigation indicate the homeowner has indicated she was in debt and also had not collected the rent money for the involved property,” according to the arrest warrant.

“Through training and experience it is known that individuals set fire to or cause fire to be set to insured possessions such as homes. It is known that the homeowner renewed an insurance policy for the involved structure in April 2016 and immediately made an insurance claim after the fire.”

The property owner, who has not been charged, owned the house since 2005. She rented the property to a woman with five children since November 2015. Because the tenant did not pay rent for eight months, the owner had her served with an eviction notice.

The marshal, who served the eviction notice, told the owner the tenant said she was not going to move out.

When the marshal told the owner what the tenant said, the owner responded, “No one ever pays me, maybe I’ll burn it down,” according to the arrest warrant.

The owner also told the marshal she now had $300,000 in insurance for the house.

The warrant said the house owner told a friend she would give someone $800 to burn down the house.

# Napa woman convicted in Lake Berryessa arson fires

A Napa woman charged with setting 11 fires near Lake Berryessa from 2015 to 2017 pleaded no contest Wednesday to three counts of arson.

Debra Ann Windholz, 60, entered her plea in Napa County Superior Court before Judge Diane Price. She is set to be sentenced Sept. 18, according to a release from Napa County District Attorney Allison Haley.

Napa woman jailed in connection with 11 suspicious fires

Windholz, who works for a Solano County government agency, was arrested in December on charges that she set 11 fires between Oct. 30, 2015, and Aug. 10, 2017, in the area of Berryessa Knoxville Road.

In interviews with Cal Fire investigators, Windholz admitted to discarding lit cigarettes and matches at the ignition points of several of the fires, Deputy District Attorney Agnes Dziadur said.

The agreement with prosecutors calls for Windholz to register as an arson offender, be on probation for four years and spend up to six months in the Napa County jail.

She is not suspected in blazes tied to the October 2017 firestorm, officials said.

# Man charged with arson allegedly set fire to American flag

A man who lit an American flag on fire outside of a Beaumont furniture store was indicted Wednesday on a felony charge of arson.

Carey Hill, 54, allegedly set fire to the flag at Bel Funiture on Eastex Freeway on July 12, according to a probable cause affidavit from the Beaumont Fire Department Fire Marshal's Office. "From the original point of ignition of the flag, the flames spread to the awning attached permanently to the business," the affidavit said.

The fire caused "extensive damage" to the building, according to the Fire

Carey Hill, 54, allegedly set fire to the flag at Bel Funiture on Eastex Freeway on July 12, according to a probable cause affidavit from the Beaumont Fire Department Fire Marshal's Office. "From the original point of ignition of the flag, the flames spread to the awning attached permanently to the business," the affidavit said.

The fire caused "extensive damage" to the building, according to the Fire Department.

Hill was identified on the store's security camera footage.

A Jefferson County grand jury indicted Hill on a state jail felony charge of arson.

If convicted, he faces between 180 days and two years in jail, and a fine of up to $10,000. Hill also faces an unrelated charge of disorderly conduct, according to Jefferson County Jail records.

# Ti man arrested for arson

Charge comes in connection with barn fire early Monday

TICONDEROGA | The Ticonderoga Police Department charged an 18-year-old Ticonderoga man, who is a member of the volunteer fire department here, with arson Monday in connection with a barn fire at 7 McCaughin Rd. early Monday morning.

Patrolman Mark Belden said the man was also charged with setting a recent grass fire.

The suspect’s name was not released because he has been deemed a youthful offender.

He was arraigned in Ticonderoga Town Court and sent to the Essex County Jail without bail.

According to Ticonderoga Fire Chief Matthew Watts, the barn belonged to Martha McCaughin, who lives in Ripton, Vermont. Coincidentally, a garage on McCaughin’s property burned earlier this month, although Watts said the cause of that blaze was accidental.

Watts said the old dairy barn measured 36 feet by 186 feet, but it hadn’t been used for agriculture in “perhaps 20 years.” While it was used as storage, nothing significants was inside.

Watts said the barn was fully involved when he arrived on the scene shortly before 1 a.m.

After hooking up to a hydrant and starting to fight the fire, mutual aid was requested from Chilson for two tankers, Crown Point for one tanker and one engine, Putnam for two tankers and one engine, Hague for two tankers, Schroon Lake for one tanker, North Hudson for one tanker, Dresden for one tanker, Addison, Vermont, for two tankers.

Ticonderoga Emergency Squad, Ticonderoga Police Department, Essex County Office of Emergency Services and the Ticonderoga Fire Dept Lady Auxiliary were all also on scene.

“It was another long night for all of our volunteers but everyone did a great job and put in a lot of effort,” Watts said in a release. “I want to thank everyone for all their hard work.”

# Davenport woman charged with arson, assault

A Davenport woman was arrested Sunday night after police say she shot off fireworks at three people in an apartment and tried to burn them with a torch in September.

Wendy Marie White, 36, no address listed, was booked into the Scott County Jail on first-degree arson, assault while participating in a felony, and three counts of assault while displaying a dangerous weapon.

Bond was set Monday at $50,000 cash-only. She has a preliminary hearing Oct. 25.

According to an arrest affidavit filed in the case, Davenport police responded at 5:38 a.m. Sept. 8 to the 200 block of Washington Street for a disturbance.

White went into a small apartment, lit at least three various types of projectile-type fireworks and directed them at three people inside, according to the affidavit.

A woman had hair singed on her head as a result of a near miss with a firework.

One of the fireworks caught the living room carpet on fire, according to the affidavit.

White then picked up a torch and tried to burn the three people, according to the affidavit.

First-degree arson is a Class B felony punishable by up to 25 years in prison. Assault while participating in a felony is a Class D felony punishable by up to five years in prison, while the remaining assault charges are all an aggravated misdemeanor punishable by up to two years in prison.

White also is charged with domestic abuse assault, first offense, a simple misdemeanor, for an incident that occurred Sunday night.

# Kansas City Man Charged With Arson in Fire That Injured 2

A Kansas City man has been charged with starting a house fire that injured his father and estranged wife.

KANSAS CITY, MO. (AP) — A Kansas City man has been charged with starting a house fire that injured his father and estranged wife.

Thirty-seven-year-old Brandon West was charged Wednesday in Clay County with first-degree arson in the Tuesday night fire. Bond is set at $100,000. No attorney is listed for him in online court records.

Court records say West's father told police that he walked out to the garage after hearing a bang and found West pouring gasoline onto the floor. The father said West started ranting about his estranged wife and current girlfriend before he used a match on the gasoline. Carpeting also was set on fire.

West's wife was trapped in an upstairs bedroom as the fire spread. Neighbors helped her escape through a window.

Two dogs died in the fire.

# Man charged with arson

An area man is charged with arson after police say he attempted to set a home on fire after an argument with a woman.

Sean Anthony White, 30, of Potosi, is charged with a class D felony of arson in the second degree and a class B misdemeanor of property damage in the second degree.

According to court documents, on April 7 the Washington County Sheriff’s Department was called to the 10,000 block of Hyland Dr. in Potosi for arson. The officer reported that White caused damage to a home by placing a mop handle into a wood furnace that was outside of the home.

He then pulled out the burning mop handle and took it to a curtain that was hanging in the front doorway of the home and lit it on fire. The curtain then began burning the front deck. The officer found burnt material and burn marks on the deck of the home.

The homeowner said White and his daughter had been fighting for the past several days and had been making threats to burn the house down. The man also said White had been irate because his daughter and children were with him.

The man told the officer they were sitting in front of the home when White came out kicking his Suburban and yelling at his daughter. The man said that was when he saw White place the mop handle in the wood furnace that was outside his home and then pull it out.

He said he saw White set his curtains on fire in the doorway. The man told the officer he owns his home and allows his daughter to stay with him. He added White comes and goes from the home and each time he comes a disturbance occurs.

White was being held in the Washington County Jail on a $20,000 bond and upon release is to have no contact with the man or his daughter or enter their property.

# Plainville woman charged with arson in June fire

A Plainville woman accused of torching a home on Martha Berry Highway in June was in jail on a slew of felony charges Tuesday.

"This was not a random crime, it was targeted," said investigator Mary Catherine Chewning with the Rome-Floyd County Fire Department.

Chewning said she and Floyd County Police detective William Wacker worked together on the lengthy investigation, which resulted in the Monday night arrest of Montana Cole Floyd, 21, at her 2388 Riverbend Road home in Plainville.

Floyd is charged with two counts of first-degree arson, three counts of felony criminal damage to property, felony terroristic threats and misdemeanor criminal trespass.

According to Chewning and Floyd County Jail records, including a police report and warrant:

Floyd set the fire June 27 near the living room couch in an apartment at 3858 Martha Berry Highway and tried to use bleach as an accelerant. The residence, owned by a Rome man, was leased by a woman Floyd knows and reportedly "intended to terrorize."

No one was home at the time of the fire, which damaged both the structure and property inside belonging to the victim and another woman.

Chewning said the fire and police departments opened a joint arson investigation due to a number of abnormalities responders encountered at the scene.

"Statements that were made, the odors in the residence — things were just not adding up," she said. "Plus, the location of the origin of the fire was suspect. You'd expect it in a wall socket where there is electricity but fabrics don't spontaneously catch fire."

Floyd was being held without bond Tuesday night.

# Marriott Hacking Exposes Data of Up to 500 Million Guests

The hotel chain asked guests checking in for a treasure trove of personal information: credit cards, addresses and sometimes passport numbers. On Friday, consumers learned the risk. Marriott International revealed that hackers had breached its Starwood reservation system and had stolen the personal data of up to 500 million guests.

The assault started as far back as 2014, and was one of the largest known thefts of personal records, second only to a 2013 breach of Yahoo that affected three billion user accounts and larger than a 2017 episode involving the credit bureau Equifax.

The intrusion was a reminder that after years of headline-grabbing attacks, the computer networks of big companies are still vulnerable.

The Starwood attack happened roughly the same time as a number of other breaches at American health insurers and government agencies, including the United States Office of Personnel Management, in what security research firms and government officials described as an effort to compile a vast database of personal information on potential espionage targets.

Experts don’t know if the Starwood attack was connected to those other episodes. But Starwood’s data has not popped up on the so-called dark web, according to Recorded Future, a cybersecurity firm, and Coalition, a cyber insurance provider, which suggested that the hotel attackers weren’t looking to sell what they took.

“Usually when stolen data doesn’t appear, it’s a state actor collecting it for intelligence purposes,” said James A. Lewis, a cybersecurity expert at the Center for Strategic Studies in Washington.

The breach hit customers who made reservations for the Marriott-owned Starwood hotel brands from 2014 to September 2018. The properties include Sheraton, Westin, W Hotels, St. Regis, Four Points, Aloft, Le Méridien, Tribute, Design Hotels, Element and the Luxury Collection.

Marriott hotels, including Residence Inn and the Ritz-Carlton, operate on a separate reservation system. The company has plans to merge that system with Starwood’s.

The names, addresses, phone numbers, birth dates, email addresses and encrypted credit card details of hotel customers were stolen. The travel histories and passport numbers of a smaller group of guests were also taken.

Marriott said it had set up a dedicated website and call center to deal with guests and said it would try to reach affected customers on Friday to inform them of the breach. The site was having problems staying online shortly after the attack was announced.

The company is offering one year of free enrollment in a service called Web Watcher to people who live in the United States, Canada and Britain. Marriott described it as a service that keeps an eye on websites where thieves swap and sell personal information and then alerts people if anyone is selling their information.

“We deeply regret this incident,” Arne Sorenson, Marriott’s president and chief executive, said in a statement. “We fell short of what our guests deserve and what we expect of ourselves.”

The intrusion went unnoticed for four years by Starwood, which was acquired by Marriott in 2016 for $13.6 billion. It was uncovered in early September, when a security tool alerted Marriott officials to an unauthorized attempt to access Starwood’s guest reservation database. The alert prompted Marriott to work with outside security experts, who discovered that the hackers had grabbed a foothold in Starwood’s systems starting in 2014.

On Nov. 19, digital forensics experts uncovered the full scope of the attack. It was the second major security breach Starwood has reported. Its cash register systems were penetrated in 2015.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation said in a statement that it was aware of the breach and was tracking the situation. It added that any suspected instances of identity theft should be reported to the F.B.I.’s Internet Crime Complaint Center at [www.ic3.gov](http://www.ic3.gov).

In recent years, cybersecurity experts said, the hospitality industry has become a rich target for nation-state hackers looking to track the travel movements and preferences of heads of states, diplomats, chief executives and other people of interest to espionage agencies.

Going after hotel customer lists has been part of a broader effort to obtain giant databases of information. So big, in fact, that they would be of little use to run-of-the-mill hackers. But to a government, they would be very useful.

That information could be fed, for example, into an analysis program run by a country’s state security apparatus, Mr. Lewis said. Using “big data” technology similar to what marketers use in targeted advertising, the country could try to pinpoint the comings and going of intelligence agents from other nations. Did they stay, for example, in the same hotel as a potential source for that country?

The breach could get expensive for Marriott. Verizon cut what it paid to acquire Yahoo by $350 million after the internet company reported its breach in 2016. And Equifax reported recovery costs of $400 million from its 2017 incident, which affected 148 million people.

Despite months of due diligence, finding out there was a major network attack long after a deal closes is “everybody’s worst-case scenario,” said Jake Olcott, vice president at BitSight, a computer security ratings company in Boston.

Several lawsuits were filed against Marriott on Friday, and investigations were announced by New York’s attorney general, Barbara D. Underwood, and European regulators.

In Europe, where companies can be fined up to 4 percent of global revenue under data protection laws, companies must alert government authorities within 72 hours of a known breach.

Given the volume and sensitivity of personal data taken, and the length of the breach, Marriott “has the potential to trigger the first hefty G.D.P.R. fine,” said Enza Iannopollo, a security analyst with Forrester Research, referring to the European data protection law enacted this year.

Marriott told shareholders that it did not expect the breach would affect the company’s long-term financial prospects. The company’s share price was down more than 5 percent on Friday.

Marriott has also been dealing with strikes by thousands of workers in nine cities, as well as customer complaints about problems with rewards programs after efforts to merge data from Starwood’s rewards program into Marriott’s left the records of millions of customers in limbo.

Lawmakers said the episode was yet another example of why the United States needs data privacy laws that punish companies for failing to keep customers’ information private.

“It is past time we enact data security laws that ensure companies account for security costs rather than making their consumers shoulder the burden and harms resulting from these lapses,” Senator Mark R. Warner, a Democrat from Virginia, said in a statement.

Privacy advocates said there was no excuse for a breach to go unnoticed for four years.

“They can say all they want that they take security seriously, but they don’t if you can be hacked over a four-year period without noticing,” said Gus Hosein, executive director of Privacy International, a group that supports strong data protection laws.

# Dell announces security breach

Company says it detected an intrusion at the start of the month, but financial data was not exposed.

US-based hardware giant Dell announced today a security breach that took place earlier this month, on November 9.

Dell says it detected an unauthorized intruder (or intruders) "attempting to extract Dell.com customer information" from its systems, such as customer names, email addresses, and hashed passwords. The company didn't go into details about the complexity of the password hashing algorithm, but some of these --such as MD5-- can be broken within seconds to reveal the plaintext password.

"Though it is possible some of this information was removed from Dell's network, our investigations found no conclusive evidence that any was extracted," Dell said today in a press release.

In a statement sent to ZDNet, Dell said it's still investigating the incident, but said the breach wasn't extensive, with the company's engineers detecting the intrusion on the same day it happened. A Dell spokesperson declined to give out a number of affected accounts, saying "it would be imprudent to publish potential numbers when there may be none."

The company said it notified law enforcement, and also hired a digital forensics firm to perform an independent investigation.

Based on currently revealed details, Dell appears to have exposed very little information associated with its official website, where most users come to shop official products or have discussions on its official support forums.

While Dell has downplayed the incident's impact, it is worth mentioning that many breached companies amend these initial revelations as their investigations advance.

Besides resetting passwords, Dell.com users should manually review what information they've stored in their respective accounts. In case they've saved financial information, they should keep an eye on card statements, to be on the safe side.

# Hackers Stole Personal Data of 2 Million T-Mobile Customers

T-Mobile disclosed an “incident” in which hackers accessed "some" customers' personal information—but no financial data or passwords.

After this story was first published, a T-Mobile spokesperson told me that “encrypted passwords” were included in the compromised data. In its original announcement, the company said: “no passwords were compromised.”

When I asked why the company used that wording, the spokesperson said in a message: “Because they weren’t [compromised]. They were encrypted.”

The spokesperson declined to specify how those passwords were encrypted, or what hashing algorithm was used. Hours after this story was published, security researcher Nicholas Ceraolo reached out claiming that the data exposed in the breach was more than what T-Mobile disclosed. The researcher shared a sample of allegedly compromised data that included a field called “userpassword” and what looks like a hash, which is a cryptographic representations of a password. (Ceraolo said he was not involved in the hack but obtained the sample from a "mutual friend.")

According to two different security researchers, with whom Motherboard shared that hash, it may be an encoded string hashed with the notoriously weak algorithm called MD5, which can potentially be cracked with brute-forcing attacks.

Jeremi M. Gosney, a well-known password expert and CEO of the password-cracking firm Terahash,

analyzed the hash for Motherboard. Gosney said that while the hash algorithm is not totally clear, algorithm could likely be reverse engineered with access to a larger sample of hashes from the database.

Customers should assume their passwords have already been cracked and should change it, he told me in an online chat.

T-Mobile's CEO John Legere said in a tweet that "it’s always a good idea to regularly change account passwords."

The original story follows.

On late Thursday, T-Mobile revealed that hackers stole some of the personal data of 2 million people in a new data breach.

In a brief intrusion, hackers stole "some" customer data including names, email addresses, account numbers, and other billing information. The good news is that they did not get credit card numbers, social security numbers, according to the company.

In its announcement, T-Mobile said that its cybersecurity team detected an “unauthorized capture of some information” on Monday, Aug. 20.

“Our cyber-security team discovered and shut down an unauthorized access to certain information, including yours, and we promptly reported it to authorities. None of your financial data (including credit card information) or social security numbers were involved, and no passwords were compromised” the announcement published on the company’s website read. “However, you should know that some of your personal information may have been exposed, which may have included one or more of the following: name, billing zip code, phone number, email address, account number and account type (prepaid or postpaid).”

A company spokesperson told me that the breach affected “about” or “slightly less than” 3% of its 77 million customers.

“Fortunately not many,” the spokesperson said in a text message, adding she could not disclose the exact number.

The spokesperson added that the “incident” happened “early in the morning on Aug. 20,” when hackers part of “an international group” accessed company servers through an API that “didn’t contain any financial data or other very sensitive data.”

According to the spokesperson, on the same day of the intrusion, the cybersecurity team detected it.

“We found it quickly and shut it down very fast,” the spokesperson said.

The spokesperson said she couldn’t give “specifics” of the attack and did not know whether the hackers were criminals or part of a government.

T-Mobile is reaching out to victims directly via text message to notify them, she said.

The company wrote in the announcement that “all affected customers have been, or shortly will be, notified. If you don’t receive a notification than that means your account was not among those impacted by this incident.” T-Mobile also encouraged customers to contact customer service through 611 if they were concerned.

This is the latest in a seemingly endless series of security incidents for T-Mobile in the last year. In October of 2017, Motherboard revealed that hackers had found a nasty bug in a company website that allowed them to look up customers’ personal data just by having their phone numbers. The criminals used it to access customers’ personal information, leveraging it to steal cell phone numbers in the increasingly pervasive scam known as SIM swapping, or SIM hijacking.

T-Mobile initially said it had “found no evidence of customer accounts affected,” but that turned out not to be accurate. Days later, T-Mobile alerted “a few hundred customers” who had been targeted by hackers. Then, in February of this year, T-Mobile sent out a mass text warning customers of the threat of SIM swapping.

In February, a security researcher reported a “critical” bug in another T-Mobile site that would’ve allowed hackers to hijack customer’s accounts. It was fixed before anyone exploited it, according to the company.

Also, in 2015, T-Mobile was breached and lost the personal data—this time including social security numbers—of 15 million people.

# Facebook Security Breach Exposes Accounts of 50 Million Users

SAN FRANCISCO — Facebook, already facing scrutiny over how it handles the private information of its users, said on Friday that an attack on its computer network had exposed the personal information of nearly 50 million users.

The breach, which was discovered this week, was the largest in the company’s 14-year history. The attackers exploited a feature in Facebook’s code to gain access to user accounts and potentially take control of them.

The news could not have come at a worse time for Facebook. It has been buffeted over the last year by scandal, from revelations that a British analytics firm got access to the private information of up to 87 million users to worries that disinformation on Facebook has affected elections and even led to deaths in several countries.

Senior executives have testified several times this year in congressional hearings where some lawmakers suggested that the government will need to step in if the social network is unable to get tighter control of its service. On Friday, regulators and lawmakers quickly seized on the breach to renew calls for more oversight.

“This is another sobering indicator that Congress needs to step up and take action to protect the privacy and security of social media users,” Senator Mark Warner, a Democrat from Virginia and one of Facebook’s most vocal critics in Congress, said in a statement. “A full investigation should be swiftly conducted and made public so that we can understand more about what happened.”

In the conference call on Friday, Guy Rosen, a vice president of product management at Facebook, declined to say whether the attack could have been coordinated by hackers supported by a nation-state.

Three software flaws in Facebook’s systems allowed hackers to break into user accounts, including those of the top executives Mark Zuckerberg and Sheryl Sandberg, according to two people familiar with the investigation but not allowed to discuss it publicly. Once in, the attackers could have gained access to apps like Spotify, Instagram and hundreds of others that give users a way to log into their systems through Facebook.

The software bugs were particularly awkward for a company that takes pride in its engineering: The first two were introduced by an online tool meant to improve the privacy of users. The third was introduced in July 2017 by a tool meant to easily upload birthday videos.

Facebook said it had fixed the vulnerabilities and notified law enforcement officials. Company officials do not know the identity or the origin of the attackers, nor have they fully assessed the scope of the attack or if particular users were targeted. The investigation is still in its beginning stages.

“We’re taking it really seriously,” Mr. Zuckerberg, the chief executive, said in a conference call with reporters. “I’m glad we found this, but it definitely is an issue that this happened in the first place.”

# BA DATA BREACH: WHAT DOES THE BRITISH AIRWAYS HACK MEAN FOR CUSTOMERS?

“A very sophisticated, malicious attack”: that is how BA’s boss, Alex Cruz, described a security breach that allowed cyber criminals to steal personal and financial information from 380,000 customers who booked direct with the airline over a two-week spell.

Once again, a failure in British Airways’ IT system has caused massive problems for customers. These are the key questions and answers.

Q What happened?

Between 10.58pm on 21 August and 9.45pm on 5 September 2018, hackers stole the personal and financial details of people who booked flights on the ba.com website and the British Airways app.

The data breach was identified, according to BA, when “a third party noticed some unusual activity and informed us about it”. The airline informed the police and the Information Commissioner.

British Airways will not say who the third party was. But The Independent understands it was a company, possibly another airline, that was targeted with a high volume of attempted fraudulent transactions. It is not clear, though, how this was traced back to BA.

The airline says that once the theft was identified, ”We immediately acted to close down the issue, and started an investigation as a matter of urgency”.

Q Who does this affect?

An estimated 380,000 people who booked direct with the airline during the 15-day spell when security was breached. Bookings made outside this timeframe, or through travel agents, are unaffected.

Travellers who booked BA “code-share” flights through other airlines’ websites, such as Aer Lingus, American Airlines or Iberia have not had their details stolen.

Q What data was stolen, and what could it be used for?

When a passenger makes a booking through the British Airways website, they must submit their name, address and credit or debit card details. BA has confirmed that all bank card details were at risk: the number, expiry date and security code or “Card Verification Value” (CVV) on the back.

With this information, a fraudster has a range of options, from selling on the data to other criminals to cloning cards or making online purchases.

Because of the limited time before the fraud is uncovered, a popular way to extract value from stolen details is to buy plane tickets, typically for high-value, short-notice trips. That is why it is possible that another airline alerted British Airways to the fraud.

The airline stresses that “no passport or travel details were stolen”. That should mean that there is no connection between the name and address of the person and their planned dates for being away from home, nor for their passport data to be misused.

The nature of the stolen data suggests that it happened during the payment clearing stage of each transaction. The bank wants to check the name, address and card details, rather than the nature of the purchase.

Q What details have been stolen – and if my details were stolen, what do I need to do?

You should already have been contacted by British Airways and told: “If you believe you have been affected by this incident, then please contact your bank or credit card provider and follow their recommended advice.”

The bank may treat your card as physically stolen. The account remains the same, but the compromised card number is changed. That means considerable hassle providing new details to all the firms that automatically bill your credit or debit card.

American Express is telling holders of its British Airways-branded cards: “If you have used your American Express card to book with British Airways, we are monitoring your account for you.

“We have industry-leading fraud protection technology that is continually monitoring for any suspicious activity in order to safeguard you. Also, our cardmembers are never liable for any fraudulent charges on their accounts.”

If you report the theft of your card details as soon as you become aware, issuers will not charge you for financial transactions. Of course many of the people who bought flights may be away and uncontactable.

Nobody will be left out of pocket, according to BA, which says: “ The airline has guaranteed that financial losses suffered by customers directly because of the theft of this data from British Airways will be reimbursed.”

That appears to rule out claims from customers who incur costs such as loss of earnings from having to “reboot” their financial settings.

Q Will my flight booking be affected?

No. This appears purely to be a financial crime, and has no effect on the airline’s day-to-day operations.

Unlike in June, when thousands of passengers had their BA tickets cancelled and refunded after the airline said its fares system was supplying incorrect data, all bookings made during the affected spell should go ahead as normal.

Q What does this mean for British Airways?

It is another severe embarrassment related to the airline’s information technology systems. In July around 7,000 passengers had their flights to or from Heathrow cancelled after a failure of an IT system provided to BA by Amadeus.

In May 2017, a “power outage” triggered a collapse in the airline’s information systems and the cancellation of hundreds of flights over a bank holiday weekend.

As with that event, the costs from this data breach could run into tens of millions of pounds. In addition BA could face a stiff fine from the Information Commissioner.

After a cyber attack on TalkTalk in 2015, which affected fewer than half as many customers as BA’s breach, the telecom firm was fined £400,000. The commissioner’s line then was: “Hacking is wrong, but that is not an excuse for companies to abdicate their security obligations.”

I bought my BA ticket before the hack, but I flew during it. Is my data likely to be compromised?

No, the cyber theft affects only bookings made in the affected timeframe from 21 August to 5 September.

Anything else?

Beware: the British Airways breach is likely to trigger further attempts at cyber crime, with fraudsters sending out scam emails in a bid to obtain confidential information. BA says: ”British Airways will not be contacting any customers asking for payment card details, any such requests should be reported to the police and relevant authorities.”

# 2 Canadian banks hacked, 90,000 customers' data stolen

Two of Canada's largest banks, Bank of Montreal and the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce’s Simplii Financial, confirmed hackers stole the personal and financial data of thousands of customers.

Canada’s fourth and fifth largest bank confirmed that “fraudsters” stole the personal and financial information of some of the banks’ customers. Between the two banks, an estimated 90,000 customers have been affected.

Bank of Montreal breach

The Bank of Montreal (BMO), Canada’s fourth largest bank, issued the following statement confirming the breach:

On Sunday, May 27, fraudsters contacted BMO claiming that they were in possession of certain personal and financial information for a limited number of customers. We believe they originated the attack from outside the country. We took steps immediately when the incident occurred and we are confident that exposures identified related to customer data have been closed off. We have notified and are working with relevant authorities as we continue to assess the situation.

The bank is in the process of contacting affected customers and urged customers to monitor their accounts for any suspicious activity.

A spokesman for the bank told Reuters that “it believed that less than 50,000 of the bank’s 8 million customers across Canada were hacked. He declined to say if any customers lost money as a result of the attack.” The spokesman added that the attackers threatened to make the data public.

Simplii Financial breach

Simplii Financial, a subsidiary of the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, Canada’s fifth largest bank, also confirmed on Sunday that “fraudsters” claimed to have “electronically accessed certain personal and account information for approximately 40,000 of Simplii's clients.”

The bank implemented “enhanced online fraud monitoring and online banking security measures” and is investigating and verifying the accuracy of the hackers’ claims. Simplii said it intends to reach out to affected customers but urged all customers to use a complex password and PIN as well as monitor their accounts for suspicious activity.

Furthermore, there is “no indication” that clients of the main Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce were impacted.

It’s critical to know where you are in your transformation journey and what success looks like. Learn how to track progress and have clear IT goals and timelines here.

Why weren't banks using enhanced online security measures all along?

The Canadian Bankers Association told Bloomberg, “This past weekend’s cyber security incident is an extremely rare occurrence for Canadian banks, which are known for their leading cyber-security practices. The banks involved in claims of a potential data breach acted swiftly in response, launched full-scale investigations and took immediate action to enhance online security measures to protect customers.”

Yet Dr. Ann Cavoukian, the former privacy commissioner of Ontario, told the Financial Post, “When you’re dealing with financial information, you should have the highest level of privacy protection possible.”

Granted, both banks did take steps to enhance online security measures after being contacted by the attackers, but Cavoukian asked, “The question that begs is why weren’t you engaging in those measures all along?”

# Mother of Missing Daughter Found Guilty of Murder

An Oxnard woman was found guilty of second-degree murder in the death of her 3-year-old daughter, Kimberly Lopez.

# 4 arrested for robbery in Connaught Place

New Delhi, Dec 11 (PTI) With the arrest of four men, the police on Tuesday busted a gang of robbers who allegedly stole articles after breaking the glass window of parked vehicles around Connaught Place.

The accused have been identified as Varun (27), Vikas (19), Kishore (25) and Babu (34), they said.

A police team was constituted after two consecutive incidents of bag-lifting by breaking the glass windows of parked vehicles in Connaught Place was reported, police said.

Acting on a tip off, the accused were apprehended from Inderpuri area early in the morning while they were trying to dispose off the stolen articles, a senior police officer said.

The accused Vikas, Babu and Kishore confessed to their crime and revealed that they had supplied the stolen articles to accused Varun, said Madhur Verma, Deputy Commissioner of Police (New Delhi) said.

Investigations revealed that Babu, Vikas and Kishore usually visit National Capital Region to commit such crime, he said.

They target only the posh areas, busy markets, gold markets areas of NCR where high-level transactions are made and people carry, jewellery items, costly electronic gadgets, the officer said.

On their cursory search, Rs 5,00,000 cash, a mobile phone, 10 laptops, one revolver, two live cartridges, one arm license and many documents were recovered from their possession, the officer added.

# Hyderabad businessman robbed of Rs 1 crore in jewellery and cash by watchman, 3 others

The Hyderabad police have launched a manhunt to nab the watchman and his wife, and their two accomplices.

A Hyderabad-based businessman was reportedly robbed of Rs 1 crore worth of cash, diamonds and gold jewellery on Saturday, allegedly by the watchman and the watchman's wife. The Hyderabad police have launched a manhunt to nab the couple and their two accomplices.

Sunil Kumar Agarwal, a steel trader and resident of Abids, had gone out for dinner with his family on Saturday night, upon returning home they found the doors of the house were broken and items were stolen, according to reports. The police investigation revealed that his watchman Vikas and his wife Maya along with two accomplices were behind the robbery, according to the Times of India. CCTV footage from nearby locations showed the four of them fleeing in an auto rickshaw.

Vikas had joined as a watchman and his wife Maya as a domestic help at Sunil's residence just two months ago. According to Times of India, Sunil told police that the couple were polite and caring in their attitude. They had also allegedly refused the mobile gift from Sunil as the couple supposedly lived a simple life. The couple had been living in a two-room servant quarter on the ground floor of Sunil's residence, reports say.

Abids police reconstructed how the couple from Nepal carried out the robbery. Vikas and Maya were joined by two others soon after Sunil and his family left for dinner. Using a rod, they reportedly made a hole of the first-floor door to access the locks. After gaining entry they pried open the locked cupboards to steal the valuables.

The four then broke into Sunil’s office on the ground floor by breaking a glass. According to Deccan Chronicle, they also stole a digital video recorder.

“Though the couple during their stay claimed they do not have mobile phones, they lied to their employees. It appears they have a mobile phone, which they have been using secretly. Police teams have launched a manhunt for them,” said police sources to TOI.

# Indian American gas station owner shot, killed during robbery in Indiana

Indian American Praful Patel, 49, was shot and killed during a robbery inside of his Stop & Go gas station in Jeffersonville, Indiana on Thursday, October 11.

According to a WDRB report, police say that a female customer had called 911 claiming that she did not see anyone behind the counter and when police got there, they found Patel dead in the office area of the store.

Surveillance footage shows a light-skinned male entering the business at approximately 10:40 p.m., armed with a gun and holds Patel at gunpoint before shooting him and running away with the cash, according to police reports.

In the surveillance video, the suspect can be seen wearing a hooded sweatshirt with the hood drawn over his head and the drawstrings pulled tight to cover his face.

He was also wearing dark sweatpants.

The station, which is located across the street from Jeffersonville High School, normally closes at 11 p.m.

The investigation is ongoing.

# Two held in museum theft case, police say they wanted to get taste of Nizam luxury

According to the police, Ghouse planned the heist meticulously but did not plan how to dispose the valuables.

Police on Tuesday arrested two people on charges of stealing a golden tiffin box of the VIIth Nizam — made of pure gold and weighing 1,950 gm — a gold cup and saucer set and a gold spoon from the Nizam Museum in Hyderabad. The market value of the items is around Rs 1 crore, but their antique value would be about Rs 40 crore.

But selling off the items was not the first priority of accused Mohammed Ghouse Pasha, 23, and Mohammed Mubeen, 24, said S Chaitanya Kumar, Addl DCP, Commissioner’s Task Force, Hyderabad City. While they hid in a hotel in Mumbai, the duo, who are cousins and childhood friends, wanted to get a taste of how the Nizams dined in luxury, the Addl DCP said.

Ghouse told the police after his arrest Tuesday that first they wanted to get a feel of the luxury in which Nizams lived and that he and Mubeen relished eating from the tiffin box. “Ghouse and Mubeen are ‘shaukeens’. They grew up in Rajendra Nagar and dreamed of making it big in life someday. Mubeen became fascinated by the tiffin box after visiting the museum months ago. He said he wanted to feel like the Nizams who ate from golden plates. In the seven days since they stole the items, Ghouse and Mubeen bought food from outside and ate from the golden tiffin box with the golden spoon. They drank water from the golden tea cup,’’ said an inspector of the Task Force who questioned the duo.

# Apple Store In US Robbed Twice In Less Than 12 Hours

The eight suspects got off with $57,000 worth of demo iPhone models including the new iPhone XS and iPhone XS Max and various other products.

Electronics worth tens of thousands of dollars were stolen from the Palo Alto Apple store in California in almost 12 hours during the iPhone XS launch weekend, the media reported.

"According to Palo Alto police, the city's Apple store was first hit at 7PM on Saturday. In this round, the eight suspects got off with $57,000 worth of demo iPhone models including the new iPhone XS and iPhone XS Max and various other products. Immediately after the robbery, they fled in multiple vehicles," 9to5Mac reported late on yesterday.

In two days, the Palo Alto store was robbed of $107,000 worth of iPhones, computers and electronics.

Notably, burglaries at Apple stores have become common over the past few years, with suspects taking incredibly quick approaches to swiping expensive products.

The two robberies at the Palo Alto Apple store comes after last week's launch of the iPhone XS and super premium iPhone XS Max which attracted higher than average enthusiasts to Apple stores through the weekend.

Between late August and September, six Apple Stores in the region were reportedly robbed at least nine times.

On Sunday, an Apple Store in Santa Rosa area was also robbed for the second time in less than a month, according to Fox News.

# In brazen robberies, armed men strike at Baner-Bavdhan housing societies

PUNE: Panic gripped the residents of the Baner-Bavdhan area following three armed robberies in gated housing societies in the wee hours of Wednesday.

At 2am, 5-6 robbers came to Chandraneel housing society at Bavdhan in a white Santro car, tied up the security guards and broke open three locked apartments. They found the keys of another Santro car in one of the apartments and drove off in this vehicle besides the one they had come in. An FIR was registered in this case on Thursday. Around 3.10am, two white Santro cars carrying 5-6 masked men —seemingly the same robbers — entered two gated societies in the Baner area and broke into seven locked apartments in one society, Supriya Sankul, and two apartments in the second, Supriya Classic. Here too, they tied up the security guards at knifepoint before entering the apartments. CCTV footage has shown the robbers carrying machetes and knives.

While the management of Supriya Sankul has given a complaint application, no FIR has been registered as the police want the individual apartment owners to lodge complaints. Deputy commissioner of police (zone 4) Prasad Akkanouru said, “We will look into the matter. If there have been thefts, the flat owners concerned must come to the police station and an FIR will be registered.”

In brazen robberies, armed men strike at Baner-Bavdhan housing societies. The locked flat of Yogesh Rajput, chairman of Chandraneel society, was targeted by the robbers. “They drove their white Santro to the four-wheeler parking lot. After changing the direction of the CCTV camera here, they came to the two-wheeler parking lot on the ground floor and disconnected the CCTV camera there. They tied the guard and warned him against raising an alarm,” Rajput said.

The robbers then went to Rajput’s first floor apartment. “They broke the latch and lock. They took some jewellery from the bedroom but left the laptop which was on the sofa,” he said.

The robbers broke open an office on the second floor but found nothing. They took the keys of the other Santro car from an apartment on the third floor. They left after untying the security guard.

A little earlier, a 29-year-old IT professional was walking towards his rented apartment in the society after being dropped by the office cab. “I saw the guard sitting in the dark. When I approached him, one of the masked robbers came and put a knife to my neck. He was joined by the other robbers. I pleaded with them to let me go as I am diabetic. One of them then spoke in Marathi and asked the robber with the knife to release me,” he said.

The traumatised IT professional says he plans to give up the apartment and shift to a new locality. “One doesn’t except such things to happen in gated societies,” he said, adding that the robbers appeared to be young going by the tone of their voices.

Inspector Anand Pagare of the Hinjewadi police station said, “We have registered a case against unknown persons under sections 457 and 380 of the IPC. The man whose car was taken has given his statement while the man who lost his valuables will give his statement on Friday.” Mukund Mulay, a resident of Supriya Sankul, said seven flats were broken into in his society. “The robbers tied up our security guards and covered their faces with masks. They came in two white Santros, which is visible in the CCTV footage. Most of the apartments were empty, hence all they got was Rs 10,000 and a gold ring,” he said.

Mulay said the policemen who came to the society said they have been receiving complaints about such robberies in the area for the past 2-3 days. “One of them even said he had seen two white Santros in the area. The apartment owners are unwilling to lodge complaints, saying the amount taken from their houses is too little and they don’t want to get embroiled in police cases. Hence, the police too are not registering FIRs,” he added.

# Seven men arrested for HK$10 million robbery in Hong Kong’s Tsim Sha Tsui shopping district

Victims had just left a money exchanger when they were attacked

Hong Kong police have arrested seven men in connection with a HK$10 million (US$1.27 million) robbery that took place in a busy shopping district a week ago.

Five of the suspects were picked up in a series of raids carried out on Wednesday morning, according to police.

Acting chief inspector Chan Ka-ying of the Yau Tsim district crime squad said the other two men were arrested on Monday and Tuesday.

No money was recovered, she said, adding that investigations were ongoing and further arrests were expected.

The robbery happened on Middle Road, Tsim Sha Tsui, at about 7.15pm last Wednesday after three men withdrew HK$10 million from a money exchanger, put the cash in a suitcase and took it to their car.

Chan said five men approached the trio, and one robber used a glass bottle to attack one of the victims.

As the trio gave chase to the attacker, the suitcase was taken by two of the gang and loaded into a seven-seater car. The five robbers escaped on foot and the car was driven away by the sixth suspect before police arrived.

At about 10am on Wednesday, one of the suspects, who was hooded and handcuffed, was escorted by police back to the scene to reconstruct the crime.

A police spokesman said one of the seven men, aged 20, had been charged with one count of robbery and would appear in Kowloon City Court on Wednesday afternoon.