

**From:** (b) (6)  
**To:** (b) (6)  
**Subject:** FW: Information Provided by DHS Regarding Russian Scanning was Incorrect  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 27, 2017 12:49:59 PM

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**From:** Secretary of State, Press  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 27, 2017 2:58:05 PM  
**To:** Secretary of State, Press  
**Subject:** Information Provided by DHS Regarding Russian Scanning was Incorrect



**AP17:073**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**September 27, 2017**

**CONTACT:**

**Jesse Melgar or Sam Mahood**

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## **Information Provided by DHS Regarding Russian Scanning was Incorrect**

**SACRAMENTO** – California Secretary of State Alex Padilla issued the following statement.

“Last Friday, my office was notified by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) that Russian cyber actors 'scanned' California’s Internet-facing systems in 2016, including Secretary of State websites. Following our request for further information, it became clear that DHS’ conclusions were wrong.”

“DHS confirmed that Russian scanning activity had actually occurred on the California Department of Technology statewide network, not any Secretary of State website. Based on this additional information, California voters can further rest assured that the California Secretary of State elections infrastructure and websites were not hacked or breached by Russian cyber actors.”

“Our notification from DHS last Friday was not only a year late, it also turned out to be bad information. To make matters worse, the Associated Press similarly reported that DHS has reversed itself and 'now says Russia didn’t target Wisconsin’s voter registration system,' which is contrary to previous briefings.”

“The work of our intelligence agencies is critical in defending against cyber threats. I remain committed to a partnership with DHS and other intelligence agencies, however, elections officials and the American public expect and deserve timely and accurate information.”

###

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**Subject:** FW: Information Provided by DHS Regarding Russian Scanning was Incorrect  
**Date:** Thursday, September 28, 2017 12:40:00 PM

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Office of Infrastructure Protection

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**AP17:073**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**September 27, 2017**

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[DKersey@wvsos.com](mailto:DKersey@wvsos.com)  
<http://www.wvsos.com>

**WISCONSIN**

Michael Haas, Administrator  
Wisconsin Elections Commission  
212 East Washington Avenue, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
P.O. Box 7984  
Madison, WI 53707-7984  
(608) 261-8683 FAX (608) 267-0500  
[Michael.Haas@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Michael.Haas@wisconsin.gov)  
<http://elections.wi.gov>

**WYOMING**

Kai Schon, State Election Director  
Wyoming Secretary of State's Office  
2020 Carey Ave, Ste 600  
Cheyenne, WY 82002-0020  
307-777-3416 FAX (307) 777-7640  
[kai.schon@wyo.gov](mailto:kai.schon@wyo.gov)  
<http://soswy.state.wy.us/Elections/Elections.aspx>



## State Election Offices' E-mail Addresses for Felony Conviction Notices

Alabama	Voter.cancellations@vote.alabama.gov
Alaska	elections@alaska.gov
American Samoa	Asselect@samoatelco.com
Arizona	voterreg@azsos.gov
Arkansas	voterservices@sos.arkansas.gov
California	felonyconvictions@sos.ca.gov
Colorado	state.electiondivision@sos.state.co.us
Connecticut	LEAD@ct.gov
Delaware	COE_RESEARCH@state.de.us
Florida	bvrshelp@dos.state.fl.us
Georgia	gafelonlist@sos.ga.gov
Idaho	elections@sos.idaho.gov
Illinois	webmaster@elections.il.gov
Indiana	elections@iec.in.gov
Iowa	sos@sos.state.ia.us.
Kansas	election@sos.ks.gov
Kentucky	sbe.webmaster@ky.gov
Louisiana	elections@sos.louisiana.gov
Maine	cec.elections@maine.gov
Maryland	info@elections.state.md.us
Massachusetts	elections@sec.state.ma.us
Michigan	disclosure@michigan.gov
Minnesota	elections.dept@state.mn.us
Mississippi	federal.convictions@sos.ms.gov
Missouri	elections@sos.mo.gov
Montana	soselections@mt.gov
Nevada	nv_voterlist@sos.nv.gov
New Hampshire	NHVotes@sos.nh.gov
New Jersey	njelections@sos.state.nj.us
New York	info@elections.ny.gov
North Carolina	elections.sboe@ncsbe.gov.
North Dakota	soselect@nd.gov
Ohio	election@ohiosecretaryofstate.gov
Oklahoma	info@elections.ok.gov
Oregon	elections.sos@state.or.us
Pennsylvania	voterreg@state.pa.us
Rhode Island	www.elections.ri.gov



## State Election Offices' E-mail Addresses for Felony Conviction Notices

South Carolina	<a href="mailto:elections@elections.sc.gov">elections@elections.sc.gov</a>
South Dakota	<a href="mailto:elections@state.sd.us">elections@state.sd.us</a>
Tennessee	<a href="mailto:Shelley.adams@tn.gov">Shelley.adams@tn.gov</a>
Texas	<a href="mailto:elections@sos.state.tx.us">elections@sos.state.tx.us</a>
Utah	<a href="mailto:elections@utah.gov">elections@utah.gov</a>
Vermont	"Do not send to Vermont. State law allows felons to vote."
Virginia	<a href="mailto:verisoperations@sbe.virginia.gov">verisoperations@sbe.virginia.gov</a>
Washington State	<a href="mailto:VRSupport@sos.wa.gov">VRSupport@sos.wa.gov</a>
West Virginia	<a href="mailto:elections@wvsos.com">elections@wvsos.com</a>
Wisconsin	<a href="mailto:gabhhelpdesk@wi.gov">gabhhelpdesk@wi.gov</a>
Wyoming	<a href="mailto:elections@wyo.gov">elections@wyo.gov</a>

# Open Source ND Media Coverage

<http://www.inforum.com/news/government/4291508-nd-law-prevents-officials-giving-voter-info-trump-commission>

## ND law prevents officials from giving voter info to Trump commission

By [John Hageman](#) on Jun 30, 2017 at 3:17 p.m.

North Dakota deputy Secretary of State Jim Silrum discussed the impact of a proposed voter registration study at an interim meeting of the judiciary committee during the 2017 legislative session. Tom Stromme / Bismarck Tribune

BISMARCK—State law appears to prohibit North Dakota officials from providing voter information requested by a controversial commission examining "election integrity," a top state election official said Friday, June 30.

Deputy Secretary of State Jim Silrum said they received a letter from Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach, the vice chairman of the Presidential Advisory Commission on Election Integrity, that was sent to all 50 states requesting publicly available voter roll data, including names, addresses, voter history and the last four digits of Social Security numbers.

North Dakota is the only state without voter registration, so Silrum said they wouldn't provide that data. State law does allow them to provide certain information from the Central Voter File, however, but only to candidates, political parties and political committees, and they can only use it for "election-related purposes," he said.

"As the request in the letter is worded, it does not appear that ND law will allow us to provide information from the CVF," Silrum said in an email.

The commission, which was created through an executive order signed by President Donald Trump this year, asked for the data so it can "fully analyze vulnerabilities and issues related to voter registration and voting." The request raised alarms over privacy and drew condemnation from election officials elsewhere.

Minnesota Secretary of State Steve Simon said he "will not hand over Minnesota voters' sensitive personal information to the commission." He also questioned the commission's credibility and called Trump's claim that millions voted illegally last year "false and irresponsible."

A 2015 document from the North Dakota Secretary of State's Office argues voter fraud is "possible" here but acknowledges there haven't been incidents of widespread fraud. A new voter ID law is set to go into effect Saturday.

The Washington Post contributed to this article.

**From:** DataBreachToday Enews  
**To:** (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Chinese Cybersecurity Workers Hacked Firms, US Charges  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 29, 2017 12:19:22 PM

Chinese Cybersecurity Workers Hacked Firms, US Charges | DevOps - Security's Big Opportunity  
[View the online version »](#)



**E-News**  
November 29, 2017

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NEWS

## Chinese Cybersecurity Workers Hacked Firms, US Charges

*by Jeremy Kirk*

The U.S. government has charged three employees of Chinese cybersecurity firm Boysec with stealing valuable intellectual property from Siemens, Moody's Analytics and Trimble. Security researchers say Boysec has been operating since 2007 and is also known as APT 3 and Gothic Panda.

WEBINAR

## DevOps - Security's Big Opportunity

*by Veracode*

NEWS

## Anatomy of a Threat: Cryptocurrencies in the Crosshairs

*by Tom Field*

WEBINAR

## How Are Increasing Cybersecurity Regulations Impacting Your Vendor Risk Management Strategy?

*by BitSight*

BLOG

## Russia's Accused Hacker Repeat Play: Extradition Tug of War

*by Mathew J. Schwartz*

WHITE PAPER

## The GDPR Checklist in 4 Easy Questions

*Presented by Diligent*

NEWS

## Imgur Warns: Old Breach Compromised 1.7 Million Accounts

*by Jeremy Kirk*



**From:** The Seattle Times  
**To:** (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Friday Morning Brief: Flynn's guilty plea over Russia; is Leach leaving WSU?  
**Date:** Friday, December 1, 2017 10:43:00 AM

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A weekday roundup of your need-to-know news. [View in browser.](#)



**The Sounders are headed back to the MLS Cup.** They throttled the Houston Dynamo last night, [advancing on a 5-0 aggregate score](#). It sets up a rematch of last year's final in Toronto, and [we all know how that ended](#). Columnist Larry Stone [says the Sounders are proving their success is no fluke](#). (Dean Rutz / The Seattle Times)

## NEED TO KNOW

**Breaking news: Michael Flynn**, President Donald Trump's former national security adviser, is pleading guilty this morning to lying to the FBI about Russia. [Follow along for updates](#). Lots of other D.C. news:

- **A crucial final vote on taxes** could come [today in the Senate](#) after GOP leaders made major changes to their bill behind closed doors last night. What started as a tax cut [could change American life](#) and add \$1 trillion to the nation's deficit.
- **Trump may boot** Rex Tillerson and replace him with CIA Director Mike Pompeo. The [exceedingly rare firing of a secretary of state](#) would have all kinds of domino effects.

NEWS

## Canadian Hacker-for-Hire for Russia Pleads Guilty

by Mathew J. Schwartz

WHITE PAPER

## What Makes a SOC Effective? Fusing People, Processes and Technology

Presented by LogRhythm

NEWS

## Zeus Banking Trojan Spawn: Alive and Kicking

by Mathew J. Schwartz

Presented by Cisco

NEWS

## Lawsuit: Hospitals Lied About Providing Quick Records Access

by Marianne Kolbasuk McGee

WHITE PAPER

## Continuous Diagnostics and Mitigation (CDM) from the Frontlines

Presented by Tenable

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## Being Compliant is Not Being Secure - Your Business is Still at Risk!

*by Arctic Wolf Networks*

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The latest news, interviews and analysis from the ISMG network.



**Apple's High Sierra  
Stumble Elicits Humor  
- And Worry**



**Imgur Warns: Old  
Breach Compromised  
1.7 Million Accounts**



**Russia's Accused  
Hacker Repeat Play:  
Extradition Tug of War**



**GDPR Countdown:  
Preparing for  
Enforcement**



**Anatomy of a Threat:  
Cryptocurrencies in the  
Crosshairs**



**2018 Outlook: The IoT  
Threat to Healthcare**





WEBINAR

## Data Protection in the Changing Payments Landscape

by Micro Focus

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**Fast and Furious Data Breach Scandal Overtakes Uber**



**Researcher Spars With Drone Maker DJI Over Security Flaws**



**Assessing the ISMG Healthcare Security Summit**



**Kaspersky Blames NSA Analyst For US Intel Leak**



**Business Case: Bug Hunters Need Better Financial Incentives**



**White House Unveils New Rules on Divulging IT Security Flaws**

## Featured Jobs

### Chief Information Security Officer

The University of Mississippi Medical Center - Jackson, MS

### Chief Privacy Officer - Intuit - Mountain View, CA

Intuit - Mountain View, CA

### VP Chief Information Security Officer - Peoples Bank - Marietta, OH

Peoples Bank - Marietta, OH

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**From:** (b) (6)  
**To:** (b) (6)  
**Cc:** (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Acting DHS Secretary's Testimony on Election Infrastructure Outreach  
**Date:** Thursday, September 28, 2017 2:13:26 PM

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From Acting DHS Secretary's Senate testimony on election infrastructure outreach.

DUKE, WRAY DISCUSS ELECTION SYSTEMS HACKING, CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE WITH SENATE COMMITTEE. During testimony on Wednesday before the Senate Homeland Security Committee about election systems hacking, NextGov <<http://www.nextgov.com/cybersecurity/2017/09/dhs-chief-well-do-better-next-time-election-meddling/141329/?oref=ng-HPriver>> (9/27, Marks) reports acting DHS Secretary Elaine Duke explained that the department "notified the states back when the intrusion occurred. ... What we learned from that and what we're correcting is we notified the systems' owners and didn't necessarily notify the right senior officials that need to take action." DHS "won't make the same mistake during the 2018 election cycle, Duke told members of the Senate Homeland Security Committee." Duke also explained that DHS possesses the resources to secure elections systems during the 2018 election cycle, but some states are re



**From:** DataBreachToday Enews  
**To:** (b) (6)  
**Subject:** DHS Official: No Proof Kaspersky Software Used to Hack Fed IT  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 15, 2017 11:59:57 AM

DHS Official: No Proof Kaspersky Software Used to Hack Fed IT | Targeted Attacks in Office 365 - Risks & Opportunities  
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**E-News**  
November 15, 2017

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NEWS

## DHS Official: No Proof Kaspersky Software Used to Hack Fed IT

*by Eric Chabrow*

A top DHS cybersecurity official says she has seen no conclusive evidence that Russian-owned Kaspersky Lab's security software had been exploited to breach federal information systems. Jeanette Manfra told a House panel most agencies have complied with a directive to stop using Kaspersky software.

WEBINAR

## Targeted Attacks in Office 365 - Risks & Opportunities

*by Barracuda Networks*

NEWS

## Fraudster Repellant: How eBay's Gumtree Polices

WEBINAR

## How Are Increasing Cybersecurity Regulations Impacting Your Vendor Risk Management Strategy?

*by BitSight*

INTERVIEW

## PCI Council Developing Software Standards

*by Tracy Kitten*

WEBINAR

## GDPR is Real. GDPR is Global. GDPR Preparedness is NOW.

*by Digital Guardian*

NEWS

## Hackers Claim to Defeat iPhone X 'Face ID' Authentication

**From:** (b) (6)  
**To:** (b) (6)  
**Subject:** FW: Critical Informatics IT security news blast - 12-23-2016  
**Date:** Friday, December 23, 2016 11:37:29 AM  
**Attachments:** [image002.png](#)

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FYI:

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**From:** (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Friday, December 23, 2016 9:54 AM  
**To:** (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Critical Informatics IT security news blast - 12-23-2016

**Report: Average Annual Salary of U.S. CISO is \$273,033**

While CISOs located in the South earned the lowest annual salary of the group (\$199,976), those in the West earned the highest at \$290,750. Of the 74 respondents, 46 shared that they were the first to hold the CISO position at their company. More than half of the respondents said they would be open to accept a new role in 2017. When it comes to influencing factors, 38 percent shared that salary increases was the top motivator, while others indicated that more access to the board and the C-suite, and equity stake mattered most.

<http://misti.com/infosec-news-in-a-minute/report-average-annual-salary-of-u-s-ciso-is-273-033>

**Black market medical record prices drop to under \$10, criminals switch to ransomware**

Hackers are now offering stolen records at between \$1.50 and \$10 each, said Anthony James, CMO at San Mateo, Calif.-based security firm TrapX, the company that produced the report. That down a bit since this summer, when a hacker offered 10 million patient records for about \$820,000 -- or about \$12 per record -- and even a bigger drop from 2012, when the World Privacy Forum put the street value of medical records at around \$50 each. That's because the average profit per record was about \$20,000. The information in medical records can be used for medical billing fraud as well as identity theft and other big-money scams.

<http://www.networkworld.com/article/3153265/malware-cybercrime/black-market-medical-record-prices-drop-to-under-10-criminals-switch-to-ransomware.html>

**Cyber Security ETFs in Focus After Yahoo Hack Report**

The cyber security market is growing rapidly owing to an increase in organizations adopting cyber security solutions. The cyber security market is expected to be worth \$122.45 billion in 2016 and is expected to grow to \$202.36 billion by 2021, as per a research report from Research and Markets. This implies an impressive compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 10.6%. As the industry is flourishing with ample growth potential in the years to come, many investors may want to jump into the space to tap the spending boom and growing demand for cyber security.

<https://www.zacks.com/stock/news/243362/cyber-security-etfs-in-focus-after-yahoo-hack-report>

**Lawyers can no longer leave cyber security to the IT manager**

Any dereliction of our client obligations to protect privileged material is bound, at some point, to end up before a conduct commissioner, where we will be asked whether, in this digital age, we have done all we can to adhere to our professional obligations. When looked at in that light, the question

is by no means one of concern purely for the IT manager. And covering up a cyber breach is not an option. It is squarely about our professional conduct in a time when paper is no more, digital is everything and crime is virtual.

<http://indaily.com.au/opinion/2016/12/22/lawyers-can-no-longer-leave-cyber-security-to-the-it-manager/>

### **Cyber doomsday is coming: Experts warn the ENTIRE internet could go down for 24 hours as cyber criminals ramp up attacks**

According to US technology security vendor LogRhythm, a cyber-attack of this scale next year isn't only possible, but extremely likely. [...] 'In 2017, we're going to see it hit big sometime, somewhere,' LogRhythm's VP and chief information security officer, James Carder has said. This wouldn't just interrupt your evening's Netflix session or Facebook addiction either, but could have globally catastrophic consequences. 'If the internet goes down, financial markets will tank,' Carder added. <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-4059526/Experts-warn-ENTIRE-internet-24-hours-cyber-criminals-ramp-attacks-web.html>

### **Russian cyber warfare 'part of modern life' amid claims political campaigns are targets**

Now Foreign Office Minister Sir Alan Duncan has claimed Moscow is targeting political campaigns with hi-tech attacks. Sir Alan told the Commons Foreign Affairs Committee: "There's no doubt that, using modern technology, they are interfering in many parts of the world. "We just have to accept it as a fact that cyber warfare is now a part of modern life and the Russians are using it as best they can in a political dimension, not just in the commercial one.

<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/russian-cyber-warfare-part-modern-9491668>

### **Russian Cyber-Espionage Group Tracked Ukrainian Military Using Android Malware**

A cyber-espionage group linked to the Russian military has developed Android malware which it used to infect the smartphones of Ukrainian soldiers and track Ukrainian field artillery units, according to a report released today by CrowdStrike. [...] According to independent reports, Ukrainian forces lost 50% of all their artillery weapons in the last two years, since the war started in 2014. Most conspicuous is that Ukraine lost 80% of its arsenal of D-30 Howitzer guns. The Sofacy malware's Android variant has the ability to spy on its victims by transmitting geo-location data back to the Fancy Bears servers.

<https://www.bleepingcomputer.com/news/security/russian-cyber-espionage-group-tracked-ukrainian-military-using-android-malware/>

### **Could US-Russia feud over hacks lead to digital detente?**

Some efforts to establish dos and don'ts in cyberspace seem to be working. For instance, international efforts to curb cybercrime have been effective in some cases. Numerous reports have indicated that Chinese intrusions into US companies declined after an agreement to cut down on cyberenabled corporate espionage last year. A similar agreement between the Group of 20 countries expanded those protections internationally. When it comes to Russia, however, forging any kind of bilateral agreement when it comes to cyberintrusions may prove difficult in the wake of the the election hacking allegations.

<http://www.csmonitor.com/World/Passcode/2016/1221/Could-US-Russia-feud-over-hacks-lead-to-digital-detente>



### **Siemens Patches Insufficient Entropy Vulnerability in ICS Systems**

"A successful exploitation of this vulnerability could allow an attacker to recover private keys used for HTTPS in the integrated web server," according to the advisory. A list of affected Desigo PX Web modules include PXA40-W0, PXA40-W1, PXA40-W2 for Desigo PX automation controllers PXC00-E.D, PXC50-E.D, PXC100-E.D, PXC200-E.D. Siemens also listed Web modules PXA30-W0, PXA30-W1, PXA30-W2 for Desigo PX automation controllers PXC00-U, PXC64-U, PXC128-U. In all of the cases, impacted are modules running firmware versions prior to V6.00.046.

<https://threatpost.com/siemens-patches-insufficient-entropy-vulnerability-in-ics-systems/122699/>

### **Dronejacking may be the latest cyber threat, warns Intel's cyber security company**

"Someone looking to 'dronejack' deliveries could find a location with regular drone traffic and wait for the targets to appear," the report said. "Once a package delivery drone is overhead, the drone could be sent to the ground, allowing the criminal to steal the package." The researchers said criminals may also look to steal expensive photographic equipment carried by drones and to knock out surveillance cameras used by law enforcement. Intel said it expects to see dronejacking "toolkits" traded on the dark web in 2017.

<http://www.scmp.com/lifestyle/article/2054841/dronejacking-may-be-latest-cyber-threat-warns-intels-cyber-security>

### **Incentives need to change for firms to take cyber-security more seriously**

What is more, the epidemic of cybercrime is best tackled by sharing information. A successful cyber-attack on one company can be used against another. Yet it is tempting for firms to keep quiet about security breaches. That suggests a role for government. Researchers draw an analogy with public health, where one person's negligence can harm everyone else—which is why governments regulate everything from food hygiene to waste disposal. Some places are planning minimum computer-security standards, and will fine firms that fail to comply. The IoT has also revived the debate about ending the software industry's long-standing exemption from legal liability for defects in its products.

<http://www.economist.com/news/leaders/21712138-software-developers-and-computer-makers-do-not-necessarily-suffer-when-their-products-go>

### **Will Trump Hinder Congress's Russian Cyberattack Probe?**

Trump has downplayed the Russian hacks so far, and if he maintains that stance he could clash with Republicans in Congress if they participate in a select committee that proposes actions against the Kremlin. "The president is not bound by the findings, nor does he have to agree with it," Hennessey said. "To the extent the committee's report includes classified information, he does have some control over what can be made public." Tama said Trump could also limit the degree to which the executive branch cooperates with a select committee investigation.

<http://www.newsweek.com/will-trump-hinder-congress-russian-cyberattack-probe-534582>

### **Russia Wants Apple to Unlock iPhone belonging to Killer of Russian Ambassador**

Russian Ambassador Andrei Karlov was shot dead by an off-duty police officer in Ankara on December 19 when the ambassador was giving a speech at an art gallery. [...] Turkish and Russian authorities have asked Apple to help them bypass the PIN code on an iPhone 4S, which, the

authorities believe, could assist them to investigate killer's links to various terrorist organizations. Apple is expected to refuse the request, but according to MacReports and other local media, the Russian government is reportedly sending a team of experts to Turkey to help authorities unlock the iPhone.

<http://thehackernews.com/2016/12/russian-ambassador-assassination.html>

### **Federal report: AI could threaten up to 47 percent of jobs in two decades**

While the report notes the significant potential for wealth gains from increased productivity due to AI, it also warns of threats to existing jobs and an exacerbation of the wage inequality between lower-skilled, less-educated workers and those with higher skills. [...] In recent decades, automation has already claimed occupations such as those of switchboard operators, filing clerks, travel agents, and assembly line workers, and it is now on the cusp of replacing driving-related occupations such as taxi and Uber drivers. Automation will probably move into the trucking industry within a decade (3.8 million US jobs are related to driving). Some fast food restaurants are also experimenting with kiosks and automated ordering systems.

<http://arstechnica.com/business/2016/12/federal-report-ai-could-threaten-up-to-47-percent-of-jobs-in-two-decades/>

### **Data Breach: Anonymous hacks Thai Navy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs**

The cyber attack was conducted under the operation "OpSingleGateway" against the recently passed cyber-scrutiny law in the country. [...] To protest against the law, the hacktivist group is claiming to have leaked personal details including official and National ID cards of more than 3000 employees from MFA and TICA. [...] Anonymous is also claiming to have gotten their hands on even more sensitive data which will be leaked in the coming days. The hacktivists are also urging Thai citizens to stand against the cyber security laws that apparently is against the freedom of speech in the country.

<https://www.hackread.com/anonymous-hacks-thailand-navy-foreign-affairs/>

### **Anonymous' Barrett Brown Is Free—and Ready to Pick New Fights**

Today, just a few weeks after Brown walked out of Texas's Three Rivers Federal Correctional Institute, Anonymous has shrunk to a thin imitation of the hacker army it once was. But with or without the hacktivist group that he championed, Brown can't imagine a better time to resume his work as a journalist and radical information agitator. "When things deteriorate, when the system destroys itself as it's doing right now and does so in such an obvious and disgusting way, my ideas seem less crazy," he says.

<https://www.wired.com/2016/12/anonymous-barrett-brown-free-ready-pick-new-fights/>

(b) (6)  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Critical Informatics Inc.

<http://www.CriticalInformatics.com>



**From:** (b) (6)  
**To:** (b) (6)  
**Subject:** FW: Critical Informatics IT Security news blast - 12-22-2016  
**Date:** Thursday, December 22, 2016 11:03:02 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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FYI

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**From:** (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 22, 2016 10:18:45 AM  
**To:** (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Critical Informatics IT Security news blast - 12-22-2016

#### **Danger Close: Fancy Bear Tracking of Ukrainian Field Artillery Units**

From late 2014 and through 2016, FANCY BEAR X-Agent implant was covertly distributed on Ukrainian military forums within a legitimate Android application developed by Ukrainian artillery officer Yaroslav Sherstuk.

- The original application enabled artillery forces to more rapidly process targeting data for the Soviet-era D-30 Howitzer employed by Ukrainian artillery forces reducing targeting time from minutes to under 15 seconds. According to Sherstuk's interviews with the press, over 9000 artillery personnel have been using the application in Ukrainian military.
- Open source reporting indicates that Ukrainian artillery forces have lost over 50% of their weapons in the 2 years of conflict and over 80% of D-30 howitzers, the highest percentage of loss of any other artillery pieces in Ukraine's arsenal.

<https://www.crowdstrike.com/blog/danger-close-fancy-bear-tracking-ukrainian-field-artillery-units/>

#### **Data breach exposes info for 400,000 Community Health Plan members**

Almost 400,000 current and former members of the **Community Health Plan of Washington** have had personal information, including Social Security numbers, exposed in a data breach. [...] The incident began when someone left a phone message with the agency on Nov. 7. McGuire said she doesn't have information about that person's identity or motive. The caller, McGuire said, just indicated that they had identified a vulnerability in the computer network of the firm that provides the organization with technical services. [...] After the phone message last month, the organization hired a forensics investigator who confirmed that members' records were accessed without authorization.

<http://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/health/data-breach-exposes-info-for-400000-community-health-plan-members/>

#### **Spear Phishing Attacks Target Industrial Firms**

Most of the organizations attacked in the campaigns are vendors of industrial automation solutions and system support contractors, such as companies that design, build and provide solutions for critical infrastructure, a blog post published on the recently launched Kaspersky Lab ICS CERT site explains. [...] Attachments to the malicious emails included RTF files containing an exploit for the CVE-2015-1641 vulnerability, an older vulnerability in Microsoft Office that was patched in April 2015.

<http://www.securityweek.com/spear-phishing-attacks-target-industrial-firms-kaspersky-lab-ics-cert>

#### **'Alice' Malware Loots ATMs**

Unlike other ATM malware samples that Trend Micro has analyzed, the only function that Alice has is one that it uses to connect to the currency dispenser peripheral in the ATM. Alice makes no attempt to connect to other ATM hardware such as the machine's PIN pad, so it's not controlled by commands issued via the PIN pad. It also has no elaborate install or uninstall process, and works simply by running the executable in the target environment.

<http://www.darkreading.com/vulnerabilities---threats/alice-malware-loots-atms/d/d-id/1327773?>

#### **U.S. government loses to Russia's disinformation campaign: advisers**



Over the last several years, U.S. intelligence agencies tracked Russia's use of coordinated hacking and disinformation in Ukraine and elsewhere, the advisers and intelligence experts said, but there was little sustained, high-level government conversation about the risk of the propaganda coming to the United States. During the presidential election it did - to an extent that may have altered the outcome, the security sources said. But U.S. officials felt limited in investigating Russian-supported propaganda efforts because of free speech guarantees in the Constitution. A former White House official cautioned that any U.S. government attempt to counter the flow of foreign state-backed disinformation through deterrence would face major political, legal and moral obstacles.

<https://www.yahoo.com/amphtml/news/u-government-loses-russias-disinformation-campaign-advisers-222832225.html>

#### **An Election Hacking Select Committee Carries Both Promise and Risk**

If the Senate does this right, the committee could serve as a counter-weight to the intelligence and armed services committees, which may favor giving spy agencies and the military extraordinary new authority to secure domestic networks in the private sector. Such authority should lie with a private sector actor, with assistance on a voluntary basis from a civilian entity, the Department of Homeland Security. There is a risk that new responsibility in a military or intelligence agency to secure domestic civilian networks would come with new domestic surveillance authority in the cyber realm. Crucially, if the select committee does it wrong, it runs the risk of being the agent of these new surveillance powers.

<https://cdt.org/blog/an-election-hacking-select-committee-carries-both-promise-and-risk/>

#### **Blog: Greater Integration Across the EMS Needed for Battlefield Dominance**

Assuring information dominance across the spectrum is an imperative that cannot be overlooked. Properly linking EW and cyber systems for multidomain operations will be needed to overcome rapidly evolving technical challenges. Access to information and flexible capabilities at operational speed is necessary to address the next phase of operational threats and adversarial technologies.

<http://www.afcea.org/content/?q=Blog-greater-integration-across-ems-needed-battlefield-dominance>

#### **Cyber attacks, lone wolves and Russia among biggest threats to Denmark**

DDIS also warned that Russia not only poses a physical threat, but in cyberspace as well. The agency warns that the "cyber threat against Denmark is very high and it is an ongoing threat in which Danish authorities and enterprises are continuously attacked by cyber espionage attempts". Beyond espionage, the agency also said that cyber attacks from Russia and other foreign states could be used to "influence public opinion" in Denmark and other Western countries.

<http://www.thelocal.dk/20161221/cyber-attacks-lone-wolves-and-russia-among-biggest-threats-to-denmark>

#### **Cyber Attack: The Next Frontier is the One You Don't See**

It's already happening, of course. Within the last few weeks, hundreds of thousands of Deutsche Telekom customers in Germany had their broadband service cut off following a hack-attack on its hardware. At one point, as many as 900,000 people suffered internet outages. That number fell to 400,000 as security measures were implemented. [...] Security experts were, naturally, expecting this kind of thing.

<http://www.iotevolutionworld.com/iot/articles/428188-cyber-attack-next-frontier-the-one-dont-see.htm>

#### **What the infosec jobs sector will look like in 2017 [Registration]**

The complexity curve facing enterprises hasn't reached its peak yet, which leaves security stuck solving problems of capacity and capability with limited resources already burdened with too many technologies, too many alerts, and too much to do. This combined spending will include security outsourcing, managed security services, security consultants and integrators, and security automation technologies. Read on to see security vendors' and experts' opinions on what a career in infosec will look like next year.

<http://www.csoononline.com/article/3152386/it-careers/what-the-infosec-jobs-sector-will-look-like-in-2017.html>

#### **Encryption App 'Signal' Fights Censorship With a Clever Workaround**

Signal's new anti-censorship feature uses a trick called "domain fronting," Marlinspike explains. A country like

Egypt, with only a few small internet service providers tightly controlled by the government, can block any direct request to a service on its blacklist. But clever services can circumvent that censorship by hiding their traffic inside of encrypted connections to a major internet service, like the content delivery networks (CDNs) that host content closer to users to speed up their online experience—or in Signal’s case, Google’s App Engine platform, designed to host apps on Google’s servers.

<https://www.wired.com/2016/12/encryption-app-signal-fights-censorship-clever-workaround/>

#### **Report: Shadow Brokers Leaks Trace to NSA Insider**

On Aug. 27, the FBI arrested now-former NSA contractor Harold T. Martin III - previously employed by Booz Allen Hamilton - on charges that include the unauthorized removal and retention of classified materials (see NSA Contractor Accused of Taking Top-Secret Documents). Authorities have accused Martin of removing more than 50 terabytes of data. They told The Washington Post in October that Martin is the prime suspect in the Shadow Brokers dumps. But the dumps, all signed with the same PGP key, have continued following his arrest and incarceration.

<http://www.bankinfosecurity.com/report-shadow-brokers-leaks-trace-to-nsa-insider-a-9596>

#### **How to take vehicle cybersecurity further than the government suggests**

Three important security elements currently missing in the NHTSA’s guidance, according to Thales, involve supply chain control, authentication throughout the cybersecurity component and assembly process, and protecting the manufacturing process itself. [...] An authentication system should be developed for all levels of component suppliers to be sure that the only components used in systems are those that can be accurately authenticated. In addition, if factory floor security controls aren’t protected, remote access and production modification could subvert the system, either adding faults or malicious code.

<https://www.yahoo.com/tech/vehicle-cybersecurity-further-government-suggests-181300364.html>

#### **AT&T unveils network-level robocall blocking, call spam warnings**

Named Call Protect, the service blocks some fraud calls at the network level before they reach customers' phones. In other cases, when it's less clear whether the call is fraudulent, Call Protect doesn't block the call but shows "suspected spam warnings on the incoming call screen which let customers choose whether or not to answer calls that originate from a suspected spam source," AT&T's announcement said.

<http://arstechnica.com/information-technology/2016/12/att-unveils-network-level-robocall-blocking-call-spam-warnings/>

#### **NIST requests ideas for crypto that can survive quantum computers**

The Notice therefore calls for the development of “... new public-key cryptography standards will specify one or more additional unclassified, publicly disclosed digital signature, public-key encryption, and key-establishment algorithms that are capable of protecting sensitive government information well into the foreseeable future, including after the advent of quantum computers.”

[http://www.theregister.co.uk/2016/12/22/nist\\_requests\\_ideas\\_for\\_crypto\\_that\\_can\\_survive\\_quantum\\_computers/](http://www.theregister.co.uk/2016/12/22/nist_requests_ideas_for_crypto_that_can_survive_quantum_computers/)

#### **Beware: Android Super Mario Run is Actually Malware; Don’t Download It**

Much to their dismay, the android version of Super Mario, which is available on third-party android app stores, is actually a phony app that contains malware. There isn’t just one but various such apps floating across unreliable app stores. One of the apps is named Super Mario; it obtains complete control of the device after asking for edit, read and receive/send text messages privileges and go as far as capturing images and videos along with using the phone’s GPS to track your location.

<https://www.hackread.com/android-super-mario-is-actually-malware/>

#### **Russian hacking of 2016 U.S. elections threatens to “destroy democracy”: Sen. McCain**

“This is the sign of a possible unraveling of the world order that was established after World War II, which has made one of the most peaceful periods in the history of the world,” McCain told CNN. “We’re starting to see the strains and the unraveling of it, and that is because of the absolute failure of American leadership. “This is serious

business. If [Russia is] able to harm the electoral process, they may destroy democracy, which is based on free and fair elections. "When America doesn't lead, a lot of other bad people do."  
<http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20161221-russian-hacking-of-2016-u-s-elections-threatens-to-destroy-democracy-sen-mccain>

### **The Most Dangerous People on the Internet in 2016**

A Russian dictator has evolved his tactics from suppressing internet dissent to using online media for strategic leaks and disinformation. A media mogul who rose to prominence on a wave of hateful bile now sits at the right hand of the president. And a man who a year ago was a reality television star and Twitter troll is now the leader of the free world.  
<https://www.wired.com/2016/12/dangerous-people-internet-2016/>

### **Netflix US Twitter account hacked**

"Don't worry we are just testing your security," one of the since-deleted tweets posted to the Netflix account said, the BBC reports. El Reg has invited OurMine to comment on how and why it hijacked the Netflix US Twitter account but we've yet to hear back. It's reasonable to think the Netflix's social media team hadn't enabled two factor-authentication, the best defence against these types of shenanigans, on the account, but this remains unconfirmed.  
[http://www.theregister.co.uk/2016/12/21/netflix\\_twitter\\_hijack/](http://www.theregister.co.uk/2016/12/21/netflix_twitter_hijack/)

### **15 of the Best WordPress Plugins to Keep Your Site Secure**

Unlike other online platforms for blog, it could be a problem for WordPress and though it's got strong security features, nothing's set in stone. Thus, your priority should be to ascertain the safety of your blog and deter hackers from stealing and altering your private information. You wouldn't want all your effort to go to waste, would you? Take a look at the top 15 WordPress plugins that are used by bloggers around the world to beef up the security of their site.  
<https://hacked.com/15-best-wordpress-plugins-to-keep-your-site-secure/>

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# THE HOMELAND SECURITY *NEWS BRIEFING*

PREPARED FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY BY BULLETIN INTELLIGENCE [WWW.BULLETININTELLIGENCE.COM/DHS](http://WWW.BULLETININTELLIGENCE.COM/DHS)

**TO: THE SECRETARY AND SENIOR STAFF**  
**DATE: THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2017 5:00 AM EST**

## TODAY'S EDITION

### Leading DHS News

Nielsen Faces Senate Committee For Confirmation Hearing..... 3

### DHS News

GAO: Border Patrol Losing Agents Faster Than It Can Hire Them..... 5

### Aviation Security

TSA Under Fire For Poor Results In DHS Security Tests. .... 5

Pekoske Discusses CT Scanners With House Committee. .... 5

TSA Testing New Screening Procedures At Denver Airport. .... 5

Phoenix Airport Security Checkpoints Reopened After Suspicious Item Investigation..... 5

### Border Security

DHS Considers Blockchain Usage At Border. .... 5

Border Businesses Impacted By Clogged Ports. .... 5

### Immigration Policy

Continuing Coverage: US Ends TPS For Nicaraguans, Protections For Other Latin American Countries Ending Soon..... 6

United We Dream Organizing Thursday Rallies. .... 6

Gates Argues Against Ending DACA. .... 6

Some California Democrats Vow Government Shutdown Without DACA Fix. .... 6

US To No Longer Accept Applications For Special Central American Minor Refugee Program..... 6

Kent Residents Reject Sanctuary Amendment. .... 7

California Advocates Set Up Immigration Hotline. .... 7

Continuing Coverage: Somali Refugee Sues To Have Family Join Him In US. .... 7

Hoover Institution Fellow Examines Immigration Terminology..... 7

American Immigration Council: Immigrants Make Up "Vital Share" Of Tennessee Work Force. .... 7

Opinion: Diversity Visa Program Is "Misguided." ..... 7

Administration Tightens Cuba Embargo, Restricts Travel Access. .... 7

### Immigration Enforcement

Deported Dreamer Arrested Trying To Sneak Back Into US..... 8

Lawsuit Over Removing DACA Protections Can Proceed. .... 8

ACLU Seeks Release Of 300 Iraqi Detainees. .... 8

TRAC: ICE Exaggerates Success Of Secure Communities Program..... 9

The New Yorker: Immigrant's Trip To Family Court Results In Arrest. .... 9

Continuing Coverage: Massachusetts Woman Taken Into ICE Custody..... 9

Virginia Advocates Oppose 287(g)..... 9

ICE Arrests Five In Western Massachusetts..... 9

ICE Arrests Five Released In New York City. .... 10

Eighteen Arrested In Michigan Operation. .... 10

Tenth Circuit Court Of Appeals To Hear Arguments In Geo Group Lawsuit..... 10

Immigration Lawsuit Against Illinois Sheriff Dismissed..... 10



Advocate: 95 Vietnamese-Americans May Face Deportation.....	10
Taylor: Richmond Jail Should Be Investigated.....	10
<b>Criminal Investigations</b>	
Canadian Firearms Expert Testifies For Defense In Steinle Murder Trial.....	10
Continuing Coverage: Mexican-Nationals Sentenced To Life In Prison For Murder, Attempted Murder Of ICE Officers.....	10
Continuing Coverage: DHS “Remains Silent” About New Hampshire, Massachusetts Operations.....	11
<b>Emergency Response</b>	
FEMA Prepares First-Ever “Air Breach” To Airlift Puerto Ricans To Mainland US.....	11
University Of Puerto Rico In Discussions With FEMA For Aid.....	12
Network Of Doctors Unite To Deliver Supplies To Puerto Rico.....	12
FEMA To Hold Town Hall On Buyouts, Flood Control In Houston.....	12
DeVos Visits Storm-Ravaged Schools In Puerto Rico And The Virgin Islands.....	12
<b>Coast Guard</b>	
Shell Enchilada Oil Platform Shut Down After Fire.....	12
Michigan Considers Weakening Policy On Ship Ballast Water Treatment.....	12
<b>Cyber News</b>	
Former Yahoo, Equifax CEOs Discuss Breaches In Senate Testimony.....	13
Administration Seen To Be Upholding US-China Hacking Accord.....	13
FBI Hacked Computers Abroad In Child Porn Investigation.....	13
DHS Sharing Cyber Threat Info Quickly, But Info Not Always Helpful.....	13
DHS Official Discusses Remote Hacking Of Commercial Aircraft.....	13
Manfra Discusses DHS Cybersecurity Operations.....	14
Crowdstrike Official: DNC “Accelerated” Russian Hackers’ Timeline.....	14
State Official Associations Seek Harmonization Of Federal Cybersecurity Regulations, Audits.....	14
Law Enforcement Dealing With Increase In “Hackers For Hire” Cases.....	14
Defense Bill Requires President To Develop National Cyber Policy.....	14
Europol Head: Cyber Criminals Sophisticated Enough To Pose Threat To Financial Sector.....	14
National Defense Applications Of Artificial Intelligence Discussed.....	14
<b>Other DHS News</b>	
NYTimes Details Real ID.....	15
Continuing Coverage: Former Secret Service Agent Sentenced To Prison For Theft.....	15
<b>Global Media</b>	
Canadian Officials Head To US To “Fend Off” Asylum-Seekers.....	15
Continuing Coverage: Over 500 Asylum-Seekers Stay In PNG Camp.....	15
<b>Terrorism Investigations</b>	
New York State Lawmakers Propose Bill To Make It Harder For Terrorists To Rent Vehicles.....	15
Former AG Mukasey: Don’t Limit Effectiveness Of Anti-Terror Law.....	16
Apple Reaches Out To Law Enforcement Following Difficulty Unlocking TX Shooter’s Phone.....	16
<b>National Security News</b>	
US, UK And France Urge UN To Maintain Syria Chemical Weapons Probe.....	17
Syria Captures Last ISIS Stronghold.....	17
Report: US Has Spent More Than \$4 Trillion On Wars Since 9/11.....	17
Rouhani Defends Houthi Attack On Riyadh.....	17
Corker To Hold Hearing On Trump’s Authority To Use Nuclear Weapons.....	18
NATO Boosts Operations For First Time Since Cold War.....	18
Turkish PM In Washington Amid Hopes Of Resetting Relations.....	18
US, EU Reaffirm Support For Lebanon.....	18
EU To Impose Arms Embargo On Venezuela.....	18
US Officials: “No News To Share” On Embassy Move To Jerusalem.....	18
Spanish Court Annuls Catalan Independence Declaration.....	19

## National News

Ahead Of Trump-Xi Talks, US And Chinese Companies Sign Deals Worth Billions.....	19
Media Analyses: Election Results "Rebuke" Of Trump, Ominous Sign For GOP.....	21
Pence Visits Texas, Comments On Air Force Investigation Into Texas Killings.....	27
Trump Thanks "Deplorables" On First Anniversary Of His Election Victory.....	27
USA Today Analysis: Trump Tweets Could Have Legal Implications.....	28
Ryan: Election Results Increase Urgency To Pass Tax Cuts As Promised.....	28
CBO Says Republican Tax Plan Would Add \$1.7 Trillion To National Debt.....	29
Analyses: Top 1 Percent Will See Income Gains Under Republican Tax Bill.....	29
Senate Tax Bill "Sharply Diverges" From House GOP Plan.....	29
CBO: Repealing Individual Mandate Will Save \$338 Billion Over 10 Years.....	30
DeVos Seeks To Reduce Size Of Education Department.....	30
Trump Wants Former Eli Lilly Exec Azar As Next HHS Secretary.....	30
Senators Criticize White For Climate Change Writings At Confirmation Hearing.....	30
Commerce Committee Advances Bridenstine's Nomination.....	30
McCain Won't Vote For Any Nominee Who Supports Enhanced Interrogation.....	30
Durbin Halts Interior Nominees Over Trump Plans To Shrink National Monuments.....	30
WTimes Analysis: Obama Intel Heads' Report On Russian Meddling Raises Eyebrows.....	30
Senate Democrats Introduce New Gun Control Bill.....	32
Perdue Says Contingency Plan For NAFTA Withdrawal Is Being Crafted.....	32

## The Big Picture

Headlines From Today's Front Pages.....	32
---	----

## Washington's Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.....	33
-----------------------------------	----

## Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.....	35
---------------------------------	----

**Holiday Message.** In observance of the U.S. federal Veterans Day holiday, we will not publish on Friday, November 10, 2017. Service will resume on Monday, November 13, 2017. We wish our readers a safe holiday.

## LEADING DHS NEWS

**Nielsen Faces Senate Committee For Confirmation Hearing.** [USA Today](#) (11/8, Slack, 8.62M) reports that Kirstjen Nielsen, President Trump's nominee to replace John Kelly as Department of Homeland Security secretary, stated during her confirmation hearing "that she does not support building a wall along the entire length of the US southern border." Nielsen instead believes "that the border should be fortified...with a mix of personnel, technology and physical fencing." USA Today further notes that "her stand mirrors that of...Kelly." [Reuters](#) (11/8, Rosenberg) reports that in response to questions about the border wall and border security, Nielsen "said she would work with 'state and local actors on the ground' to find the best solutions for border security, including increasing the use of technology such as unmanned surveillance aircraft."

[Federal Computer Week](#) (11/8, Rockwell, 263K) reports, "In a two-and-a-half hour hearing in front of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, Nielsen fielded questions on cybersecurity, the border wall, counterterrorism and natural disaster response." Sen. Tom Carper (D-DE) "took issue with Nielsen's lack of chief executive experience, as she prepares to lead an agency with 240,000 employees." Nielsen "responded by saying that the management skills she honed in the Bush administration and at federal and commercial management jobs would 'translate' to DHS top job." The [AP](#) (11/8, Daly) quotes Nielsen as saying, "I will work every day to enforce our laws, secure our borders, coasts and waterways and protect Americans from dangerous criminals, terrorists, cyberattacks and other threats."

[Reuters](#) (11/8, Rosenberg) reports that Nielsen responded to concerns from Claire McCaskill, "the ranking Democrat on the committee," that a cost-benefit analysis has not been conducted "on the need for the wall as compared to other homeland security initiatives facing cuts in the president's budget" by stating that a decision regarding resources needs to be "risk based."

The [Washington Times](#) (11/8, Dinan, 541K) reports Nielsen "said Wednesday she would look at reopening the

Obama-era Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals deportation amnesty to allow people who missed the renewal deadline, and promised not to let their information be shared with deportation officers.” Nielsen also “said she has a particular concern about cybersecurity, and said when she went to vote in Virginia on Tuesday she began asking questions about ballot security.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/8, Meckler, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) reports Nielsen said the US “owe[s] it to” DACA recipients to “find a permanent solution.”

The [Washington Post](#) (11/8, Miroff, 10.38M) reports that Nielsen’s “hearing produced no controversies that might jeopardize a swift confirmation.” Nielsen asserted “that she would not hesitate to challenge Trump if asked to do something ‘in violation of the law.’” The [New York Times](#) (11/8, Nixon, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports that the Senate Homeland Security Committee was mostly deferential during the hearing, “a sign that she is likely to be easily confirmed as the sixth person to lead the agency.” [CNN](#) (11/8, Kopan, 33.59M) reports Nielsen “avoided any major confrontations and appeared on track for confirmation by the Republican Senate.”

The [Washington Examiner](#) (11/8, Giaritelli, 465K) reports Nielsen “testified Wednesday that cyberattacks are the greatest threat to U.S. national security, and would be the organization’s primary focus if she were confirmed to lead the department.” She said, “I believe one of the most significant for our nation’s future is cybersecurity and the overall security and resilience of our nation’s critical infrastructure. ... My cybersecurity experience in both the public and the private sector has prepared me for the multifaceted challenge that is increasing our resilience to cyberattacks.” [NextGov](#) (11/8, Marks) reports Nielsen “praised Homeland Security’s work helping to secure critical infrastructure against cyberattacks but pondered additional government efforts to help secure high-value information, such as citizens’ medical information.” She also “spoke highly of Homeland Security efforts to share cyber threat information with the private sector but pledged to add more context to that information as secretary, echoing recent criticisms by the department’s own inspector general.”

[Federal News Radio \(DC\)](#) (11/8, Somers, 2K) reports Nielsen “pledged to prioritize and take a ‘holistic’ approach to hiring in critical areas such as the northern and southern borders and in cybersecurity offices.” She is quoted as saying, “We need to look at it holistically, the system needs to keep up with the times. ... Whether that is the way in which we’re advertising, the way in which we’re allowing those to apply. ... But from a holistic perspective we’ve got to have the internal controls in place to ensure not only the hiring side, but then all the way through the cycle of retention and professional development.”

The [Huffington Post](#) (11/8, 5.74M) reports the White House has been “working with a top D.C. lobbyist to help

confirm nominee Kirstjen Nielsen – an unusually cozy arrangement that could give the lobbyist’s firm a major advantage in helping clients land future government contracts.” The Post “obtained copies of emails that show Stewart Verdery of Monument Policy Group, which touts its homeland security expertise to clients, coordinating dozens of former top officials with the Department of Homeland Security to sign onto a letter praising Nielsen.” Project on Government Oversight general counsel Scott Amey “said the emails show that Trump is doing precisely what he campaigned against: letting Washington insiders and other people owed favors steer the federal government.” DHS spokesman Tyler Houlton “suggested there’s nothing inappropriate about Verdery’s role given that he and Nielsen were colleagues at the department during President George W. Bush’s administration.” Houlton added, “It is common in every administration for former colleagues to enlist those who have worked with and respect the nominee in drafting a letter of support for Congress. ... The strong bipartisan support of highly respected and established experts in the nominee’s field, like Ms. Nielsen has received, is widely considered a positive.” [Quartz](#) (11/8, Timmons, 732K) reports similarly on efforts by Verdery to seek letters of support from former DHS officials for Nielsen’s nomination.

The [AP](#) (11/8) reports Democrats criticized Nielsen’s response to questions on climate change, when she “said she believes climate change is real but can’t determine whether humans are the primary cause.” The AP says Nielsen’s position is “in line with positions taken by top Trump administration officials.” The [Washington Examiner](#) (11/8, Giaritelli, 465K) reports Sens. Tom Carper (D-DE) and Maggie Hassan (D-NH) “questioned President Trump’s nominee for Department of Homeland Security secretary about the cause of climate change during a Wednesday hearing that otherwise focused on her credentials and views on national security.”

[Breitbart](#) (11/8, Binder, 2.42M) reports that during the hearing, Nielsen “said one of the major means to deter illegal immigration to the U.S. was to help foreigners find jobs in their native countries, primarily in Central America.” She said, “We have to increase the prosperity there. ... There’s a variety of programs, you and I have discussed, including the Alliance for Prosperity. But to really help the community find jobs, track the private sector, and enable the community to be resilient in such a way that it in of itself provides the type of environment that citizens would want to stay.”

The [Washington Post](#) (11/8, 10.38M) features video of questioning by Sen. Gary Peters (D-MI) where Nielsen “responded to questions about white nationalism and anti-Semitism” and condemned those points of view.

## **DHS NEWS**

**GAO: Border Patrol Losing Agents Faster Than It Can Hire Them.** The [Washington Times](#) (11/8, Dinan, 541K) reports that a new GAO audit shows that the US Border Patrol “is losing agents faster than it can hire them.” According to the audit, “competition with other federal law enforcement and the difficulty of passing a polygraph test have sapped the agency of nearly 2,000 agents it’s supposed to have.” The GAO said the agency loses an average of 900 agents a year, but only hires an average of 523 agents a year.

## **AVIATION SECURITY**

**TSA Under Fire For Poor Results In DHS Security Tests.** [NBC Nightly News](#) (11/8, story 2, 2:10, Holt, 16.61M) reported that the Transportation Security Administration is facing criticism for failing to detect too many Homeland Security teams who tried to smuggle test weapons through TSA checkpoints to test screeners. TSA said in a statement that they “take the findings very seriously and are implementing measures that will improve screening effectiveness at checkpoints.” TSA is seeking “money to roll out new CAT scan type of 3D screeners that check bags for signs of weapons.”

The [CBS Evening News](#) (11/8, story 8, 0:45, Mason, 11.17M) reported that the test weapons and explosives may have been able to advance through checkpoints over 70 percent of the time, although “the exact findings are classified.” [ABC World News Tonight](#) (11/8, story 7, 1:45, Muir, 14.63M) reported that when “a source familiar with the classified report” was asked if the failure rate was 80 percent, the source replied “you are in the ballpark.” Rep. Mike Rogers of Alabama said, in a message to the TSA administrator, that “this agency that you run is broken. Badly.”

[ABC News](#) (11/8, Cook, 2.83M) reports, “The news of the failure comes two years after ABC News reported that secret teams from DHS found that TSA failed 95 percent of the time to stop inspectors from covertly smuggling weapons or explosive materials through screening.” TSA did perform “better in this round of testing than two years ago, according to the source familiar with the report.” TSA Administrator Pekoske is quoted as saying, “We take the OIG’s findings very seriously and are implementing measures that will improve screening effectiveness at checkpoints. ... We are focused on staying ahead of a dynamic threat to aviation with continued investment in the workforce, enhanced procedures and new technologies.”

[NBC News](#) (11/9, 3.46M) and the [New York Post](#) (11/8, Perez, 4.31M) report similarly.

**Pekoske Discusses CT Scanners With House Committee.** [Homeland Preparedness News](#) (11/8, Carey) reports, “Members of the House Homeland Security Committee pressed David Pekoske, the newly confirmed administrator of the Transportation Security Administration (TSA), on how quickly the country could integrate computed tomography (CT) scanners into every airport in the country to thwart threats at a committee hearing on Wednesday.” Pekoske said the systems “offer a more enhanced imaging platform over legacy AT X-ray systems and are a proven technology that has been used for screening checked baggage.” Pekoske also “said the technology was already in place in the checked bag system, and was being prototyped for passenger screening in two airports – Phoenix, Arizona, and Boston, Massachusetts.”

**TSA Testing New Screening Procedures At Denver Airport.** The [Denver Post](#) (11/8, Rubino, 817K) reports TSA agents in the Jeppesen Terminal at Denver International Airport on Monday “asked passengers to remove all electronic devices larger than a cellphone from their bags” and “set them in bins with nothing atop or below them for more detailed X-ray screenings, according to traveler reports.” TSA spokeswoman Carrie Harmon said, “At DIA, these procedures won’t be fully implemented until sometime after the first of the year. ... However, TSA officers at DIA have started asking passengers in some lanes, at some times of the day, to place electronics larger than a cell phone in bins for X-ray screening.”

**Phoenix Airport Security Checkpoints Reopened After Suspicious Item Investigation.** The [Arizona Daily Star](#) (11/8, 242K) reports, “Officials have reopened two security checkpoints at Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport that were temporarily closed Wednesday morning as police investigated a suspicious item.”

## **BORDER SECURITY**

**DHS Considers Blockchain Usage At Border.** [NextGov](#) (11/8, Ravindranath) reports DHS is “investigating ways the decentralized ledger system used to track transactions that use bitcoin and other virtual currencies could be used at the nation’s borders.” CBP is working with S&T on “potential use cases, and is advising a group of technology companies on what their needs might be, Vincent Annunziato, a CBP Trade Transformation Office director, said at an event in Washington hosted by the government tech publication FCW.”

**Border Businesses Impacted By Clogged Ports.** The [Arizona Republic](#) (11/8, 968K) reports a “string



of border businesses...have called it quits over the past decade” due to “rising wait times and chronic staff shortages at the international border crossings [that] are increasingly keeping would-be customers away.” The Republic says that since 2009, “when the federal government strengthened passport controls, the number of pedestrians crossing through downtown Nogales...has dropped by half.” CBP “expanded the San Luis pedestrian-processing facility, adding two booths and giving it a total of seven.” However, Assistant Port Director Miguel Valadez “acknowledged that increases in trade and traffic have already outpaced that expansion.”

## **IMMIGRATION POLICY**

### **Continuing Coverage: US Ends TPS For Nicaraguans, Protections For Other Latin American Countries Ending Soon.**

[Fox News' Special Report](#) (11/8, 2.07M) reported the Administration is ending the temporary protective status (TPS) of more than 5,000 Nicaraguans living in the US. TPS was implemented about 20 years ago in an effort to help countries suffering from natural disasters, wars, and other crises. Those Nicaraguans have until Jan. 2019 to leave the country, and “it’s unclear how many will do so voluntarily and how difficult it will be to deport them.” Protections for Salvadorans and Haitians, meanwhile, are set to expire “in the coming months,” and while the Administration “says it extended the program for 86,000 Hondurans through July,” it’s “reviewing whether to continue beyond.”

**Central Americans With TPS Dealing With Uncertainty Of Status.** The [Los Angeles Times](#) (11/8, Zablah, 4.49M) continues coverage of the end or projected end of TPS for nationals of certain countries, saying, “the proposed change in policy would have particular ramifications in Southern California, which has one of the largest populations of Central Americans in the nation.” Immigrant rights activists “contend that even though the natural disasters that triggered the program are in the past, it’s wrong to end protections for people from Honduras and El Salvador – both countries that have experienced a huge increase in gang violence.” [WRNI-FM](#) Providence, RI (11/8, Dooling) reports, “An estimated 8,000 immigrants in Massachusetts” with TPS “are awaiting decisions that will determine their fate in the United States.” WRNI focuses on a Salvadoran family of Haverhill, Massachusetts, which “is learning to live with the uncertainty,” while the [Springfield \(MA\) Republican](#) (11/8, 520K) focuses on the experiences of a Honduran family in Massachusetts.

**Nicaraguan Consulate Seeks To Assist Nationals In US.** [AFP](#) (11/8) reports, “Nicaragua’s government said Wednesday its consulates in the United States will provide assistance for 5,300 of its citizens soon to lose temporary

protection status under the termination of a US program.” Nicaragua “said it was working with migrant support groups in the United States to contact its citizens and establish their plans in light of the announcement.”

### **United We Dream Organizing Thursday Rallies.**

The [Dallas Morning News](#) (11/8, Solis, 984K) reports, “Rallies and school walkouts are expected Thursday in as many as three dozen locations in a loosely coordinated effort to urge lawmakers to legalize hundreds of thousands of immigrants brought to the U.S. as children.” In Dallas, “supporters will demonstrate outside the offices of Republican Sen. John Cornyn.” United We Dream is “organizing rallies or demonstrations in cities which include Austin, Houston, El Paso and the Washington, D.C.-area.” The Morning News adds that the Dallas-Fort Worth area is “significant turf in the DACA debate: It has the nation’s third largest concentration of DACA beneficiaries after the Los Angeles and New York areas, according to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.” [Columbia \(SC\) State](#) (11/8, Marchant, 344K) reports on a rally scheduled at the South Carolina State House on Thursday.

**Gates Argues Against Ending DACA.** In an op-ed for the [New York Times](#) (11/8, Subscription Publication, 13.56M), former Defense Secretary Robert Gates praises the contribution of immigrants to the US military, writing that he “was honored to serve alongside all of them, and humbled by their sense of duty, by their willingness to risk life and limb for a country they yearned to call their own.” Gates points out that “more than 800” Dreamers currently serve in the armed forces and “more than 350 additional DACA recipients have signed contracts with the Army and are awaiting basic training,” and calls for “legislation that will provide a pathway to citizenship for those immigrants who, among other attributes, are serving or have served in the military, whether they are in America legally or were brought here illegally as children.”

### **Some California Democrats Vow Government Shutdown Without DACA Fix.**

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (11/8, Wire, 4.49M) reports, “Half a dozen California Democrats joined House colleagues Wednesday to say they won’t back a bill that allows the federal government to spend money unless Congress passes the Dream Act to address the legal status of hundreds of thousands of people who were brought to the country illegally as children.”

### **US To No Longer Accept Applications For Special Central American Minor Refugee Program.**

The [AP](#) (11/8, Lederman) reports that the US “says it will no longer take applications for a special refugee program for Central American children.” The program was

established in 2014 amid a surge in unaccompanied minor migration from El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras. The AP adds, "The State Department says Thursday is the deadline to apply. People from those countries seeking refugee status may still be eligible, but must use the normal refugee screening process." [Reuters](#) (11/8) reports the Administration "told Congress in September it would phase out the Central American Minors (CAM) program during fiscal year 2018, which began on Oct. 1."

### **Kent Residents Reject Sanctuary Amendment.**

The [Akron \(OH\) Beacon Journal](#) (11/8, 235K) reports Kent, Ohio voters "said no" to a sanctuary city amendment. A proposed amendment that would have limited cooperation with ICE "failed with 58 percent of the vote."

### **California Advocates Set Up Immigration Hotline.**

The [Santa Rosa \(CA\) Press Democrat](#) (11/8, Espinoza, 166K) reports, "North Bay immigration advocates are launching a 24-hour emergency hotline for undocumented immigrants caught up in local enforcement and apprehension operations." The "Rapid Response Network" is "designed to provide immediate legal protection and support to Sonoma and Napa county immigrants being sought by agents with" ICE.

### **Continuing Coverage: Somali Refugee Sues To Have Family Join Him In US.**

The [AP](#) (11/8, Johnson) reports, "A Somali refugee living in Washington state is asking a federal judge to let his wife and young children join him in the U.S., saying the Trump administration's indefinite ban on allowing the families of refugees to enter the country violates immigration law." The unidentified plaintiff was admitted to arrive in the US "on his own, because his application had been filed when he was a child." His wife and children were approved after a "years-long process that included security and medical screenings," but "due to President Donald Trump's various bans on travelers from certain nations and his suspension of the U.S. refugee program, they've been blocked from coming to the U.S."

### **Hoover Institution Fellow Examines Immigration Terminology.**

In an op-ed for [Newsweek](#) (11/8, Hanson, 991K), Hoover Institution senior fellow Victor Davis Hanson argues that "open-borders advocates did not like" the term "illegal alien" because it "accurately emphasized both illegality and the foreignness of those arriving into the United States from another country." Hanson opines that what followed was a "slow Orwellian devolution. Illegal alien initially was reinvented as 'undocumented alien,' as if the violation became one of simply forgetting (rather than never having) one's supposed legal documents at home." Hanson

then says the use of the term "alien" then was "changed to immigrant, as if undocumented immigrant gave the impression that forgetful visitors had just strayed innocently across the border."

### **American Immigration Council: Immigrants Make Up "Vital Share" Of Tennessee Work Force.**

The [Memphis \(TN\) Commercial Appeal](#) (11/8, Maxey, 288K) reports, "Immigrants account for 5 percent of Tennessee's population and provide nearly a quarter of the work force in certain jobs, according to data released Wednesday." The American Immigration Council "released state-by-state data that offers a breakdown on population size, educational and citizenship levels and English proficiency, as well as data on undocumented immigrants and Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients." The Council said, "Tennessee has a small but growing immigrant population. ... While relatively few in number, immigrants are a vital share of the labor force."

### **Opinion: Diversity Visa Program Is "Misguided."**

In an op-ed for the [Jackson \(TN\) Sun](#) (11/8, Guzzardi, 55K), Californians for Population Stabilization senior writing fellow Joe Guzzardi argues the Diversity Visa Program is "misguided," and should be questioned following revelations that the suspect in the recent deadly terrorist attack in New York arrived in the US as part of the program. Guzzardi opines that the program's "haphazard format and its role as an immigration-driver should be enough to persuade Congress to end the visa immediately," and now that the "terrorism risk is factored in, then no intellectual argument can be made to keep the DV going."

### **Administration Tightens Cuba Embargo, Restricts Travel Access.**

The [Washington Post](#) (11/8, Deyoung, 10.38M) reports the Administration Wednesday announced "tight new restrictions on American travel and commercial exchanges with Cuba, implementing a policy announced by President Trump five months ago." Under the new rules, "most individual visits to Cuba will no longer be allowed, and US citizens will again have to travel as part of a licensed group, accompanied by a group representative." Americans will also be barred from businesses that the State Department has determined are "owned by or benefit members of the Cuban government."

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (11/8, Wilkinson, 4.49M) quotes a "senior White House official" as saying that starting Thursday, businesses will be required to obey a new set of regulations that are "intended to steer economic activity away from the Cuban military, intelligence and security services." According to the Times, the Cuban military is "deeply

enmeshed in much of the island's economy, including the tourism industry."

The [New York Times](#) (11/8, Harris, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) says Wednesday's announcement was part of the Administration's "gradual unwinding of parts of the Obama Administration's détente with the Cuban government." The new rules, which go into effect Thursday, apply "only to future travel and commerce," it notes. [USA Today](#) (11/8, Gomez, 8.62M) calls the moves "a major step toward rolling back another Obama-era policy," and the [AP](#) (11/8, Lederman) similarly says the "new rules and list of off-limits entities are intended to put in place the tougher Cuba policy" that the President announced in June. The [Washington Times](#) (11/8, Miller, 541K) too says the move "further roll[s] back former President Barack Obama's normalization of relations" with Havana.

[Reuters](#) (11/8) reports the Treasury Department said in a statement that the list of Cuban government officials barred from transactions with the US has also been expanded. [Bloomberg News](#) (11/8, Wayne, 4.52M) quotes Treasury Secretary Mnuchin as saying, "We have strengthened our Cuba policies to channel economic activity away from the Cuban military and to encourage the government to move toward greater political and economic freedom for the Cuban people."

## **IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT**

**Deported Dreamer Arrested Trying To Sneak Back Into US.** The [Washington Times](#) (11/8, Dinan, 541K) reports that Juan Manuel Montes-Bojorquez, "who became the face of the pro-DACA movement earlier this year after getting deported was arrested this week for trying to sneak back into the U.S. without permission." Montes "had claimed to be the first person protected by DACA to have been deported by the Trump administration, and was suing to regain entry to the U.S." Border Patrol agents "say they caught him trying to sneak into the U.S. near Calexico, California." [USA Today](#) (11/8, Gomez, 8.62M) reports Montes "ran for about 200 yards, dropped to the ground, tried to flee again as Border Patrol agents approached him, but was quickly caught and arrested." USA Today says Montes "was booked into the Imperial County Jail and is facing a federal felony charge that could result in up to two years in prison." The [AP](#) (11/8) reports the Border Patrol released a statement that said, "Border Patrol Agents will always stop, detain, and arrest anyone making an illegal entry into the country irrespective of their immigration or citizenship status." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/8, Caldwell, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) reports Montes may face up to two years in prison for the illegal re-entry.

**Lawsuit Over Removing DACA Protections Can Proceed.** The [AP](#) (11/8) reports, "A federal judge in Seattle says a lawsuit by a Mexican man who was arrested in February, despite his participation in [DACA], can go forward." Daniel Ramirez Medina "challenged the government's decision to strip him of the program's protections," but DOJ attempted to have the case dismissed. [BuzzFeed](#) (11/9, Flores, 6.64M) reports the government had "argued that Ramirez's DACA status was terminated the day he was sent a notice to appear in immigration court after his arrest." After that notice, USCIS "sent him a notice that said his deferred action and employment authorization were being terminated because of the notice to appear." The notice from USCIS "said the decision could not be appealed." Ramirez is "accusing federal agencies of violating the Administrative Procedures Act because revoking his DACA doesn't fit the government's procedures for terminating it 'and was therefore arbitrary and capricious.'" DHS lawyers "argued that the Immigration Nationality Act (INA) bars the court from hearing the case because the decision on whether to revoke or grant someone DACA is discretionary." However, the judge "said, those rules don't apply to the narrower issue of whether the immigration agents complied with their own procedures when taking Ramirez into custody and questioning him – the actions that led to the termination of his DACA status."

## **ACLU Seeks Release Of 300 Iraqi Detainees.**

The [Detroit News](#) (11/8, Kozlowski, 725K) reports ACLU lawyers have "asked a federal court to release nearly 300 Iraqi nationals trying to avoid deportation to their native country, saying they are being held unjustly, according to a motion filed Tuesday by the American Civil Liberties Union." The Detroit News recounts that Judge Mark Goldsmith "had issued a preliminary injunction in July that stopped the deportation of Iraqi nationals with final orders of removal from the U.S. after they were rounded up in June by Immigration and Customs Enforcement." Goldsmith's order "acknowledged the difficulties the detainees faced in obtaining legal representation and gave them more time to fight their cases – and it has been effective, according to the motion." The ACLU's petition says the detainees are "winning. ... Petitioners are winning their motions to reopen...cases because of their strong claims of the likelihood of persecution, torture, or death in Iraq. Yet almost all remain incarcerated. ... It is likely that most Petitioners will not, in the end, be removed." The current estimates "show 279 detainees are being held in 47 detention facilities in 26 states, with the majority at the Northeast Ohio Correctional Center in Youngstown, Ohio, according to data from the ACLU." [Bloomberg News](#) (11/8, Larson, 4.52M) reports the ACLU "argues that people who are in the immigration process can't



be detained unless the government is likely to remove them soon.”

[WUOM-FM](#) Ann Arbor, MI (11/8, 12K) quotes ACLU attorney Miriam Aukerman as saying, “These are individuals who have a right to be heard before an immigration judge before they can be locked up. You can’t lock people up indefinitely without ever getting to see a judge.”

The [AP](#) (11/8) and [WWJ-TV](#) Detroit (11/8, 34K) report similarly.

**TRAC: ICE Exaggerates Success Of Secure Communities Program.** The [Austin \(TX\) American Statesman](#) (11/8, Subscription Publication, 431K) reports, “In the first four months of the Trump administration, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement has greatly overstated the effectiveness of a program in which local law enforcement agencies partner with the federal government to facilitate the deportation of county jail inmates suspected of being unauthorized immigrants, according to a new report analyzing the agency’s data.” ICE has “publicly claimed that the Secure Communities program, which President Donald Trump rekindled upon taking office after the Obama administration scaled it back, led to 43,300 ‘criminal aliens’ being deported from January to March.” However, ICE data “shows that only 10,893 immigrants were deported through the program during that period and that only 4,850 of those had serious criminal records, according to the report by Syracuse University’s Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse, which analyzes data obtained through regular Freedom of Information Act requests.”

**The New Yorker: Immigrant’s Trip To Family Court Results In Arrest.** The [New Yorker](#) (11/8, Coll, 2.05M) reports on the case of Sergio Perez, who on March 29 “appeared in a county courtroom to seek sole custody of his son and two daughters.” The kids were living with his “estranged wife,” and Perez “was concerned about them.” Perez is undocumented and “had been deported several times before,” but had “never been arrested or convicted of a crime, and had received only one ticket, for driving on an expired license.” He “feared that pressing the custody case might lead to someone informing on him to Immigration and Customs Enforcement, or ICE, in order to have him arrested and deported to Mexico,” but he “decided to go to family court anyway.” While in court, he was called to a side room and he was arrested by individuals who identified themselves as ICE officers in plain clothes. After being detained, he was deported to Mexico. The Immigrant Defense Project “said that it had received reports of eighty-four arrests and attempted arrests in courthouses in New York this year through September, more than six hundred per cent more reports than it had received last year, including fifty-one arrests in or

around New York City courthouses.” The New Yorker says that most of the time, ICE “target[ed] criminal defendants who may be deportable, but they have also arrested people in New York family court, juvenile court, and specialized courts devoted to the prevention of human trafficking.”

**Continuing Coverage: Massachusetts Woman Taken Into ICE Custody.** In continuing coverage, [WCVB-TV](#) Boston (11/8, 401K) reports, “A 40-year-old single mother from Massachusetts was unexpectedly taken into custody by immigration authorities.” Immigration attorney Matt Cameron “said his client Siham Byah, an immigrant from Morocco who has been in the United States since 1999, was taken into custody at Burlington’s Immigration and Customs Enforcement Office Tuesday.” An ICE spokesperson “confirmed Byah’s arrest, saying they arrested her on an outstanding final order, a deportation order, issued by an immigration judge.” The [Boston Herald](#) (11/9, 404K) quotes ICE spokesman Shawn Neudauer as saying, “Ms. Byah has a criminal record that includes convictions for misdemeanor offenses. She will remain in ICE custody pending removal from the United States.” Byah was “first ordered removed in 2006 for failing to appear in immigration court, ICE said,” and this past week an “immigration judge said she should be deported.”

**Virginia Advocates Oppose 287(g).** The [Fredericksburg \(VA\) Free Lance-Star](#) (11/8, Johnston, 132K) reports, “Almost a dozen people made it abundantly clear that they strongly oppose Culpeper County Sheriff Scott Jenkins’ effort to allow some of his deputies to double as Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents.” The Culpeper County Board of Supervisors held a public forum and some who attended opposed the Sheriff’s Office plan to join 287(g).

**ICE Arrests Five In Western Massachusetts.** On its website, [WWLP-TV](#) Springfield, MA (11/8, Whitlow, 157K) reports, “Federal immigration officers have been conducting raids in the Pioneer Valley.” ICE “arrested five people in western Massachusetts this week.” In particular, ICE “arrested three immigrants in Hatfield Monday, as they were driving home to Springfield from their jobs at a local farm.” In a statement, ICE “said all three men arrested during that traffic stop in Hatfield, were illegal immigrants with criminal backgrounds.” ICE public affairs officer Shawn Neudauer explained that the three individuals were arrested during a “targeted vehicle stop,” and all three have criminal histories. The [Springfield \(MA\) Republican](#) (11/8, 520K) reports, “Five Springfield residents of Latin American heritage were detained by Immigration and Customs Enforcement this week and remain incarcerated in Greenfield awaiting immigration court hearings, according to labor activists in Western Massachusetts.” Pioneer Valley Workers Center



representative Gabriella della Croce said, "We have a rapid-response hotline and more and more people are using it to inform us of [immigrants] being detained by federal agents."

### **ICE Arrests Five Released In New York City.**

[Breitbart](#) (11/8, Price, 2.42M) reports ICE arrested five individuals that were previously released by New York City law enforcement. ICE ERO New York field office director Thomas Decker said, "These individuals are criminal aliens who were released back into our neighborhoods, posing an increased risk to New York residents. ... Because of the unnecessary threat being imposed by the city's decision to not honor ICE detainers, ICE remains committed, in the interest of public safety and national security, to welcoming changes to current New York City policies and strengthening its relationship with local law enforcement."

### **Eighteen Arrested In Michigan Operation.**

The [Grand Haven \(MI\) Tribune](#) (11/8, Gamble, 26K) reports ICE spokesman Khaalid Walls issued a written statement that said "special agents with Homeland Security Investigations, I.C.E.'s Enforcement and Removal Operations and U.S. Border Patrol arrested 18 unlawfully present foreign nationals Tuesday." [WHTC-AM](#) Holland, MI (11/8, 432) reports the individuals were arrested at "Demeester Wood Products in Wright Township." Officials "say the raid was part of an ongoing investigation."

### **Tenth Circuit Court Of Appeals To Hear Arguments In Geo Group Lawsuit.**

[Bloomberg News](#) (11/8, Eidelson, 4.52M) reports, "On Nov. 15 the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals in Denver will hear arguments in a case that could change the future of the \$5 billion private prison industry." The judge will "decide whether a district court was correct in February when it certified a class action on behalf of around 60,000 current and former detainees who are suing Geo Group Inc., one of the largest U.S. private prison companies, for allegedly violating federal anti-trafficking laws by coercing them to work for free under threat of solitary confinement." The case was "first filed in 2014 by a group of immigrants who had been detained at an Immigration and Customs Enforcement facility run by Geo in Aurora, Colo."

### **Immigration Lawsuit Against Illinois Sheriff Dismissed.**

The [Chicago Daily Herald](#) (11/8, Zoellick, 326K) reports, "A class action immigration lawsuit filed against McHenry County Sheriff Bill Prim and his office has been dismissed, according to reports." According to the Sheriff's office, the "controversy began when the Illinois Trust Act went into force and effect in late August." One of the named plaintiffs alleged he was held on a domestic battery charge on an immigration detainer in violation of the act.

### **Advocate: 95 Vietnamese-Americans May Face Deportation.**

The [Huffington Post](#) (11/8, 5.74M) reports, "An estimated 95 Vietnamese-Americans are expected to be detained by the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), and could be facing deportation, Nancy Nguyen, the executive director of organization Vietlead, confirmed to HuffPost."

### **Taylor: Richmond Jail Should Be Investigated.**

In his column for the [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (11/8, Taylor, 3.31M), Otis R. Taylor Jr. says Contra Costa County Sheriff's officials "said they were surprised. ... last week that female detainees at their jail in Richmond were complaining that they were locked in their cells for 23 hours a day – with no bathroom access." Taylor argues that as he "learn[s] more about the West County Detention Facility, I'm the one who's surprised – by the sheriff's supposed lack of knowledge of what many now say has been going on in their jail facility for years." Taylor opines that the sheriff's office should not conduct the investigation because it is not impartial. Taylor reports on calls by some state officials to have the state Attorney General's office investigate the allegations.

## **CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS**

### **Canadian Firearms Expert Testifies For Defense In Steinle Murder Trial.**

The [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (11/9, Ho, 3.31M) reports, "The fatal shooting of Kate Steinle on San Francisco's Pier 14 had the characteristics of an unintentional discharge, a forensic firearms expert said in court on Wednesday." Former Royal Canadian Mounted Police officer Alan Voth "testified as part of 45-year-old Jose Ines Garcia Zarate's defense that the killing that sparked a political firestorm around immigration policy had been an accident." Voth "testified that the single fired shot and the ricochet, coupled with a lack of a known motive and firearms training for the person handling the weapon, point to an unintentional discharge." However, Voth also "testified that as a forensic firearms investigator, he would also examine the actions of the shooter directly after the discharge to determine if the shot was intentional." Assistant District Attorney Diana Garcia then pointed out that the defendant "threw the weapon into the water seconds after firing it."

### **Continuing Coverage: Mexican-Nationals Sentenced To Life In Prison For Murder, Attempted Murder Of ICE Officers.**

In continuing coverage, [American Security Today](#) (11/8) reports, "Two Mexican nationals were sentenced Monday to two terms of life in prison for the murder of a federal officer, attempted

murder of a federal officer, and related offenses in the killing of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Homeland Security Investigations (ICE-HSI) Special Agent Jaime Zapata and the attempted murder of ICE HSI Special Agent Victor Avila on Feb. 15, 2011, in Mexico." Acting ICE Director Thomas Homan is quoted as saying, "I want to thank all of our law enforcement partners and our colleagues at the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia for their tireless work to bring this case to a successful conclusion and secure these sentences. ... The sentences handed down today should serve as a powerful message to drug cartels and other transnational criminal organizations that there is no escape from justice, and that we will not rest until they have been held accountable for their crimes to the fullest extent of the law."

### **Continuing Coverage: DHS "Remains Silent" About New Hampshire, Massachusetts Operations.**

The [North Andover \(MA\) Eagle Tribune](#) (11/8, Edelstein, 77K) reports, "Local police assisted Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents with investigations in four New Hampshire towns and in Haverhill, Massachusetts, on Tuesday evening." However, ICE spokesman Shawn Neudauer "would not comment on the nature of the investigations or exact addresses that were searched." Neudauer is quoted as saying, "If anything comes of yesterday's enforcement. ... It will make its way to the court system, and that's when it will become public." The [AP](#) (11/8) reports Neudauer "said Tuesday's matter concerns an ongoing criminal investigation." New Hampshire Massage Parlors Investigated. The [New Hampshire Union Leader](#) (11/8, Hayward, 118K) reports, "Federal immigration and homeland security agents raided several locations across southern New Hampshire on Tuesday night in an operation that sources say focused on massage parlors and prostitution." HSI worked with local police and other federal law enforcement partners in the investigation.

## **EMERGENCY RESPONSE**

**FEMA Prepares First-Ever "Air Breach" To Airlift Puerto Ricans To Mainland US.** As Puerto Rico continues feeling the aftermath of Hurricane Maria, [CBS News](#) (11/8, Begnaud, St. Peter, Becket, 4.42M) reports FEMA has offered "to airlift victims...to the U.S. mainland to reach temporary housing – a complex operation that would be the first of its kind for the agency" – via its Transitional Shelter Assistance (TSA) program, which allows "displaced residents and families who are still living in shelters on the island...to relocate to housing in Florida and New York." FEMA federal coordinating officer Mike Byrne "said the program is the first time the agency has attempted what it

calls an 'air breach,' or a relief operation requiring the transportation of individuals from a disaster area." He said FEMA generally pays for hotel rooms for displaced residents but Puerto Rico's hotels are filled to capacity, so the agency "is turning to the mainland and working with states to find accommodations." However, Byrne said interest in the program so far has been low – CBS reports "only about 30 out of 300 families interviewed on Tuesday expressing interest in participating" – because "people really don't want to leave their homes. We want to give them every opportunity we can to be able to stay here, whether it's providing financial assistance or repairing their homes. So we are going to work hard on those things so people don't have to leave." According to [The Hill](#) (11/8, Manchester, 1.68M), a FEMA spokesperson said in a statement, "At the Governor's request FEMA will be providing transportation assistance to select locations in the Continental United States. ... Priority of transportation will be available to those approximately 3,000 survivors who are still residing in shelters. ... Based on states selected by the Governor, FEMA is working to establish host-state agreements with both Florida and New York to accept those identified survivors."

The [New York Times](#) (11/8, Robles, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports in a 1346 word article that the Federal Emergency Management Agency is finalizing plans to fly nearly 3,000 Puerto Rico residents who are still living in shelters to Florida and New York because there is so little available emergency housing on the island itself. No specific dates have been set yet for relocating the residents. Officials in Puerto Rico also acknowledged "that 472 more people died this September compared with the same month last year," although the official death toll for Hurricane Maria in the country is only 55. FEMA spokesman Will Booher said, "Transportation assistance is something that I don't think we have done previously. But this is unique to what's going on in Puerto Rico."

According to the [AP](#) (11/8, Coto), "the pace of deaths quickened on Puerto Rico immediately after Hurricane Maria – well beyond the number of deaths officially attributed to the Category 4 storm." Officials announced Wednesday that "the island had an average of 82 deaths a day in the two weeks before Maria hit Sept. 20" that "increased to 117 deaths a day through the rest of the month, but the rate then fell below usual in October." The Puerto Rican government "said 55 people died during the hurricane or later as a direct result of the storm," but "the overall daily death figures hint that the storm could have caused other, harder-to-detect fatalities as well, though officials at the government's forensic institute said they did not have evidence to attribute them to Maria."

[CBS News](#) (11/8, 4.42M) offers video coverage of the report.

**Frustrated By Slow Pace, Musical Puerto Rican Family Helps Neighbors.** [USA Today](#) (11/8, Jervis, 8.62M)

profiles a “musical family” that is helping its neighbors recover after Hurricane Maria. USA Today says FEMA, which is headquartered at the Puerto Rico Convention Center – a 10 minute drive from Villa Palmeras, where Gladys Cámara and her father, Modesto Cepeda, run the Centro Cultural de Bomba y Plena – “has paid out more than \$125 million in individual assistance funds throughout Puerto Rico. But people in some of the more embattled corners of the island, such as Villa Palmeras, say they haven’t seen any of it.” According to USA Today, “a few FEMA and Army Corps of Engineers workers have come into Villa Palmeras with clipboards and pencils, asked questions and left without helping the people or delivering supplies, Calderón said. ‘The greatest frustration throughout this process has been bureaucracy at every level,’ she said.” This frustration led Cámara and Calderón to start their own relief effort, calling on Calderón’s network in the US “to bring a steady stream of donations to her San Juan office, while Cámara surveyed the neighborhood to find out who needed what the most.”

**University Of Puerto Rico In Discussions With FEMA For Aid.** The [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/8, Korn, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) reports hundreds of students from Puerto Rico have been resettled on college campuses across the US mainland in the wake of Hurricane Maria, and many more are thinking about taking advantage of the chance to leave the island. However, some are worried students won’t return to the island, which has already been suffering brain drain as young people look elsewhere for opportunity. The Journal mentions that the University of Puerto Rico continues to hold classes, in spite of damage to some of its facilities. Interim President and dental school professor Darrel Hillman Barrera said damages totaled \$119 million, with insurance covering about \$100 million. He added that he is currently negotiating with Federal Emergency Management Agency to cover the rest.

**Network Of Doctors Unite To Deliver Supplies To Puerto Rico.** CNN International carries a [Kaiser Health News](#) (11/8, Martyn) report about how doctors across the US mainland have banded together to deliver much-needed supplies to disaster-stricken Puerto Rico, drawing on “a sense of solidarity in the medical community, connections formed through the hurricanes in Houston and Florida – and the use of private jets belonging to corporations, sports teams and individual donors.” In chronicling some of the doctors’ experiences, KHN reports “San Juan and other coastal towns seemed to be receiving adequate help from the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the military,” but inland towns showed “incredible needs.”

**FEMA To Hold Town Hall On Buyouts, Flood Control In Houston.** The [Houston Chronicle](#) (11/8, Zaveri, 1.97M) reports the Federal Emergency Management Agency has scheduled a town hall meeting in Houston Thursday, where officials “will answer questions about property buyouts and flood risk.” According to the Chronicle, “FEMA spokeswoman Pam Saulsby said agency representatives would be there ‘to answer any questions residents might have concerning buyouts and flood protection.’” However, “Saulsby could not provide any more specific information about what would be discussed. She said county and city officials are invited, as well as officials from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.”

**DeVos Visits Storm-Ravaged Schools In Puerto Rico And The Virgin Islands.** The [Washington Post](#) (11/8, Balingit, 10.38M) reports that Betsy DeVos “visited schools in Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands” that had been affected by Hurricanes Irma and Maria on Wednesday. DeVos also “met with Puerto Rico Education Secretary Julia Keleher and Governor Ricardo Rosselló to discuss how the Education Department might help the schools there.” Puerto Rico’s “education department has opened 614 of the 1,113 schools in Puerto Rico, but the vast majority do not have electricity.”

## **COAST GUARD**

**Shell Enchilada Oil Platform Shut Down After Fire.** [Reuters](#) (11/8) reports Royal Dutch Shell Plc “shut its Enchilada platform in the U.S. Gulf of Mexico on Wednesday after an operational incident that caused injuries to two people.” The Coast Guard “said that the platform, along with associated production, was stopped after a fire,” and “added that the fire had been reduced to a small flame from a pipeline on the platform, located about 112 nautical miles south of Vermilion Bay, Louisiana.” Two injured people and the crew of 46 were “evacuated to a nearby platform, the Coast Guard said, adding that there was a report of a light sheen north of the Shell platform.” The [AP](#) (11/8) reports the Coast Guard and the Interior Department’s Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement were “investigating the cause of the incident.”

**Michigan Considers Weakening Policy On Ship Ballast Water Treatment.** The [AP](#) (11/8, Flesher) reports, “Michigan lawmakers were poised Wednesday to weaken a policy that prohibits oceangoing cargo ships from releasing ballast water at the state’s ports until it has been treated to kill invasive species.” A state Senate committee “voted to revise a 2005 law requiring saltwater vessels to use



state-approved cleansing technology before discharging ballast water, which provides stability in rough seas.” The AP says the Coast Guard and EPA “require ships to exchange ballast water at sea before entering U.S. waters.” The Coast Guard has also “instructed ships to phase in treatment systems.”

## **CYBER NEWS**

### **Former Yahoo, Equifax CEOs Discuss Breaches In Senate Testimony.** [NBC Nightly News](#)

(11/8, story 7, 1:50, Holt, 16.61M) reported that former Yahoo and Equifax CEOs “were grilled by Congress on how hackers stole personal data on hundreds of millions of Americans from their companies,” adding, “There are still far more questions than answers.” Former Yahoo CEO Marissa Mayer is cited saying that of the two hacks on the company, one was committed by Russia and could happen again, while the other remains unattributed. NBC added that Equifax has quadrupled its security budget, though it is also subject to a class action lawsuit.

[USA Today](#) (11/8, Today, 8.62M) reports, “Four years after the Internet’s biggest data breach ever, Yahoo still has no idea who was behind it, how it was done or even when exactly it happened.” The breach in question affected all of Yahoo’s 3 billion users, “making the breach far and away the largest in the history of the Internet.” Mayer “apologized for both breaches and said that it’s difficult for companies to fight against state-sponsored attackers.”

The [Financial Times](#) (11/8, Gray, Subscription Publication, 1.34M) reports Mayer warned that even the best-defended companies are vulnerable to the threat of state-backed hackers.

The [Washington Post](#) (11/8, Shaban, 10.38M) reports, “Equifax revealed in September that attackers may have compromised the sensitive information of as many as 145 million people. But for many Americans – and for Senators at Wednesday’s hearing – it was unclear why Equifax was storing information about them in the first place.” The Post says senators’ questions “pushed back against fundamental aspects of Equifax’s business, which have faced widespread scrutiny after the data breach came to light.”

[ZDNet](#) (11/8, Whittaker, 164K) says Mayer and former Equifax CEO Richard Smith “stumbled” through the hearing “without answering basic questions about their respective massive data breaches, much to the chagrin of questioning lawmakers.”

[US News & World Report](#) (11/8, 1.73M) reports, “That the companies have still been struggling with the specifics of their respective cyberattacks didn’t sit particularly well with Senate lawmakers, nor did the idea that data collectors may

be particularly vulnerable when faced with state-backed attacks.”

[CNET News](#) (11/8, Ng, 2.35M) reports, “During the testimony, both companies talked up how they’ve changed since suffering their historic breaches – while senators called out their inaction.”

### **Administration Seen To Be Upholding US-China Hacking Accord.** [Politico](#)

(11/8, Bennett, 3.6M) reports, “President Donald Trump has broken with a host of Obama-era international agreements, from the Trans-Pacific Partnership to the Paris climate pact – but he’s showing every sign of sticking with a 2015 hacking accord with China.” The Administration “quietly reaffirmed the agreement” last month, “which Republicans had initially greeted with skepticism.” Furthermore, “business groups, cyber researchers and international policy experts say they see little reason for Trump to cancel the deal, especially as he’s pressing for China’s cooperation in curbing North Korea’s increasingly bellicose cyber and nuclear programs.”

### **FBI Hacked Computers Abroad In Child Porn Investigation.** The [Daily Beast](#)

(11/8, Cox, 988K) reports the FBI hacked computers in Russia, China, and Iran in the course of a “hacking operation in which U.S. authorities broke into thousands of computers around the world to investigate child pornography.” The Daily Beast says this “signals the bold future of policing on the so-called dark web, where investigators are increasingly deploying malware without first knowing which country their suspect is located in.” However, “blindly kicking down digital doors in countries not allied with the U.S. could lead to geopolitical fallout.”

### **DHS Sharing Cyber Threat Info Quickly, But Info Not Always Helpful.** [NextGov](#)

(11/8, Marks) reports DHS “is meeting the requirements of a 2015 law that directs the department to share more cyber threat information with the private sector, but the information it’s sharing isn’t always helpful.” The department has focused on sharing information as quickly as possible, “but that often means recipients don’t have enough context about the threats or good ideas about how to combat them, according to the inspector general’s report.”

### **DHS Official Discusses Remote Hacking Of Commercial Aircraft.** [Aviation Today](#)

(11/8, Biesecker) reports, “A team of government, industry and academic officials successfully demonstrated that a commercial aircraft could be remotely hacked in a non-laboratory setting last year, a U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) official said Wednesday at the 2017 CyberSat Summit in Tysons Corner, Virginia.” S&T cybersecurity division aviation program



manager Robert Hickey is quoted saying, "We got the airplane on Sept. 19, 2016. Two days later, I was successful in accomplishing a remote, non-cooperative, penetration. ... [Which] means I didn't have anybody touching the airplane, I didn't have an insider threat. I stood off using typical stuff that could get through security and we were able to establish a presence on the systems of the aircraft."

**Manfra Discusses DHS Cybersecurity Operations.** The [Washington Post](#) (11/8, 10.38M) features video of an interview with DHS Assistant Secretary for the Office of Cybersecurity and Communications Jeanette Manfra about DHS cybersecurity operations, and plans to possibly change the name of NPPD.

**CrowdStrike Official: DNC "Accelerated" Russian Hackers' Timeline.** The [Daily Beast](#) (11/8, 988K) reports Robert Johnston, the CrowdStrike employee hired by the DNC "to clean up the Russian malware from its servers," said the DNC "accidentally 'accelerated [the hacker's] timeline' by telling the press about the data theft, BuzzFeed News reported Wednesday." The Daily Beast says Johnston reportedly told the DNC that previous Russian hacks "had been only for espionage purposes and that previously stolen data had not been publicly released." However, the DNC tried to get in front of the story by telling The Washington Post. Johnston stated, "I believe now that [the Russians] were intending to release the information in late October or a week before the election. ... I don't think the Russian intelligence services were expecting it, expecting a statement and an article that pointed the finger at them."

[BuzzFeed](#) (11/8, Leopold, 6.64M) reports that when Johnston unveiled his findings to DNC officials, he explained that "Malware from the first attack had been festering in the DNC's system for a whole year. The second infiltration was only a couple of months old. Both sets of malware were associated with Russian intelligence." He also found that the hackers "had been gathering copies of all emails and sending them out to someone, somewhere." When asked what would happen to the data, Johnston recalled that he told the DNC that "such thefts have become the norm, and the hackers did not plan on doing anything with what they had purloined." The article says the decision to then tell the Post about the breach "may have backfired," as one day after the Post's report, "a Twitter user going by the name Guccifer 2.0 claimed responsibility for the hack and posted to the internet materials purportedly stolen from the DNC's server."

**State Election Administrators "Racing To Plug Vulnerabilities" Prior To Midterm Elections.** [The Hill](#) (11/8, Wilson, 1.68M) reports, "A year before the midterm elections, state election administrators are racing to plug vulnerabilities and update software ahead of an expected

wave of cyberattacks from foreign actors." State officials and election experts "hope Congress will act to update federal election law, in part to provide them with the resources they need to secure the democratic process."

## **State Official Associations Seek Harmonization Of Federal Cybersecurity Regulations, Audits.**

[Government Computer News](#) (11/8, Friedman) reports, "As state governments continue to consolidate their IT operations to reduce costs, they are faced with disparate cybersecurity compliance requirements that impede their progress." GCN says the requirements and "accompanying audits...[strain] states' limited staff resources and finances." The National Governors Association and National Association of State Chief Information Officers "sent a letter to Office of Management and Budget Director Mick Mulvaney asking OMB's Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs to work with two groups to harmonize federal cybersecurity regulations and standardize the federal audit process."

## **Law Enforcement Dealing With Increase In "Hackers For Hire" Cases.**

[Government Technology](#) (11/8) reports on "concern among law enforcement officials nationwide that hackers ranging from disgruntled ex-employees to enemy nation states are ramping up attacks on an ever-expanding array of personal digital devices connected to the web." Government Technology emphasizes "the difficulty of linking any suspect to the daily torrent of attacks often carried out by far-afield hackers who advertise their services online."

## **Defense Bill Requires President To Develop National Cyber Policy.**

[The Hill](#) (11/8, Chalfant, 1.68M) reports, "The final version of an annual defense policy bill would require President Trump to develop a national policy for cyberspace and acts of cyberwarfare," which "would need to address the use of offensive cyber capabilities to respond to attacks in cyberspace." The compromise version of the 2018 National Defense Authorization Act "does not appear to set forth a distinct doctrine for cyber warfare, as the original Senate-passed version did."

## **Europol Head: Cyber Criminals Sophisticated Enough To Pose Threat To Financial Sector.**

[Reuters](#) (11/8, Bugge) reports Europol head Rob Wainwright said cyber crime's "remorseless" growth has led to 4,000 ransomware attacks a day, and online criminals are now so sophisticated that they threaten critical parts of the financial sector.

## **National Defense Applications Of Artificial Intelligence Discussed.**

[US News & World Report](#)

(11/8, Radu, 1.73M) reports that the use of artificial intelligence in national defense “is sparking debate.” The US government “has sponsored six studies on the future role of artificial intelligence in governance and national security” in the last two years, while other nations have made similar investments. Discussion has focused on the “existential risk” to mankind, but “experts say more problematic are AI’s short-term implications in warfare, such as its ability to distort reality.” US News adds, “AI could cause as many problems as the number of benefits it can bring about, and experts say governments should embrace more of a proactive approach rather than reacting to issues when they occur.”

## **OTHER DHS NEWS**

**NYTimes Details Real ID.** The [New York Times](#) (11/8, Vora, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) details the Real ID Act’s new travel rules “intended to prevent identity fraud” that begin on Jan. 22, 2018. The new regulations require travelers in some states to present “identification other than a driver’s license to pass through Transportation Security Administration security checkpoints at airports.” The Times goes on to detail acceptable forms of ID, which include passports and other Real ID-compliant cards. DHS spokeswoman Justine Whelan is quoted as saying, “The act prevents the production of fake IDs and ensures that all identification that is used has certain features which prevent tampering or are difficult to replicate.”

**Continuing Coverage: Former Secret Service Agent Sentenced To Prison For Theft.** In continuing coverage, the [Washington Times](#) (11/8, Blake, 541K) reports, “A disgraced former Secret Service agent already serving time for stealing hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of digital currency from the federal government has been sentenced to spend an additional two years in prison for a separate heist.” Shaun Bridges “was sentenced Tuesday in connection with stealing from a digital wallet belonging to the government currently valued at about \$11.3 million.”

## **GLOBAL MEDIA**

**Canadian Officials Head To US To “Fend Off” Asylum-Seekers.** The [Globe and Mail \(CAN\)](#) (11/8, Levitz, 1.1M) reports Canadian Liberal MPs “are headed back to the U.S. to fend off a new surge of asylum seekers at the Canada-U.S. border following the latest move by the U.S. to tighten its immigration policy.” The US has “placed around 5,000 Nicaraguans on notice that their temporary status in the U.S. will be revoked in the next year, while nearly 86,000 Hondurans have been given an extension until July, at which

point their status could be revoked.” Montreal-area MP Pablo Rodriguez “said Wednesday he’s headed to Texas to reach out to all three communities after myths circulating earlier this year prompted hundreds of people a day to cross illegally into Canada in search of asylum, fearing the end of the temporary status program in the U.S.” [CBC \(CAN\)](#) (11/8, Thomson, 538K) reports Haitian-born Liberal MP Emmanuel Dubourg “said he and two other MPs will be going to the U.S. in the next two weeks to try to dissuade asylum seekers from Haiti, Africa, Central America and elsewhere from trying their luck in Canada in the same way that thousands of others have in the past year: by walking across the U.S.-Canada border at unofficial crossing points and applying for asylum once they get to Canada.” Dubourg is quoted as saying, “The main reason is to tell them we have a robust immigration law and that they should use the right channels to come to Canada instead of crossing in between the borders.”

**Continuing Coverage: Over 500 Asylum-Seekers Stay In PNG Camp.** In continuing coverage, the [AP](#) (11/8) reports, “More than 500 asylum seekers remained in a decommissioned Australian immigration camp in Papua New Guinea on Wednesday despite a court ruling that authorities no longer need to supply power, food and water.” PNG Police Chief Superintendent Dominic Kakas “said by Wednesday 38 asylum seekers had left the camp since the Supreme Court on Tuesday rejected an application to restore basic services on human rights grounds.” [Reuters](#) (11/8) reports PNG Prime Minister Peter O’Neill “said authorities will apprehend those responsible for a nine-day stand-off at an Australian-run detention center for asylum seekers, where almost 600 men have barricaded themselves inside despite having no water or food.” O’Neill is quoted as saying, “Those involved in disruption have been identified and appropriate means will be used to apprehend individuals who are causing unnecessary anxiety and violence.”

## **TERRORISM INVESTIGATIONS**

**New York State Lawmakers Propose Bill To Make It Harder For Terrorists To Rent Vehicles.** The [New York Daily News](#) (11/8, Rivoli, 3.61M) reports, “A week after a madman drove down the Hudson River bike path and killed eight people, state lawmakers proposed legislation Wednesday to make it tougher for terrorists to rent vehicles.” State senators “proposed a bill called the Vehicle Ramming Prevention Act that would set up a hotline for commercial rental company workers to report suspicious activity and require the state Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services to create guidelines to help those employees figure out what actions or questions could be a cause of concern.” The bill “would also make companies

create their own prevention plans, based on U.S. Transportation Security Administration guidelines, and file it with the state's homeland security agency." The Daily News says vehicles "have become the weapon of choice for terrorists looking for an easy way to kill innocent people." According to a TSA report, there have been "17 vehicle-ramming terrorist attacks worldwide" between 2014 and April, 2017.

### **Former AG Mukasey: Don't Limit Effectiveness Of Anti-Terror Law.**

In an op-ed for the [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/8, Subscription Publication, 6.45M), former Attorney General Michael B. Mukasey writes that congressional proposals to amend Section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) include provisions that would diminish the law's effectiveness. Mukasey argues that limiting the law's usefulness would hinder federal officials in their efforts to thwart terrorist attacks, and he contends that the statute does not violate civil liberties, as some critics say, but instead protects Americans by providing information to law enforcement officials that can be used to fight terrorism.

### **Apple Reaches Out To Law Enforcement Following Difficulty Unlocking TX Shooter's Phone.**

The [New York Times](#) (11/8, Benner, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports that Apple has reached out to law enforcement handling the investigation of Devin P. Kelley, the gunman in the Texas shooting, to ask "if there was anything the company could do to help" following a Tuesday news conference when the FBI announced that it has been unable to unlock the gunman's phone. The FBI did not specify what type of phone it was, but the Times reports that Kelley owned an iPhone. The Times says "the authorities could have used Mr. Kelley's fingers for up to 48 hours after he last opened his iPhone to activate the biometric Touch ID function to gain access to the device." The Times adds that "it is unclear why officials did not do so. After 48 hours, law enforcement would need a passcode to open the phone."

The [Washington Post](#) (11/8, Barrett, Nakashima, 10.38M) reports that "after the FBI said it was dealing with a phone it couldn't open, Apple reached out to the bureau to learn if the phone was an iPhone and if the FBI was seeking assistance. Late Tuesday an FBI official responded, saying it was an iPhone but the agency was not asking anything of the company at this point. That's because experts at the FBI's lab in Quantico, Va., are trying to determine if there are other methods, such as cloud storage or a linked laptop, that would give access to the phone's data, these people said." According to the Post, "That process could take weeks."

Citing an anonymous source, [Reuters](#) (11/8, Nellis, Volz) reports "that in the 48 hours between Sunday's shooting" and San Antonio SAC Christopher Comb's news

conference on Tuesday, Apple "received no requests from federal, state or local law enforcement authorities for technical assistance with Kelley's phone or his associated online accounts at Apple."

[CNET News](#) (11/8, Musil, 2.35M) reports that Apple released a statement on Wednesday reading: "Our team immediately reached out to the FBI after learning from their press conference on Tuesday that investigators were trying to access a mobile phone. We offered assistance and said we would expedite any legal process they send us."

The [AP](#) (11/8, Gurman) notes that while campaigning last year, President Trump "called on Americans to boycott Apple unless it helped the FBI hack into the phone." The AP goes on to describe "a longstanding frustration of the FBI, which claims encryption has stymied investigations of everything from sex crimes against children to drug cases, even if they obtain a warrant for the information. Agents have been unable to retrieve data from half the mobile devices – more than 6,900 phones, computers and tablets – that they tried to access in less than a year, FBI Director Christopher Wray said last month, wading into an issue that also vexed his predecessor, James Comey."

[Ars Technica](#) (11/8, 974K) says Apple argues that "deliberately weakening the security of consumer devices would help criminals target innocent people who rely on encryption to ensure their digital safety." Also reporting on the FBI's efforts to unlock the phone are [USA Today](#) (11/8, Johnson, Weise, 8.62M), [Slate](#) (11/8, Thulin, 2.11M), and [Business Insider](#) (11/8, 3.83M).

### **Pentagon's Failure To Report Domestic Violence Cases To FBI Database Detailed.**

The [San Antonio Express-News](#) (11/7, 1.18M) reports that "FBI data indicate military rarely reports domestic violence," and the Defense Department "had only one such case listed on a national FBI database published at the end of 2016. Along with that single misdemeanor, an FBI report of active records on the National Instant Criminal Background Check System, or NICS, from December 2016 shows the military service branches and the Pentagon had just a handful of 'adjudicated mental health' reports, one felony, and 10,958 dishonorable discharges. The end-of-year report didn't list any records at all from the Defense Department regarding soldiers, sailors, airmen or Marines barred from buying guns because of domestic violence restraining orders."

The [Air Force Times](#) (11/8, Jowers, 163K) reports that "it's been nearly 30 years since Congress first passed a law requiring that the Defense Department track and report crimes in the military community and routinely report them to the FBI. But despite decades of prodding from Congress and internal Pentagon reviews, it still remains unclear whether the military services have set up a reliable system that can accurately transmit information from command-level courts martial to the FBI's main database that tracks crime



nationwide.” The AFT says “the military’s crime reporting is in the spotlight this week in the aftermath of the Texas church shooting that killed 26 people on Sunday.” Former airman Devin Kelley was “court-martialed and convicted in 2012 for beating his wife and stepson,” but the USAF “failed to report the conviction to the FBI,” which “would have prohibited [Kelley] from buying guns.”

The [Daily Caller](#) (11/8, Enjeti, 521K) reports that Secretary of Defense James Mattis “is requesting the Department of Defense Inspector General review a procedural reporting error which allowed Texas mass killer Devin Kelley to legally purchase a firearm, a Monday memo released by the Pentagon reveals. The memo broadens the purview of the inquiry to the entire Pentagon’s reporting procedures to the FBI for entry into a background check database used by firearms sellers.”

**New Details Of Sutherland Springs Shooting Emerge Through Video Footage.** The [New York Times](#) (11/8, Goldman, Pérez-Peña, Fernandez, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports that a video of the shooting at Sutherland Springs, Texas’ First Baptist Church on Sunday showed that the shooting lasted about seven minutes. Law enforcement has studied the video, but it is unclear when, if ever, it will be released to the public. The youngest of the 26 killed in the shooting was one year old, while the oldest was 77. Vice President Mike Pence arrived in San Antonio on Wednesday afternoon to visit a hospital. He also was scheduled to “address a prayer vigil near the church” and “meet with local law enforcement officials.” [ABC World News Tonight](#) (11/8, story 3, 2:40, Muir, 14.63M) reported that nine children died in the attack, including an unborn child who died along with a pregnant mother. [NBC Nightly News](#) (11/8, story 6, 0:25, Holt, 16.61M) reported that the gunman attended a church fall festival with his children only days before the massacre.

## **NATIONAL SECURITY NEWS**

**US, UK And France Urge UN To Maintain Syria Chemical Weapons Probe.** The [AP](#) (11/8, Lederer) reports US, British and French diplomats urged the UN Security Council Wednesday to renew the mandate of experts charged with determining who was responsible for chemical weapons attacks in Syria. Secretary of State Tillerson, British Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson and French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian said it’s “essential” to seek justice for the victims and hold those responsible accountable. Their joint statement follows Russia’s veto of a US-sponsored Security Council resolution on Oct. 24 that would have renewed the experts’ mandate. Reporting on the dispute, [Reuters](#) (11/8) says “major Western powers appeared ready for a showdown.” In their joint statement,

Tillerson, Johnson and Le Drian said the Security Council has “a common responsibility to protect the international non-proliferation regime and to respect their previous commitments.”

**Syria Captures Last ISIS Stronghold.** [Reuters](#) (11/8, Bassam, McDowall) reports that the Syrian army and “its allies, spearheaded by Lebanon’s Hezbollah,” captured ISIS’ last stronghold in Syria on Wednesday, “bringing the self-declared caliphate close to complete downfall.” Syrian state television declared “Albu Kamal is liberated,” but the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said there was still fighting in the area.

**Report: US Has Spent More Than \$4 Trillion On Wars Since 9/11.** The [New York Post](#) (11/8, Tacopino, 4.31M) reports that the US has spent more than \$4 trillion on foreign wars since the 9/11 attacks, a report by the Watson Institute at Brown University said Wednesday. The Institute at Brown University said conflicts in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iraq and Syria have cost “\$4.3 trillion and could reach \$5.6 trillion by the end of 2018.”

**Rouhani Defends Houthi Attack On Riyadh.** The [New York Times](#) (11/8, Erdbrink, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports Iranian President Hassan Rouhani “stood his ground on Wednesday in an escalating regional showdown,” defending a Houthi rebel missile attack on Riyadh that Saudi Arabia has denounced as an Iranian “act of war.” Rouhani said Saudi forces were “constantly bombing” Yemen, adding: “What reaction can the nation of Yemen show toward this amount of bombardment? They say that they should not use weapons? Well, you stop the bombs, and then see if you don’t get a positive reaction from the nation of Yemen.”

**WPost Criticizes Saudi Reaction, NYTimes Urges Steps To Avoid Conflict With Iran.** In an editorial, meanwhile, the [Washington Post](#) (11/8, 10.38M) criticizes the Saudi reaction of the missile launched toward Riyadh, charging that its aim is “to besiege some of the world’s most desperate people – the cholera-stricken and literally famished civilian population of Yemen.” To the Post, “the press of multiple international crises and President Trump’s monopolization of media attention have helped obscure the severity of the humanitarian emergency in Yemen.” Moreover, the Saudis have “offered no proof of the rocket’s origin, and experts point out that Yemen is known to have imported Scud missiles from North Korea before the war.”

The [New York Times](#) (11/8, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) editorializes that officials in both Saudi Arabia and the US should counsel Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman of Saudi Arabia to avoid pushing too strongly for a war with Iran. The Times writes that bin Salman’s “wholesale arrests in Saudi Arabia have been seen as fundamentally a power play



to cement his internal control over the kingdom. But his aggressive moves to reshape both his country and the Middle East are likely to have wider consequences, further destabilizing a region already in turmoil while increasing the chances of a Saudi war with Iran.” The Times criticizes what they perceive to be Jared Kushner’s tacit approval of the mass arrests, based on his failure to comment on them after spending some time recently in Saudi Arabia.

### **Corker To Hold Hearing On Trump’s Authority To Use Nuclear Weapons.**

The [Washington Times](#) (11/8, Dinan, 541K) reports Sen. Bob Corker said Wednesday he will hold a hearing next week “looking at presidential authority to use nuclear weapons, in a move that seems targeted at President Trump.” Corker “said members of both parties have questioned what powers the president has to use nuclear weapons,” noting that it has been “more than four decades since Congress has looked at the issue.”

### **NATO Boosts Operations For First Time Since Cold War.**

The [Washington Post](#) (11/8, Birnbaum, 10.38M) reports that as the “specter of conflict with Russia looms over Europe,” NATO defense ministers agreed Wednesday to expand the alliance’s operations “for the first time since the Cold War, sharpen its focus on cyber operations, and boost its capability to respond to Kremlin aggression.” The ministers approved plans that would “bolster their ability to keep an eye on Russian submarines in the Atlantic Ocean,” and “committed to establishing a command dedicated to sweeping away barriers preventing their forces from being deployed quickly across Europe in the event of war.” Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg told the ministers the moves “will ensure that NATO continues to adapt for the 21st century so that we can keep our people safe in a more challenging world.”

### **Turkish PM In Washington Amid Hopes Of Resetting Relations.**

The [Washington Post](#) (11/8, Deyoung, 10.38M) reports that strained relations between the US and Turkey “will not improve unless Washington takes steps to address Turkish concerns over its actions in Syria and its failure to extradite a Turkish cleric sought by Ankara on terrorism charges, Turkish Prime Minister Binali Yildirim said” Wednesday during a visit to Washington. Yildirim said he would take up “these and other issues” in a meeting Thursday with Vice President Pence, in hopes that the two countries can “start a new era” of cooperation. However, the Post says there are “no signs” that the Administration is moving toward addressing Turkey’s demand that it extradite cleric Fethullah Gulen.

### **US, EU Reaffirm Support For Lebanon.**

[Reuters](#) (11/8, Perry, Barrington) reports that the US and EU

Wednesday reaffirmed support for Lebanon after the resignation of its prime minister over the weekend, “striking a sharp contrast to Saudi Arabia.” Lebanon has been in crisis since Saad al-Hariri resigned Saturday in a speech delivered from Saudi Arabia. The US Ambassador to Lebanon said the US remained “committed to a stable, secure, democratic, and prosperous Lebanon,” while EU Ambassadors to Lebanon said they reaffirmed “their strong support for the continued unity, stability, sovereignty, and security of Lebanon and its people.”

The [AP](#) (11/8, El Deeb) reports Iranian President Hassan Rouhani criticized Saudi Arabia on Wednesday over what he called “unprecedented” interference in Lebanese affairs, “adding his voice to those who suspect the Gulf kingdom forced Lebanon’s prime minister to resign.”

The [Washington Post](#) (11/8, Loveluck, Morris, 10.38M) says Hariri’s “sudden resignation...has opened a new period of political uncertainty and fear in Lebanon,” which now “appears more vulnerable to conflict as Israel and Saudi Arabia try to isolate their shared enemy” – Hezbollah. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/8, Jones, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) reports Israel is moving to counter Iran and Hezbollah by aligning its policies with Saudi Arabia.

### **EU To Impose Arms Embargo On Venezuela.**

[Reuters](#) (11/8, Emmott) reports the EU is “set to impose an arms embargo on Venezuela and will consider further sanctions in response to the political crisis” there, two EU diplomats said. The measures will bring the EU “more into line” with the US, which imposed sanctions earlier this year, and “signal a change of tone in Brussels, which had previously resisted taking a tougher approach toward Caracas.” [Bloomberg News](#) (11/8, Stearns, Laya, 4.52M) reports the measures were endorsed by EU ambassadors at a meeting Wednesday in Brussels and will be put to the bloc’s foreign ministers for approval when they meet next week.

**Russia To Restructure Venezuelan Debt.** The [New York Times](#) (11/8, Krauss, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports that “with Venezuela on the edge of default, Russia has thrown it a life preserver.” Russian Finance Minister Anton Siluanov announced Wednesday that the two countries had agreed to the restructuring of “roughly \$3 billion in Kremlin loans.” The Times says the amount is “tiny compared with Venezuela’s crushing \$120 billion debt, but it may help President Nicolás Maduro’s government make hundreds of millions of dollars in payments over the next few weeks to other creditors and help reassure bondholders that a default is not imminent.”

### **US Officials: “No News To Share” On Embassy Move To Jerusalem.**

The [Washington Free Beacon](#) (11/8, Kredo, 158K) reports that the Administration is

"remaining quiet on when it will relocate the US embassy in Israel to Jerusalem amid growing calls from Congress for the Administration to enact the policy" President Trump "repeatedly promised during the 2016 campaign." Officials from the National Security Council and State Department provided "identical statements" to the Free Beacon Wednesday saying there is "no news to share" on when the Administration will relocate the embassy.

## **Spanish Court Annuls Catalan Independence Declaration.**

[Reuters](#) (11/8, Sanz) reports Spain's Constitutional Court Wednesday officially annulled the Catalan parliament's Oct. 27 unilateral declaration of independence. Reuters says the move was "widely expected" after the move was suspended by the court.

**Traffic Blocked In Catalonia To Protest Arrests.** [Fox News' Special Report](#) (11/8, 2.07M) briefly reported protesters in favor of Catalonia's independence stopped traffic Wednesday in the region to protest the jailing of ousted Catalan government officials and secessionist activists.

## **NATIONAL NEWS**

### **Ahead Of Trump-Xi Talks, US And Chinese Companies Sign Deals Worth Billions.**

President Trump began a two-day visit to Beijing Wednesday for talks expected to focus on trade and North Korea. As he arrived, [USA Today](#) (11/8, Jackson, Hjelmgaard, 8.62M) reports, US and Chinese companies signed "more than a dozen deals worth \$9 billion" at a ceremony attended by Commerce Secretary Ross and Vice Premier Wang Yang. No details "were immediately released, but such business contracts are a common fixture of visits by foreign leaders to China." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/8, A1, Dou, Page, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) indicates that among the deals announced by Ross were agreements by General Electric, DowDuPont and Smithfield Foods with Chinese counterparts.

[Bloomberg News](#) (11/8, 4.52M) reports, meanwhile, that in total, the White House expects to announce "upwards of \$250 billion in business deals in China this week, an administration official said – exactly the sort of US jobs-based diplomacy that...Trump likes to deliver when traveling abroad." Ross "boasted of that number in a meeting with chief executives in China on Wednesday, but offered few details, according to two people who attended the meeting."

The [New York Times](#) (11/8, Bradsher, Swanson, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports Trump arrived in Beijing "accompanied by the chiefs of some of the most ambitious and influential American companies: Boeing, Goldman Sachs, Westinghouse Electric and Qualcomm, among others." However, the Times say that "not much" is expected to come from Trump's meeting with Xi "to the

frustration of some American business executives." The Administration, it adds, "has been stretched thin on trade," and trade has been "supplanted by North Korea as the most talked-about issue" so far on the President's trip.

[Business Insider](#) (11/8, 3.83M) writes that while Trump "made the debate over free trade one of the central topics of his campaign...side from leaving the TPP, he has delivered little on the trade front in the year since his election." It attributes the lack of action "at least partially" to the on-going North Korea crisis, in which the US needs the support of China and South Korea.

[CNBC](#) (11/8, DiChristopher, 3.48M) reports Trump's "entourage" on the trip includes "a pair of natural gas executives, a sign that the White House is eager to build on progress earlier this year to ship more of the fuel to China." CNBC notes that natural gas demand in China is "rising and poised to boom in coming years," and the Administration is "making it a priority to assure US companies scoop up a significant share of the business." [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/8, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) columnist Nathaniel Taplin, however, contends that the deals announced Wednesday will only make a small dent in the US trade deficit with China.

**Trumps Afforded Lavish Welcome Ahead Of Tough Talks.** Media coverage of the President's arrival in Beijing cast his initial meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping as an exchange of pleasantries ahead of what are expected to be tough talks. [ABC World News Tonight](#) (11/8, story 4, 2:10, Karl, 14.63M), for example, referred to "a lavish red carpet welcome for...Trump complete with honor guards," and added that "on the motorcade route," there were "excited school children waving American and Chinese flags." The [AP](#) (11/9, Lemire, Colvin), meanwhile, says Trump's two-day visit "opened with diplomatic niceties aplenty," though "thorny issues await the two world leaders behind closed doors, including potential tensions" over trade and North Korea.

[NBC Nightly News](#) (11/8, story 4, 1:15, Jackson, 16.61M) also said "China has really been rolling out the red carpet so far, with plenty of public displays of political affection between these two leaders." NBC added that "at one point...Trump showed President Xi Jinping a video of Ivanka's daughter singing in Mandarin. The grandparent in chief hoping that warm personal relationship will pay off on the policy front."

[Reuters](#) (11/8, Wen, Holland) also says Xi greeted Trump with "lavish pageantry and an uncharacteristic personal flourish," ahead of talks that are expected to be dominated by North Korea and trade. In what Reuters calls a "break from precedent, Xi himself gave the Trumps a tour of the imperial treasures of the Forbidden City." The [Daily Caller](#) (11/8, Pickrell, 521K) reports the President and First Lady were also treated to "a rare dinner at the Forbidden City, an honor that has not been bestowed on a foreign leader since the founding of the People's Republic of China 68 years ago."

The [Washington Post](#) (11/8, Nakamura, Parker, 10.38M) reports Trump “lavished praise” on Xi, touting the “great chemistry” between them and declaring their relationship a “great one.” [USA Today](#) (11/8, Jackson, 8.62M) says Trump “has been full of praise for Xi and China on what is probably the most important stop of his Asia tour” in contrast from the presidential campaign, “when Trump constantly argued that China stole jobs from the United States.”

On the issue of North Korea, the [New York Times](#) (11/8, Landler, Perlez, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports Trump arrived “primed to ask...Xi...to step up Chinese pressure on North Korea over its nuclear and ballistic missile programs. But Mr. Trump’s latest foray into personal diplomacy may end in frustration,” as the Chinese leader “either cannot, or does not want to, do the job.” Trump, a senior Administration official said, “plans to call on the Chinese leader to cut off oil exports to North Korea, at least temporarily; to close down North Korean bank accounts in China; and to send home tens of thousands of North Koreans who work in China.”

The [CBS Evening News](#) (11/8, story 6, 2:20, Tracy, 11.17M) reported that “imports of North Korean seafood, textiles, and coal are now banned” in China, “but just days before the sanctions took effect, China purchased 1.6 million tons of North Korean coal worth nearly \$140 million. Traders here in Dandong, say that some items banned by the UN are still being imported from North Korea, and that’s because it’s right here.” The Chinese government, however, “says it is strictly enforcing the sanctions and that its imports from North Korea have fallen nearly 40 percent. But it’s unclear if that’s having impact on deterring North Korea from advancing its nuclear weapons program.”

The [Washington Post](#) (11/8, Fifield, 10.38M) reports that during a speech earlier on Wednesday in Seoul, the President “did not mince his words” about North Korea, saying it is “a country ruled as a cult. At the center of this military cult is a deranged belief in the leader’s destiny to rule.” [USA Today](#) (11/8, Durando, 8.62M) reports North Korea “shot back” at Trump’s “rough rhetoric by saying the United States should oust him” from power “to get rid of the abyss of doom,” state-run media said. North Korean state media referred to Trump as a “lunatic old man.”

**North Korea Says Sanctions Hurting Women, Children.** [Reuters](#) (11/8, Nebehay) reports North Korea said Wednesday it was “working to uphold women’s rights and gender equality,” but that international sanctions are “taking a toll on vulnerable families.” North Korea’s Ambassador to the UN in Geneva, Han Tae Song, also urged South Korea to return 12 waitresses “kidnapped” while working in China in April 2016, calling it a “crime against humanity.”

**Despite Security Concerns, Trump Tweets From China.** [Bloomberg News](#) (11/8, Sink, 4.52M) reports on

concerns over whether the President should use Twitter during his visit to China. The White House convened “internal discussions and tapped US counterintelligence officials to consult on the matter before the President left for Asia last week,” according to sources. Administration officials, however, said Trump would tweet during his visit, “even at the risk of flouting the privilege in a nation that generally denies Western social media to its own people.”

The [Washington Post](#) (11/8, Nakamura, 10.38M) reports Trump is “expected to continue his daily dose of high-octane missives” on Twitter over the visit, “but it’s what he might chose not to say that could send a more subtle but equally important message.” In fact, Trump [tweeted](#) Wednesday from Beijing, “Looking forward to a full day of meetings with President Xi and our delegations tomorrow. THANK YOU for the beautiful welcome China! @FLOTUS Melania and I will never forget it!”

**Coons “Encouraged By The Tone And Tenor Of The Trip.”** Sen. Chris Coons said on [MSNBC’s Morning Joe](#) (11/8, 995K), “I am encouraged by the tone and tenor of the trip, obviously, the self promotion notwithstanding, to have President Trump move towards a more diplomatic tone after some early bluster. Now that we have pre-positioned three aircraft carrier groups, the nuclear subs, the personnel and material in the region, I think President Trump is striking the right balance between having previously been overly threatening and now pursuing a diplomatic alternative. This has to be an off-ramp for North Korea to be consider taking. He is going to have to be to be strong with Xi Jinping. The next couple of days are going to be crucial. But, all of us that worry about America’s security and about the human consequences of a potential confrontation with North Korea going wrong have to be encouraged by President Trump’s tone.”

**Congress Proposes Tougher Reviews Of Foreign Investments.** The [New York Times](#) (11/8, Swanson, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports that a group of bipartisan lawmakers introduced legislation Wednesday “that would subject Chinese investments to greater scrutiny through a significant expansion of the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States, or Cfius.” The legislation is aimed at “preventing China from taking advantage of the United States’ open approach to foreign investment while refusing to fully open its own markets.”

**China’s Tencent Buys 12 Percent Stake In Snap.** Chinese Internet giant Tencent has become one of the largest shareholders in Snap, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/8, Russolillo, Vaishampayan, Farrell, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) reports, purchasing a 12 percent stake worth at least \$2 billion.

**UCLA Basketball Players Arrested For Shoplifting In China.** [ABC World News Tonight](#) (11/8, story 9, 0:15, Muir, 14.63M) reported, “Three American basketball players



are facing possible changes in China. The UCLA players were arrested for allegedly shoplifting days before their season opener in Shanghai. They are under house arrest in their hotel tonight."

**Kremlin: Putin And Trump Likely To Meet In Vietnam.** The [AP](#) (11/8, Isachenkov) reports the Kremlin said Wednesday that President Vladimir Putin and President Trump "have a full agenda for their likely encounter" on the sidelines of the APEC leaders' summit later this week in Vietnam. Putin's foreign affairs adviser, Yuri Ushakov, said the two leaders may have an "extensive" one-on-one meeting, although a specific time has not been set. "There are things to discuss and we are ready for it," Ushakov said. The [Washington Times](#) (11/8, Blake, 541K) likewise reports that it is "very likely" Trump will meet "face-to-face" with Putin at the summit.

**Duterte Urges Trump To "Lay Off" Human Rights During Visit.** [Breitbart](#) (11/8, Martel, 2.42M) reports Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte told reporters Wednesday that he is prepared to tell President Trump to "lay off" if the US leader "challenged him on reports that his administration is violating the human rights of its citizens." Asked what he would tell Trump if he mentioned human rights concerns, Duterte replied, "Lay off. That is not your business. That is my business. I take care of my country and I will nurture my country to health."

**Storey: By Battling ISIS In Philippines, Trump Proved Commitment To Security In Asia.** Ian J. Storey, a senior fellow at the ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute in Singapore, writes in an op-ed for the [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/8, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) highlights the US's assistance to the Philippine army when ISIS took over the city of Marawi and writes that by honoring the US alliance with the Philippines despite President Rodrigo Duterte's anti-US rhetoric, President Trump demonstrated that the US commitment to regional security remains strong.

**Trump's Choice Of Hamburger Sparks "Twitter Firestorm" In Japan.** [Fox News](#) (11/8, 4.31M) reports that while visiting Japan, President Trump ate a hamburger, "setting off a Twitter firestorm of those both praising and criticizing the choice."

**Media Analyses: Election Results "Rebuke" Of Trump, Ominous Sign For GOP.** In the wake of Democrats' successes in Tuesday elections, particularly Gov.-elect Ralph Northam's win in Virginia's gubernatorial election and big Democratic gains in that state's House of Delegates, media coverage – including reports on all three major network newscasts – frames the results as a rebuke of President Trump and an ominous sign for the GOP heading into next year's midterm elections.

On [ABC World News Tonight](#) (11/8, story 5, 2:00, Muir, 14.63M), Mary Bruce reported, "Less than 30 minutes after Virginia voters delivered President Trump a resounding rebuke, the President took to Twitter, declaring the Republican's defeat had nothing to do with him. Instead, he blamed the candidate, Ed Gillespie, tweeting, he 'did not embrace me or what I stand for.' A complete 180. Trump had urged supporters to back Gillespie." Bruce added that "Northam's win was fueled by anti-Trump backlash. One-third of Virginia voters say they cast their ballot to protest the President. ... Democrats are now dreaming of a wave in the midterms."

In the lead story for the [CBS Evening News](#) (11/8, lead story, 2:40, 11.17M), Anthony Mason reported that in the wake of Tuesday's victories in the New Jersey and Virginia gubernatorial races, Democrats are "suddenly feeling very good about next year's midterm elections." CBS' Nancy Cordes added, "In exit polls, 34 percent of Virginians said their vote was, at least in part, a vote against Trump. A surge in Democratic turnout handed the party at least 14 new seats in Virginia's House of Delegates." University of Virginia political scientist Larry Sabato was shown saying, "It was totally stunning to everybody who follows politics here."

On [NBC Nightly News](#) (11/8, story 3, 2:15, Holt, 16.61M), Kasie Hunt reported on the Democratic wins in Virginia, and added, "Some congressional Republicans say it's a wake-up call." Rep. Scott Taylor (R-VA) was shown saying, "I think it's important for Republicans to self-reflect, starting from the top all the way down." Hunt: "Was it a referendum on Donald Trump?" Taylor: "I do believe so." And Rep. Carlos Curbelo (R-FL) was shown saying, "Voters sent a strong message, especially in Virginia, that these nativist, divisive campaigns don't work in most parts of the country." Hunt added, "The White House tonight is down playing last night's election results, saying that 2018 is 'long ways away.' But it's putting even more pressure on Republicans in Congress to show they're capable of governing, as Republicans race to try to pass their tax reform plan before the end of the year."

The [Washington Post](#) (11/8, Kane, 10.38M) reports that Democratic candidates successes on Tuesday, "particularly in key suburban battlegrounds across the nation, validates a strategy that Democrats on Capitol Hill had embraced earlier this year: trying to win back the majority by riding a wave of liberal resentment toward President Trump while also promising rational governance to centrist swing voters."

[Reuters](#) (11/8, Stein, Ax) reports Democrats on Tuesday "claimed historic gains in Virginia's statehouse and flipped Republican-held seats in other local races across the" US. The party "also held onto the Virginia governor's mansion and celebrated coast-to-coast victories in off-year elections that could foreshadow the mood of the national electorate



heading into the November 2018 elections, when control of the US Congress will be at stake.”

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (11/8, Decker, 4.49M) reports, “Republicans awoke Wednesday facing a tortuous road ahead for their candidates in the 2018 elections, particularly in suburban areas where animosity toward...Trump overwhelmed his party in Tuesday’s elections.” The Times adds, “The view from the suburbs is key because it points to the central problem for Republicans in 2018: Control of the House will be decided in large part in districts similar to those that retaliated against Trump on Tuesday.” In 2018, the GOP “will face the same conundrum that befell the losing Virginia gubernatorial candidate, Ed Gillespie: The racially tinged, culture war themes that appeal to Trump loyalists provoked a giant backlash among moderate suburbanites and nonwhite voters.”

The [New York Times](#) (11/8, Burns, Martin, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports that US “suburbs appear to be in revolt against...Trump after a muscular coalition of college-educated voters and racial and ethnic minorities on Tuesday dealt the” GOP “a thumping rejection and propelled a diverse class of Democrats into office.” The Times adds, “Leaders in both parties said the elections amounted to an earsplitting alarm bell for Republicans ahead of the 2018 elections, when the party’s grip on the House of Representatives may hinge on the socially moderate, multiethnic communities surrounding major cities.”

Under the headline “Republicans Have A Serious Suburban Problem In 2018,” [Politico](#) (11/8, Bland, 3.6M) highlighted Northam’s large margins of victory over Gillespie in Virginia’s suburbs, and added that GOP “strategists described Gillespie’s 9-point loss and other election results around the country as a massive early-warning signal for the 2018 elections, when House Republicans must defend 23 mostly suburban districts that Trump lost last year.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/8, De Avila, Vilensky, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) reports that Democratic candidates in the suburbs of New York City rode anti-Trump sentiment to big wins.

The [Washington Post](#) (11/8, Vozzella, 10.38M) quotes Northam as saying in a Wednesday interview, “I don’t think there’s any question that there are some policies coming out of Washington that are concerning to Virginia and perhaps a detriment to Virginians. But I think the message is, the divisiveness, the hatred, the divisive politics that is tearing this country apart, I think people...want to do things the Virginia way. Focus on the economy, focus on Virginians having a job, focusing on education...access to affordable and quality healthcare.”

[Bloomberg News](#) (11/8, Dopp, John, 4.52M) reports, “Democrats won a sweeping statewide victory in Virginia by energizing the coalition that was supposed to carry them into the future but failed them in 2016: young voters and women.”

Bloomberg News says Northam “won women by 22 percentage points on Tuesday, outmatching Hillary Clinton a year earlier, when women backed her over Trump, 56 percent to 39 percent, according to NBC News exit polls. Among voters 18-29, Northam beat Gillespie, 69 percent to 30 percent, a margin that doubled Clinton’s performance a year earlier.” Bloomberg News adds that Northam also racked up huge margins in Virginia’s suburbs.

Writing for the [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/8, Subscription Publication, 6.45M), Gerald Seib says that Democrats in Virginia were boosted to victory by strong support from wealthy whites, young voters, minorities, women who live in the suburbs, and unmarried women. The [New York Times](#) (11/8, Tackett, Gabriel, Johnson, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports, “If the 2016 presidential election reflected a primal roar from disaffected white working class voters that delivered for President Trump and Republicans, Tuesday’s results showed the potential of a rising coalition of women, minorities, and gay and transgender people who are solidly aligning with Democrats.”

The [Washington Times](#) (11/8, Dinan, 541K) reports, “Gun-control activists, Obamacare supporters, immigrant-rights advocates, environmentalists, gay rights activists – every part of the Democratic coalition – claimed momentum Wednesday in the wake of stunning victories in the off-year elections.” The Times adds that “the fallout could reach deep into Capitol Hill, where Democrats said they’re newly energized in their battle against the GOP’s tax-cut bill, and warned Republicans to heed the signs out of Virginia.” The Post adds that a number of the Democratic wins across the country were scored in “suburban areas that make up the key battlegrounds where next year’s mid-term congressional elections are likely to be fought.”

[McClatchy](#) (11/8, Glueck, 67K) reports that Tuesday’s “rout of Republican candidates” across the country “triggered alarm bells in Republican circles that a deteriorating political environment could set in motion a Democratic wave in the 2018 midterm elections.” McClatchy adds, “For Republicans,” the outcomes of the elections “were a reminder that Democrats are, in fact, capable of translating liberal anti-Trump energy into actual votes. It was evidence of the environmental perils that often await a president’s party in the midterm elections – especially when that president has historically low approval ratings.”

The [AP](#) (11/8, Peoples) reports that Tuesday’s elections “left little doubt that Trump’s dismal approval ratings can drag down Republican allies, particularly those serving in states he lost last November. And even if his ratings show signs of improvement, history suggests that the first midterm elections for any new president often lead to major gains for the opposing party.”

The [Richmond \(VA\) Times-Dispatch](#) (11/8, Moomaw, 394K) reports, “To many observers on the right, the

explanation for why so many suburban Virginia voters suddenly seemed allergic to voting Republican was simple. They were all itching to vote against Trump's party. Tucker Martin, a GOP strategist and adviser to...Gillespie, said Gillespie's unsuccessful campaign for governor was swamped by a wave of anti-Trump Virginians eager to cast a 'proxy vote' against the president in a state Trump lost last year."

The [Washington Post](#) (11/8, Schneider, 10.38M) reports, "The sweeping gains won by Democrats in Tuesday's elections complete Virginia's transformation into the only blue state of the old Confederacy. ... Change has been coming to the increasingly diverse state for years, but the evolution was turbocharged by the provocative influence of...Trump," whose "victory last fall and subsequent knife-twisting tweets inspired a surge of Democratic candidates to run for office and pushed many voters to the polls. 'This election, more than anything else, was a Trump-effect election,' said Stephen Farnsworth, a political scientist at the University of Mary Washington."

The [Washington Post](#) (11/8, Jordan, Tumulty, Chandler, 10.38M) reports, "Women racked up victories across the country on Tuesday, and are being credited with the Democrats' big night overall. It is a testament to the remarkable explosion of women candidates who have entered the political stage since...Trump was elected president one year ago. The wave is likely to continue" next year, when "40 women are already planning to run for governor. Dozens more are considering congressional and other statewide office bids. And Tuesday's result has already become a rallying cry for activists seeking to draw even more women into the public square."

Under the headline "GOP Faces Wrenching Call: Running With Or Away From Trump," [Politico](#) (11/8, Isenstadt, 3.6M) reported that Tuesday's election setbacks "have exacerbated a growing rift inside the GOP over whether the party's candidates should embrace...Trump in next year's midterms – or make a clean break. With Trump's approval ratings cratering in swing states across the country, some senior party strategists are imploring lawmakers to abandon the president. Others argue that shunning Trump and his populist base is simply out of the question and that anything other than a full embrace of the president would spell electoral disaster."

The [Washington Post](#) (11/8, Costa, Rucker, 10.38M) reports that Tuesday's "wave of Democratic victories ignited a ferocious debate across the Republican Party on Wednesday over whether...Trump's unorthodox behavior and polarizing agenda is jeopardizing the GOP's firm grip on power in Congress, governors' mansions and state legislatures." In the wake of Tuesday's results, "Republicans are increasingly uncertain about keeping their majorities on Capitol Hill and are worried about how damaging Trump's jagged brand of

politics may become to the party." The Post adds, "The unease was palpable among vulnerable lawmakers, especially in suburban districts with the kind of voters who roundly rejected...Gillespie."

On its website, [CNN](#) (11/8, Bradner, 33.59M) reported, "The blue wave that crashed Virginia's suburbs on Tuesday could also – if it extends into the 2018 midterm elections – carry Democrats into control of the House." CNN said that Northam won Rep. Barbara Comstock's (R-VA) "northern Virginia district...by 13 percentage points" and also carried Rep. Scott Taylor's (R-VA) "Norfolk-based district. In those districts, Democrats see mirror images of some of their top House targets" across the US next year. Dave Wasserman, "the House editor for the nonpartisan Cook Political Report, which closely tracks each race," said Tuesday on Twitter, "You can't really look at tonight's results and conclude that Democrats are anything other than the current favorites to pick up the U.S. House in 2018."

[Politico](#) (11/8, Schneider, 3.6M) reported, "Virginia's elections set off a wave of panic inside the House GOP Tuesday night, increasing worries that the party's majority is in jeopardy in 2018 and that more incumbents may decide to retire rather than run for reelection next year." Politico added, "Data points out of Virginia confirm Republicans' fears that bubbled under the surface all year, which special election victories in safely red seats 'glazed over,' said a senior GOP aide. But 'now there's [electoral] evidence that there's reason to really worry.' Swing voters in suburban counties outside Washington and Richmond soured on Republicans up and down the Virginia ballot, an ominous sign for dozens of suburban Republicans in Congress."

The [New York Times](#) (11/8, Foderaro, McKinley, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports that after all the work New Jersey and New York Democrats did to turn out the vote ahead of Tuesday's elections, "there was always the nagging doubt: What if this wasn't enough? What if all this suburban anger toward...Trump still couldn't unseat Republicans in the New York suburbs? On Wednesday, after a nearly clean sweep of races from Long Island to northern New Jersey, doubt among local Democrats had been replaced wholesale by optimism. Now nearly nothing is off the table in the 2018 midterm elections. Republican congressional seats once thought to be almost unassailable are now being probed for signs of vulnerability, with their ties to Trump-backed policies a telling guide."

[McClatchy](#) (11/8, Roarty, 67K) reports, "Democratic leaders say this week's surprise" wins "are making them reconsider the 2018 midterm elections, convinced the party should grow more ambitious amid what they now see as a broad and deep backlash to...Trump. Not only are party strategists planning to replicate this year's winning strategies; they're dead-set on making sure the party continues to find and recruit new candidates in races once viewed as too

Republican – confident that Tuesday's results prove Democrats can win almost anywhere."

In his [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/8, Rove, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) column, Karl Rove says that turnout in Tuesday's election was up significantly from 2013, with most of that increase coming from independent whites and suburban Democrats who were driven to the polls by anti-Trump sentiment. Rove says that Trump's low poll numbers pose serious risk to GOP congressional majorities in 2018.

However, writing in "The Upshot" on the website of the [New York Times](#) (11/8, Subscription Publication, 13.56M), Nate Cohn says Democrats on Tuesday "won big in Virginia, took full control of state government in New Jersey and Washington State, prevailed on an important ballot measure in Maine, and generally posted strong results across the nation." However, "the biggest difference between Tuesday's Democratic wins and the earlier Republican [special election] wins is deceptively simple: This time, elections were held on neutral or even Democratic-leaning terrain. For that reason, it is not obvious that Tuesday's performance represents a significant improvement over the Democrats' showings earlier in the year. ... To take the House next November, they might have to do even better than they did on Tuesday."

And writing for [The Federalist](#) (11/8, Harsanyi, 88K), David Harsanyi said that "Trump may well obliterate the GOP's prospects for the coming decade or longer," but "big Republican losses in Virginia yesterday do not prove this contention. There's really nothing unprecedented about cyclical pushbacks in politics. And if every election were really imbued with the kind of game-changing importance that political pundits claim, it would mean Americans were going through massive ideological fluctuations every year, which seems unlikely."

Even so, the [Washington Times](#) (11/8, Dinan, 541K) reports, House Minority Leader Pelosi and Senate Minority Leader Schumer "said Tuesday's massive victories for their party were a rejection of...Trump and predicted a wave election next year that could even switch control of the US House." Said Pelosi, "The door is certainly open for us."

Writing Tuesday night for the [National Review](#) (11/7, 892K), Jim Geraghty said, "Right now, the Republican party's brand in Virginia is dirt. Throw in the failure to make New Jersey even remotely competitive, and tonight is about as bad as it can get for the GOP – a sense of déjà vu from the results across the country 2006 and 2008."

DNC chief Tom Perez said on [MSNBC's Morning Joe](#) (11/8, 995K), "Donald Trump was undeniably on the ballot in a number of races because he is trying to divide America. People are so sick of these Twitter tirades. They want leaders they can be proud of. That's why people like Phil Murphy and Ralph Northam were able to win because they are sane. They're people who are speaking to the issues that people care about. They actually care about facts. ... They're not

playing the politics of division. When we do that and when we organize, when we make those relationships, when we're running candidates, then when the false news comes out, if you've organized and built those relationships with people, that false news doesn't penetrate."

In an editorial titled "The Anti-Trump Wave," the [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/8, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) says that Democrats turned out in scores in opposition to Trump, and Republican losses were heavy enough to indicate that the GOP may have a difficult time retaining its majorities in Congress in the midterm elections. The Journal says that if the GOP is to avoid bid losses next year, Republicans need to score legislative victories on issues such as tax reform.

In his [Washington Post](#) (11/8, 10.38M) column, E.J. Dionne says, "Tuesday's Democratic sweep obliterated a series of outdated story lines in American politics and opened a new era." It's apparent, says Dionne, "from Virginia and New Jersey to Washington state, Georgia, New York, Connecticut and Maine, that the energy Trump has unleashed among those who loathe him has the potential to realign the country."

Under the heading "Voters Repudiate Not Just Trump But The White-supremacist Hatred Seen In Charlottesville," Petula Dvorak writes in her [Washington Post](#) (11/8, 10.38M) column says, "This election wasn't just a repudiation of President Trump. It was a repudiation of white-nationalist leader Richard Spencer, the 'alt-right' and the violence and bigotry they are peddling."

In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (11/8, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) says, "From Washington to Maine, New Jersey to North Carolina, Trumpist ugliness was met and vanquished, sometimes by the very targets of right-wing scorn. ... Tuesday was the strongest sign yet that the politics of division can be rejected."

**Media Analyses: Tuesday's Results A Victory For ACA.** [Politico](#) (11/8, Pradhan, 3.6M) reported, "Obamacare made a comeback in Tuesday's elections, its strongest show of support since...Trump was elected and the GOP spent months on a futile effort to repeal it. In the governor's race in Virginia and a ballot initiative in Maine, the Affordable Care Act buoyed Democrats, a remarkable reversal from how Trump and congressional Republicans won elections excoriating the 'failed' and 'doomed' law." Politico added, "As Democrats now look to the 2018 midterms," the party "can begin to more confidently embrace the" ACA.

The [AP](#) (11/8, Alonso-Zaldivar) reports, "Emboldened by election wins, Democrats are starting to see a political edge in health care, particularly widening Medicaid access for more low-income people." The AP adds that Northam "promised a vigorous push as governor to expand Medicaid. Voters who said health care was important went decisively for Northam, according to political analysts. In Maine, voters defied Republican Gov. Paul LePage's determined opposition



by passing a referendum to expand Medicaid to cover an estimated 70,000 more residents.”

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (11/8, Levey, 4.49M) quotes Robert Blendon, “an expert on public opinion about healthcare at Harvard’s Kennedy School,” as saying, “There has been a major change here. Democrats for years wouldn’t talk about healthcare. ... Now, the implication is that if you are a Democrat running in 2018, you can talk about protecting healthcare for millions of Americans.” Citing congressional aides, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/8, Armour, Peterson, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) reports that Democratic victories on Tuesday make it more unlikely that Republicans, as part of their tax-reform bill, will attempt to repeal the ACA’s individual mandate.

The [New York Times](#) (11/8, Goodnough, Sanger-Katz, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports, “The election results in Maine and Virginia have energized supporters of expanding Medicaid under the” ACA “in several holdout states. After months of battling Republican efforts to repeal the law, they now see political consensus shifting in their direction. Groups in Idaho and Utah are already working through the process of getting Medicaid expansion initiatives on next year’s ballots.” Meanwhile, “the outlook for legislative approval has brightened in Virginia” in the wake of Tuesday’s gains in the House of Delegates. The Times adds, “Advocacy groups are also hoping the decisive victory in Maine, and exit polls suggesting health care was the top issue in Virginia, will add momentum to efforts in Kansas and North Carolina.”

In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (11/8, 10.38M) says, “There’s a long list of issues on which the Trump administration, and Republicans generally, are out of step with most Americans, yet on few of them is the chasm so broad or so deep as on health care. On Tuesday, voters made that clear in a pair of purple states, Virginia and Maine, while for the past week Americans across the country have been surging to sign up for health-care coverage under the” ACA, “which the White House and congressional Republicans have tried to repeal and, failing that, sabotage.”

**Media Analyses: White House, Trump Allies Deflecting Blame.** The [Hill](#) (11/8, Easley, Fabian, 1.68M) reported, “The White House was in damage control mode on Wednesday as it sought to deflect blame for Tuesday’s sweeping electoral losses and reassure Republicans who fear...Trump’s unpopularity will cost them at the polls in 2018.” The Hill said, “A person familiar with the president’s political operation dismissed the notion that an anti-Trump wave is building, arguing that Democrats had merely held on in states they were expected to win” and chalking “up GOP losses to history, noting that the party that controls the White House typically struggles in off-year gubernatorial races. ... ‘This is not about the president,’ the person said.”

The [Washington Examiner](#) (11/8, Westwood, 465K) reports, “White House aides instructed allies on Wednesday

to blame” Gillespie’s loss on his “lukewarm support for President Trump. ‘Gillespie’s wavering support for the President resulted in depressed turnout among Republicans, which led to disappointing down-ballot results,’ the White House wrote in talking points distributed to allies” on Wednesday. The Examiner adds that “a person familiar with the president’s political operation told reporters on Wednesday that ‘local dynamics’ and ‘history’ prevented Gillespie and” New Jersey’s GOP gubernatorial nominee “from prevailing in Tuesday night’s elections.”

[Breitbart](#) (11/8, Hayward, 2.42M) reported that during a Wednesday interview with Breitbart News Daily, ex-White House strategist Steve Bannon “said the lesson from...Gillespie’s defeat on Tuesday night is that ‘if you’re going to win, you’ve got to embrace the entire Trump agenda, and you’ve got to do it early, and you’ve got to be dedicated to it.’” Bannon added, “You can’t phone it in. You’ve got to do rallies. You’ve got to get the president out with you. You’ve got to go all-in on this. I just think campaigning with people like President Bush and Marco Rubio during these type of economic times sends the wrong signal.”

On [Fox News’ Hannity](#) (11/8, 3.43M), Bannon denied that Tuesday’s election was a referendum on Trump, saying, “What we had is an establishment candidate, Ed Gillespie, won a primary, very hard fought primary, versus Corey Stewart, and then really didn’t try to embrace President Trump or really the Trump program until very late, where he just kind of basically talked about some of the issues, which I thought he should try to do more of. He never invited President Trump [to campaign with him]. ... I think there are a lot of things that Gillespie could have done and in hindsight he wishes he had done to generate more enthusiasm out there, more of the Trump faithful to turn out.”

The [AP](#) (11/8, Beaumont, Eggert) reports that Trump’s “fiercest advocates offered different approaches Wednesday for the Republican Party’s way forward after some tough losses Tuesday.” Speaking at the Iowa GOP’s annual Reagan Dinner in Des Moines, RNC chief Ronna Romney McDaniel and ex-White House press secretary Sean Spicer “called on Republicans to come together.” Meanwhile, Bannon – during an appearance in Michigan – “maintained an aggressive tone toward any Republicans who would stand in the president’s way.” Bannon, for instance, “grouped Gillespie – a lobbyist, former RNC chairman and adviser to former President George W. Bush – with the GOP forces of old, not new outsiders who can help Trump.” Spicer, meanwhile, “lamented Republicans in Virginia who decided not to” back “Gillespie because he didn’t pass their ‘litmus tests.’”

The [Sioux City \(IA\) Journal](#) (11/8, Murphy, Boshart, 166K) reports that McDaniel “noted previous special elections this year in Congressional districts that stayed in Republican hands, and said Virginia is a state that has been trending to



favor Democrats and that the New Jersey gubernatorial election was not a surprise given how unpopular Republican Gov. Chris Christie had become there. 'It means that we're at the status quo, and I think it means that we're going to go into a very competitive 2018,' McDaniel said. 'Those races were very state specific. I don't think you can put everything at the president's feet when it comes to these elections.'"

Sean Hannity said on [Fox News' Hannity](#) (11/8, 3.43M), "Democrats scored predictable victories that Donald Trump didn't win in 2016. New Jersey, shocker, New York, the Commonwealth of Virginia, Washington State. It was not a rebuke of the White House, not even really surprising." Hannity added, "You want to look at a President that had a tough time? Look at Obama. While he was in the Oval Office, Democrats lost the presidency, 13 US Senate seats, 64 US House seats, 13 governorships, and 33 statehouses. That is an electoral title wave. What happened last night was not. No matter how the left-wing media tries to spin it."

**In Seeming Break With Trump, RNC Chief Says Gillespie Embraced President.** [Politico](#) (11/8, Lima, 3.6M) reported that RNC chief Ronna Romney McDaniel "said Wednesday she thought...Gillespie sufficiently embraced...Trump while campaigning, despite the president's words to the contrary. After Trump swiped at Gillespie on Twitter Tuesday following his electoral defeat, writing that the candidate 'worked hard but did not embrace me or what I stand for,' the RNC chair was asked to reconcile the president's words with Gillespie's actions." Appearing on Fox News, McDaniel said, "Ed [Gillespie] did work with the president. I absolutely think any candidate should be embracing the president...and I think Ed did."

**Democratic, GOP Lawmakers Weigh In On Election Results.** Sen. Jeff Flake (R-AZ) said on [CNN's The Lead](#) (11/8, 908K), "I think we've seen the limits of how we can drill down on the base. We've got to play addition rather than subtraction and I think that that's the message that we ought to take. ... I do think that we do better with a more inclusive message. So I think that that is something that we can learn from last night." Flake added, "You can rile up the base and win an election here or there, but in the end you've got to...appeal to a broader electorate. ... I don't think we are right now at least not the administration."

Sen. Dick Durbin (D-IL) said on [MSNBC's Morning Joe](#) (11/8, 995K), "This was a big deal. I talked to [Democratic Virginia Sens.] Tim Kaine and Mark Warner earlier in the evening and I said it's about more than Virginia. This is about our country and it's about the future of issues in Congress. Let me be specific. If Gillespie had prevailed with his message, which really was a negative message, talking about illegal immigrants, talking about Northam supporting pedophiles, talking about restoring and saving Confederate statues, where would we be this morning in terms of our agenda and moving forward? Instead, I hope more

Republicans got the message last night that Americans are looking for us to work together and solve problems. That's a good message and a timely one for Congress."

Rep. Joaquin Castro (D-TX) said on [MSNBC's Morning Joe](#) (11/8, 995K), "I think it's clear that Donald Trump has been toxic for the Republican party so far. Whatever Midas touch the President had in the 2016 elections didn't carry over to many elected officials or politicians in his party. It's not uncommon. We've seen that in many midterms where a President's party get beaten very badly. But, this looks like a very strong way of getting ready for 2018."

Sen. Ed Markey (D-MA) said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (11/8, 848K) that "the independent swing voters in the United States are open to the Democratic message and gives us a big opportunity in 2018."

**Tuesday's Election Results May Bode Ill For GOP Rep. Comstock's Reelection Hopes.** The [Washington Post](#) (11/8, Portnoy, 10.38M) reports that in her 2018 reelection race, Rep. Barbara Comstock (R-VA) must "figure out how to protect herself from her constituents' disdain for President Trump, borne out by a blue wave across Virginia during Tuesday's elections. The only northern Virginia Republican in Congress," Comstock "could do everything right and still lose at the hands of Democratic voters bent on defeating anyone who shares a party affiliation with Trump." The Comstock camp, however, "points to her 6-point win last year while sharing a ballot with Trump as evidence of her staying power. She also won more votes in 2016 in precincts that overlap with six of her losing House of Delegates colleagues than they did on Tuesday, according to her campaign."

**Democratic Rep. Lieu Asks Trump If He'll Endorse His Challenger.** [The Hill](#) (11/8, Bowden, 1.68M) reported that in a Wednesday tweet, Rep. Ted Lieu (D-CA) "mocked" Trump in the wake of Gillespie's loss. On Twitter, Lieu "noted that the Trump-backed [Gillespie] lost on Tuesday while the Trump-endorsed candidate Sen. Luther Strange (R) also failed to win the GOP Senate primary in Alabama in September. 'Dear failing @realDonaldTrump: Since you have a habit of endorsing losers like Gillespie & Strange, can you also endorse my congressional opponent? Thanks,' Lieu wrote on Twitter."

**Democrats Score Big Gains In Virginia House Of Delegates.** The [Washington Post](#) (11/7, Nirappil, 10.38M) reports, "The Democratic wave in Virginia on Tuesday wiped out the Republican majority in the state House of Delegates, throwing control of the chamber in play for the first time since 2000 and putting Republicans in blue-tinged districts across the country on alert for next year's elections. Democrats snared at least 15 seats in an upset that stunned members of both parties and arrived with national implications." The Post adds, "Four other races were so close that they qualify for a recount, and the outcome will determine control of the

chamber. The results marked the most sweeping shift in control of the legislature since Reconstruction.”

**Virginia's Roem To Become US' First Openly Transgender State Legislator.** The [Washington Post](#) (11/7, Olivo, 10.38M) reports, “Virginia’s most socially conservative state lawmaker was ousted from office on Tuesday by Danica Roem, a Democrat who is poised to become the nation’s first openly transgender state lawmaker.” Roem’s race against Del. Robert Marshall (R) “focused on traffic and other local issues in suburban Prince William County but also exposed the nation’s fault lines over gender identity. It pitted a 33-year-old former journalist, who began her physical gender transition four years ago, against a 13-term incumbent who called himself Virginia’s ‘chief homophobe’ and earlier this year introduced a ‘bathroom bill’ that died in committee.”

On the [CBS Evening News](#) (11/8, story 2, 2:20, 11.17M), Anthony Mason reported, “Across the country” on Tuesday, “the 2017 elections saw big wins for a highly diverse group of candidates.” CBS’ Chip Reid went on to highlight some of the election winners, including, among others, Roem; Virginia state Del.-elect Chris Hurst (D), who “was a TV news anchor in southwest Virginia two years ago when his reporter girlfriend was fatally shot by a former station employee during an outdoor live broadcast”; Ravinder Bhalla (D), “a Sikh [who] won the race for mayor in Hoboken, New Jersey, despite racist fliers that said, ‘Don’t let terrorism take over our town,’”; and Jenny Durkan (D), who “will be Seattle’s first lesbian mayor.”

**NYTimes Profiles New Jersey Gov-Elect Murphy.** Meanwhile, the [New York Times](#) (11/8, Corasaniti, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) offers a positive profile of Gov.-elect Phil Murphy (D-NJ), who on Tuesday easily defeated Lt. Gov. Kim Guadagno (R-NJ) in the race to succeed term-limited Gov. Chris Christie (R-NJ). The Times says Murphy, a former Goldman Sachs executive, has “progressive, working-class roots.”

**Pence Visits Texas, Comments On Air Force Investigation Into Texas Killings.** The [Los Angeles Times](#) (11/8, Pearce, Kohli, 4.49M) reports that Vice President Pence visited the site of last weekend’s mass shooting in Texas, along with Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio. While he was in Texas, Pence spoke on the US Air Force’s efforts to find out how the Texas gunman was able to purchase firearms despite having a military domestic violence conviction on his record. “We will find why this information was not properly recorded in 2012, and we will work with leaders in Congress to ensure that this never happens again,” said Pence. Pence attributed the ability of the shooter to purchase guns despite his conviction to “bureaucratic failures” and promised that the Air Force investigation would be completed in “days, not weeks.” Pence

added that “the evil must come to an end in this land.” Pence planned to visit a local high school’s prayer vigil on Wednesday night.

[USA Today](#) (11/8, James, Moritz, 8.62M) reports that Texas Gov. Greg Abbott appeared with Pence at First Baptist Church and received amens and cheers once he announced that Sunday will be “a day of prayer all across the state of Texas.” Additionally, “the wives of Pence and Abbott joined the officials in going from table to table at the Floresville High School library to meet with the families of those killed.”

The [CBS Evening News](#) (11/8, story 4, 2:05, Mason, 11.17M) reported that today, Defense Secretary James Mattis “ordered the Pentagon to review the Kelley case and, more broadly, the policies, practices, and procedures of reporting the criminal records of service members.” The [AP](#) (11/9) reports that Attorney General Jeff Sessions joined Abbott and Pence in meeting with victims of the massacre. The [Washington Post](#) (11/8, Wagner, 10.38M), reports that before leaving for the prayer vigil, Pence told families of victims that “the Bible tells us that the Lord is close to the brokenhearted, and that will be our prayer for you, for this whole community.” The [Washington Times](#) (11/8, Boyer, 541K) reports that Sen. John Cornyn is currently “working on legislation that would encourage federal agencies – including military services – to put all convictions in the system” in an effort to prevent a similar bureaucratic failure from happening in the future.

**Trump Thanks “Deplorables” On First Anniversary Of His Election Victory.** The [New York Post](#) (11/8, Moore, 4.31M) reports that President Trump referred to Hillary Clinton’s reference to his supporters as a “basket of deplorables” Wednesday as he celebrated the first anniversary of his election victory with a tweet thanking those supporters. Trump [tweeted](#), “Congratulations to all of the ‘DEPLORABLES’ and the millions of people who gave us a MASSIVE (304-227) Electoral College landslide victory!” [USA Today](#) (11/8, Estepa, 8.62M), among other news outlets, also reports on Trump’s tweet.

Counselor to the President Kellyanne Conway said on [Fox News The Ingraham Angle](#) (11/8, 1.81M), “Those who neither expected him nor wanted him to win, I feel they wasted a whole year not getting to know why he won. The same reason he won has no expiration date just a year later. He won because he was able to make people feel that someone was giving voice and visibility to their every day concerns. The forgotten man and woman. The people living paycheck to paycheck. The people who say the system is always rigged against me, they have their nose pressed up against the glass looking in.”

**Trump’s Base Continues To Support Him.** Michael Krause writes in [Politico Magazine](#) (11/8, 3.55M) that while

"the local unemployment rate has ticked down," in Johnstown, Pennsylvania, and "activity in a few coal mines has ticked up," beyond that "not much has changed – at least not for the better. Johnstown and the surrounding region are struggling in the same ways and for the same reasons," but in conversations with Trump's base, their support for him is "utterly undiminished." Krause highlights "how readily these same people had abandoned the contract he had made with them. Their satisfaction with Trump now seems untethered to the things they once said mattered to them the most." Krause adds that "polling continues to show that – in spite of unprecedented unpopularity – nearly all people who voted for Trump would do it again."

That sentiment was also evident in a report by Dean Reynolds on The [CBS Evening News](#) (11/8, story 10, 2:05, Mason, 11.17M). Reynolds reported that over the last year, "we've spoken to a variety of Trump supporters from Iowa to Ohio, Illinois to Indiana, Michigan, Arizona, and Wisconsin, all of them joined by their common devotion to the man in the White House." Reynolds featured comments from Trump supporters in Davies County, Kentucky, who "said Mr. Trump may not be a role model, but he's a fighter, their fighter, and to his supporters around the country, that's enough to keep them in his corner."

**Poll: 63% Say Trump Does Not Deserve Reelection.** [CNN](#) (11/8, Agiesta, Director, 33.59M) reports that a new CNN poll conducted by SSRS found that a year after Trump's election, "views of the nation's economy are the best they've been since before the September 11, 2001 attacks, but Americans' confidence in their President to handle just about everything else has fallen." According to the poll, "just a third think the President deserves re-election in 2020, 63% say he doesn't deserve it. And a similar 64% say they aren't proud to have Trump as President." In addition, 40% think Trump "is doing a good job keeping candidate Trump's promises, down from 48% in April, and an equal 40% now say he can bring the kind of change the country needs, down from 49% shortly after his election."

**Reuters/Ipsos Poll: Trump More Popular With Likely Voters Than General Public.** [Reuters](#) (11/8, Kahn) reports that a Reuters/Ipsos poll shows that Trump "is more popular with likely voters than he is with the general public," a finding that "underscores why Republican lawmakers have largely stuck with the polarizing president despite his plunging approval ratings." According to the poll, "some 85 percent of those who voted for Trump in 2016 said they would do so again," which suggests that "Republican candidates in the 2018 congressional elections who shun the president risk alienating his followers, Republican strategists and political scientists said."

**Sanders: Trump "Lies All Of The Time."** [USA Today](#) (11/8, Gaudiano, 8.62M) reports that Sen. Bernie Sanders found it difficult "to point to just one thing the president has

done as the worst." Sanders cited Trump's "terrible policies," and said that he has "gone overboard" in trying to divide people for "cheap politics." Sanders also called it "deeply disturbing" that "he lies all of the time." Sanders said that "a year later if you look at his record, you find that almost everything that he said was a lie."

**Biden: Trump's Rhetoric "Eating At The Fabric Of Our Country."** [Politico](#) (11/8, Lima, 3.6M) reports that former Vice President Biden on Wednesday "decried the 'phony nationalism' of President Donald Trump" and said his rhetoric is "eating at the fabric at this country." Speaking at an Axios event in Philadelphia, Biden "said the rise of Trump had led to a lack of 'decency' in US public discourse." Biden said, "You can disagree on issues but this has gotten so, sort of, coarse, so vile, so demeaning. And our children our listening."

**Satirical WPost Piece Imagines A Hypothetical Clinton Presidency.** The [Washington Post](#) (11/8, Terris, Zak, Hesse, Argetsinger, 10.38M) theorizes about how the country would look today if Hillary Clinton had hypothetically won the election in a satirical 1276-word article. Among the differences from our current reality are a "Men's March" replacing January's real Women's March, the Patriots losing the Super Bowl because "because no one goes on to win when they've fallen that far behind," and Republicans in Congress holding majorities in both houses and passing 37 healthcare bills, which are all vetoed by Clinton.

**USA Today Analysis: Trump Tweets Could Have Legal Implications.** [USA Today](#) (11/8, Korte, 8.62M) analysis cites a federal judge's citation of President Trump's tweets in her decision to block his ban on transgender troops from taking effect as one example of "Trump's penchant for 140-character pronouncements [coming] back to haunt him in court." Judges "have turned to his tweets to discern the motivation behind executive orders that have been challenged in court – something they've been reluctant to question in the past." USA Today adds that according to legal scholars, "presidential tweets could also force a rethinking of long-understood doctrines on presidential immunity and obstruction of justice." While Trump's tweets are seen by his supporters "as authentic, and his ability to publish them with the tap of a smartphone means he can get around the media 'filter' and take his message directly to the people," his "stream-of-consciousness tweeting creates a public record that can and will be used against him in a court of law."

**Ryan: Election Results Increase Urgency To Pass Tax Cuts As Promised.** House Speaker Ryan said Wednesday that Tuesday's election results, which saw what [USA Today](#) (11/8, Jackson, 8.62M) describes as "worse-than-expected defeats of Republicans in Virginia,"



make it “more urgent for Congress to pass tax cuts because the party promised them in the 2016 election.” Ryan told a breakfast forum sponsored by the Washington Examiner, “I fundamentally believe when we deliver on comprehensive tax reform and tax relief, especially for middle income families, people will see their paychecks going up, they’ll see faster economic growth, better jobs being created. ... I think that’s going to bear fruit politically, but most importantly it’s going to help people. That’s the promise we made. If anything, this puts more pressure on making sure we follow through.”

#### **Hatch Says Results Could Complicate Tax Push.**

The [Washington Post](#) (11/8, Debonis, O’Keefe, 10.38M) reports that Senate Finance Committee Chairman Orrin Hatch said the tax push could be complicated by Republican election losses this week. Hatch said Wednesday, “I mean, it could, because the elections went against the Republicans.”

#### **CBO Says Republican Tax Plan Would Add \$1.7 Trillion To National Debt.**

[The Hill](#) (11/8, Elis, 1.68M) reports that a CBO analysis says the Republican tax bill “would add \$1.7 trillion to the national debt over the course of a decade, and increase the country’s debt-to-GDP ratio by 5.9 percentage points.” Citing The Hill report, the [Washington Times](#) (11/8, Persons, 541K) says the CBO “determined that the debt-to-GDP ratio would rise to 97.1 percent.” David Muir said on [ABC World News Tonight](#) (11/8, story 6, 0:25, 14.63M) that the \$1.7 trillion figure is “\$200 billion more than Republicans have accounted for.”

#### **Amendment Leaves GOP Tax Bill With \$74 Billion**

**Revenue Gap.** The [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/8, Rubin, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) reports that as a result of an amendment to the Republican tax plan that would cut an excise tax on multinational corporations, the bill now has a \$74 billion revenue gap. According to the Joint Committee on Taxation, the amendment removed 95% of the provision which left the bill outside its budget target. Republicans have not indicated how they will address the issue.

#### **Analyses: Top 1 Percent Will See Income Gains Under Republican Tax Bill.**

[Bloomberg News](#) (11/8, Matthews, 4.52M) cites “two recent independent analyses,” from the “left-leaning Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy” and the “right-leaning Tax Foundation,” which found that under the House Republican tax bill, “taxpayers in the top 1 percent – that is, those who earned at least \$480,930 in adjusted gross income in 2015, according to federal data – would see income gains next year that are as much as triple those for the middle earners.” While the measure “would cut individual income tax rates for almost all taxpayers who make less than below \$1 million a year,” it also “does away with various credits, deductions and exemptions, leading to higher taxes for some, depending on

how they use such breaks, according to various analyses.” Bloomberg says the analyses “run counter to the messages Republicans have sought to convey about the tax plan, which would reduce federal revenue by as much as \$1.5 trillion over 10 years.”

#### **NYTimes: GOP Tax Plan Will Leave Many Americans “A Good Deal Poorer.”**

A [New York Times](#) (11/8, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) editorial says that Republicans are “cutting billions of dollars in tax benefits to people trying to raise children, pay for college, buy a home or invest in renewable energy” to “pass their immense tax giveaway to the rich.” As a result, “taxes would go up for about 45 percent of middle-class taxpayers by 2026 under the House bill, according to an analysis by The Times,” while “the people in the top 1 percent of income will get an average tax cut of \$64,720 a year by 2027, according to the Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy.” The Times says Republicans “should stop pretending that this terrible proposal is a favor to average Americans, when many of them in fact will be left a good deal poorer.”

#### **Senate Tax Bill “Sharply Diverges” From House GOP Plan.**

[Politico](#) (11/8, Kim, Dawsey, 3.6M) reports that Senate Republicans’ tax plan “sharply diverges from the House GOP’s plan, including by not fully repealing the estate tax.” Politico cites “two sources” who said Republican leaders brief Republicans on their plan Thursday morning in a session “meant to walk senators who are not on the tax-writing Finance Committee through the intricacies of the GOP’s tax bill before unveiling it to the public.” The [New York Times](#) (11/8, Tankersley, Rappeport, Kaplan, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) says the emerging Senate bill “suggests party leaders are less concerned with the potential fallout of eliminating breaks that benefit upper-middle-class taxpayers in high-tax states such as New York and California.”

Sen. Chris Coons was asked on [MSNBC’s Morning Joe](#) (11/8, 995K) about President Trump’s call to Democratic senators about the tax bill. Coons said, “The President said a number of things and I, frankly, just appreciated the opportunity to sit down with some of his chief advisers and that he took the time from his trip to Asia to call in. It was an interesting conversation. He touched on a number of different topics, but if there was one theme from our side, it was we should have been included and consulted earlier. We’ve got ideas, we want to work across the aisle to strengthen the middle class, to support manufacturing, to make our country more competitive and the folks on the other side of the table, including the President calling in from Asia said, just wait, you are going to see a different tax bill in the Senate than the House, we’re at the beginning of a process, not at the end.”



**CBO: Repealing Individual Mandate Will Save \$338 Billion Over 10 Years.** The [Washington Times](#) (11/8, Howell, 541K) reports that a CBO analysis expected Wednesday says repealing the ACA's individual mandate "would save taxpayers \$338 billion over the coming decade" because "fewer people would seek coverage and draw taxpayer-funded subsidies that defray their premiums." The Times says the CBO analysis "could alter the GOP's push to overhaul the tax code" as President Trump is urging Republicans to repeal the mandate "to get a head start on scrapping the 2010 law and free up money to usher in deeper tax cuts."

Treasury Secretary Mnuchin said on [Bloomberg TV Bloomberg Markets Americas](#) (11/8, 0), "The President would like" to see the elimination of the individual mandate as part of a tax reform bill. He added, "That is something he encouraged them to look at. I was at a press conference yesterday at the Senate. Senator Cruz gave a compelling pitch for that, but we will see. That will be one of the things that is talked about and will be considered."

**DeVos Seeks To Reduce Size Of Education Department.** The [Washington Post](#) (11/8, Balingit, Douglas-Gabriel, 10.38M) reports on Education Secretary DeVos' efforts to reduce the size of the Education Department, saying "the department has shed about 350 workers since December – nearly 8 percent of its staff – including political appointees." The reduction "is emblematic of the Trump administration's efforts to reduce the size of the federal workforce overall." The Post adds that DeVos has also "sought to cut \$9.2 billion from the department's budget of \$68.2 billion, eliminating teacher training and college-prep programs for impoverished children while investing heavily to expand school choice through increasing funds for charter schools and possibly offering vouchers for private schools." In addition, she "has sought to scale back the activities of the Office for Civil Rights."

**Trump Wants Former Eli Lilly Exec Azar As Next HHS Secretary.** [Reuters](#) (11/8, Abutaleb) reports that former Eli Lilly executive Alex Azar is President Trump's top choice to be the next Department of Health and Human Services secretary. Azar was Eli Lilly's US division's president for five years as part of a decade with the company.

**Senators Criticize White For Climate Change Writings At Confirmation Hearing.** The [New York Times](#) (11/8, Friedman, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports that Democrat Senators expressed frustration during a Senate hearing for Kathleen Hartnett White and Andrew Wheeler, two of President Trump's nominees for "two top environmental posts," on Wednesday. Senators criticized

White, who as been nominated to head "the White House Council on Environmental Quality," for "her past writings on climate change, including articles in which she called carbon dioxide 'the gas of life' and described renewable energy as parasitic." Wheeler, the nominee for the position of "deputy administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency," faced lighter questioning.

The [Washington Post](#) (11/8, Mooney, 10.38M) reports that White said the following regarding climate change during the hearing: "I'm not a scientist, but in my personal capacity, I have many questions that remain unanswered by current climate policy...I think we indeed need to have more precise explanations of the human role and the natural role."

**Commerce Committee Advances Bridenstine's Nomination.** [The Hill](#) (11/8, Cama, 1.68M) reports that the Senate Commerce Committee advanced Rep. Jim Bridenstine's nomination to lead NASA on a 14-13 party-line vote. Democrats objected to his nomination and labeled him "a politically polarizing figure with little scientific or technical expertise" while also objecting to "his skepticism of climate change science and his past statements on homosexuality and LGBT rights." Bridenstine will now move to a full Senate vote pending Sen. Mitch McConnell's scheduling of it.

**McCain Won't Vote For Any Nominee Who Supports Enhanced Interrogation.** [Politico](#) (11/8, Kim, 3.6M) reports that Sen. John McCain has ruled out voting for any Administration nominee "who in any way has supported the use of enhanced interrogation." This makes it likely that McCain will "oppose confirming Steven Bradbury to be general counsel at the Department of Transportation." Bradbury wrote "the so-called torture memos under the Bush administration, which has already prompted Sen. Tammy Duckworth (D-Ill.) to put a hold on Bradbury's nomination."

**Durbin Halts Interior Nominees Over Trump Plans To Shrink National Monuments.** [The Hill](#) (11/8, Cama, 1.68M) reports Sen. Dick Durbin has halted the confirmation process for "four pending Interior Department nominees over the Trump administration's plans to potentially shrink multiple national monuments." Durbin disclosed his actions "in a letter to the Interior Department, after Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke sent a public letter complaining about the confirmation process." Before Durbin wrote his letter on Wednesday, Zinke had "demanded 'immediate action' from Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) and Minority Leader Charles Schumer (D-NY) on four pending nominees."

**WTimes Analysis: Obama Intel Heads' Report On Russian Meddling Raises Eyebrows.** The [Washington Times](#) (11/8, Boylan, Taylor, 541K) reports that

the findings of a unanimous assessment made public by Obama Administration intelligence heads two weeks before President Trump's inauguration that "Russian operatives, under orders from President Vladimir Putin, had orchestrated an influence campaign to help Mr. Trump" win the presidential election, "unraveled 10 months later, raising questions about the basis for the evidence and the motives of the Obama appointees leading the nation's intelligence and law enforcement agencies." The document "was mostly filler" and just "five pages were dedicated to charge that Moscow blended cyberhacking with state-backed propaganda and social media trolls to defeat Mr. Trump's Democratic rival, Hillary Clinton." It provided "no supporting documentation" but those five pages "have hung over Mr. Trump's presidency ever since."

**Judge Issues Gag Order In Manafort, Gates Case.** [USA Today](#) (11/8, Johnson, 8.62M) reports that US District Judge Amy Jackson on Wednesday "issued a sweeping gag order in the money laundering and conspiracy case against former Trump campaign chairman Paul Manafort and campaign aide Rick Gates that prohibits all parties – including potential witnesses – from making public statements about the case." Jackson issued the order "to safeguard defendants' rights to a fair trial, and to ensure that the court has the ability to seat a jury that has not been tainted by pretrial publicity." The [Washington Post](#) (11/8, Hsu, 10.38M) says Jackson's order bars "any prejudicial statements 'to the media or public settings' to safeguard the defendants receiving a fair trial, 'and to ensure that the Court has the ability to seat a jury that has not been tainted by pretrial publicity.'"

**Conway: Trump "Rarely" Talks About Mueller Investigation.** Counselor to the President Kellyanne Conway was asked on [Fox News The Ingraham Angle](#) (11/8, 1.81M) about reports that Trump is "obsessed" with the Mueller investigation. Conway said, "The only thing he is obsessed with is succeeding for the nation and I see that first-hand every single day. He rarely talks about the investigation and he has also said everybody will comply with it but we hope it finishes fully and soon."

**Coons Questions Boente Resignation In Wake Of Mueller Indictments.** Sen. Chris Coons was asked on [MSNBC's Morning Joe](#) (11/8, 995K), "Dana Boente is a career federal prosecutor who was not just running the Eastern District of Virginia but also the acting head of the National Security Division in the Department of Justice. I just was troubled that immediately following the release of indictments, given reporting that had suggested Mr. Boente was running a fairly active component of the Mueller investigation, that he was fairly abruptly asked to resign. I just wanted to ask some questions about the timing given the troubling pattern of the President's personal intervention by interviewing candidates for US Attorney in several key

jurisdictions and given everything else going on, that makes me concerned about Robert Mueller and his security."

**Fusion GPS Founder To Be Interviewed By House Intelligence Committee.** [Politico](#) (11/8, Gerstein, Cheney, 3.6M) reports that Fusion GPS co-founder Glenn Simpson "has agreed to be interviewed by the House Intelligence Committee, at least partially defusing a looming subpoena fight." Josh Levy, attorney for Simpson "announced that, after appearing before a closed House Intelligence Committee hearing Wednesday, Simpson would submit to a 'voluntary interview' with the panel next week." Levy "suggested that the leaders of the House panel's probe into alleged Russian interference in the 2016 election, Reps. Mike Conaway (R-Texas) and Adam Schiff (D-Calif.), had shown more flexibility than Simpson was offered in the past by House Intelligence Committee Chairman Devin Nunes (R-Calif.)." [Reuters](#) (11/8, Hosenball) reports that Levy said in a statement that Conaway and Schiff "agreed to withdraw a subpoena" served on Simpson.

**Klein: Clinton In Talks To Buy Second Trump Dossier.** Former New York Times Magazine editor in chief and author of the book "All Out War: The Plot to Destroy Trump," Edward Klein, writes in a piece for the [Daily Mail](#) (11/8, 5.15M) that Hillary Clinton is in talks with Trump Dossier author Christopher Steele "to purchase a second report that allegedly contains salacious new charges against President Trump, according to several sources with personal knowledge of the transaction." Clinton's former campaign aides are carrying out the talks, the sources say. Klein quotes one source as saying, "Hillary has said that she'll do whatever it takes to make sure Trump's 'illegitimate presidency,' as she constantly refers to it among friends and campaign associates, ends in ashes."

**Green Says He Will Force Impeachment Vote Before Christmas.** [The Hill](#) (11/8, Marcos, 1.68M) reports that Rep. Al Green said in a floor speech Wednesday "that he will force a vote on the House floor to impeach President Trump before Christmas." Green said, "I now announce that before Christmas, there will be a vote on the chief inciter of racism, bigotry, hatred, xenophobia, sexism, ethnocentrism. There will be a vote in the U.S. House of Representatives on the impeachment of the president." Green "did not offer a specific date for when he would force a vote, saying only that it would be before the December holiday."

**Manjoo: Russia Running A Reality Show With Americans As Contestants.** Farhad Manjoo writes in his "State of the Art" column for the [New York Times](#) (11/8, Manjoo, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) that Russia is "running a reality show through Facebook and Twitter, and their contestants are all of us." Citing conversations with reality show producers, Manjoo writes that "the more they told me about reality shows, the more the metaphor seemed to explain Russia's trolling campaign – how it worked, what it

aimed to do and why campaigns like it will be so difficult to fight.” The Russian campaign “so deftly blended artifice and reality – for so many people, across so many issues, in so many places – that it is impossible, now, for any of us to tell where reality and fakery begin and end.”

**Senate Democrats Introduce New Gun Control Bill.** The [Washington Examiner](#) (11/8, Ferrechio, 465K) reports that on Wednesday, Democrats in the Senate introduced a bill that “would make it illegal to sell more than 200 types of semi-automatic weapons as well as magazines holding more than ten rounds of ammunition,” as well as “ban devices that ramp up firing speed, such as the bump stock used in the Las Vegas shooting last month.” Additionally, the bill “would expand background checks to all gun sales and require ‘a safe storage requirement for grandfathered firearms.’” The legislation is unlikely to be brought to the GOP-run Senate floor, with Republicans instead “planning a hearing on a potential legislation aimed at fixing the gaps in current federal regulations that permitted the sale of bump stocks.”

**Republican Lawmakers Prefer For ATF To Deal With Bump Stock Issue.** The [New York Times](#) (11/8, Stolberg, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports that momentum toward legislative action by Congress that bans bump stocks, the kits that can “turn semiautomatic rifles into weapons capable of firing long, deadly bursts,” has slowed down in recent weeks because of a desire by some Republican lawmaker for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives to address the issue instead. But the ATF “has said it has no jurisdiction over the gun conversion kits because bump stocks are, in fact, not guns.” The Judiciary Committee is expected to meet on Tuesday for a hearing regarding bump stocks, at which ATF officials will most likely testify.

**Perdue Says Contingency Plan For NAFTA Withdrawal Is Being Crafted.** [Politico](#) (11/8, Boudreau, 3.6M) reports that Agriculture Secretary Perdue said Wednesday that he is working with the Administration and Congress “to protect farmers and ranchers from the potential market effects of the U.S. withdrawing from NAFTA.” While he “doesn’t think a contingency plan” will be needed because “NAFTA 2.0” will be “successfully” renegotiated, Perdue said, “We’re talking with the administration and Congress about some mitigation efforts if that were to occur; about how we could protect our producers with that [farm] safety net based on prices that may respond negatively to any kind of NAFTA withdrawal.”

## **THE BIG PICTURE**

### **Headlines From Today’s Front Pages.**

#### ***Wall Street Journal:***

[Regulators Seek Significant Asset Sales In AT&T Deal For Time Warner](#)

[Republicans Take Stock After Election Losses](#)

[Trump’s China Trip Brings Admonitions Along With Deals](#)

[Tencent Bulks Up Its Stake In Snap](#)

#### ***New York Times:***

[Suburbs Rebel Against Trump, Threatening Republicans In Congress](#)

[Senate Republicans Will Diverge From House In Sweeping Tax Rewrite](#)

[After Massacre, A Small Texas Cemetery Strains To Bury So Many Dead](#)

[Endowments Boom As Colleges Bury Earnings Overseas](#)

[Why Relying On China To Stop North Korea May Not Work](#)

[Justice Department Says Not So Fast to AT&T’s Time Warner Bid](#)

#### ***Washington Post:***

[Election Results Set Off A Blame Game In GOP](#)

[Evolution Of Virginia Has Moved Into Overdrive](#)

[With Every Gunshot In Texas Church, A New Horror](#)

[At New Louvre, The Art Of Geopolitics](#)

[Justice Seeks Changes In AT&T-Time Warner Deal](#)

#### ***Financial Times:***

[Trump Targets US-China Corporate Deals On Beijing Visit](#)

[US Regulators Demand CNN Sale To Approve AT&T-Time Warner Deal](#)

[US Urged To Impose Full Embargo On Venezuelan Oil](#)

[Deutsche Bank Chief Hints At Thousands Of Job Losses](#)

#### ***Washington Times:***

[Intel Chiefs’ Botched Russia Findings Raise Questions Of Motive](#)

[Victims Of Communism Remembered On Centennial Of Bolshevik Revolution](#)

[Democrats See Momentum For Midterms After Stunning Election Victories](#)

[McAuliffe Mum On Rumors About 2020 Presidential Bid](#)

[Republican Leaders Take Heat Over Proposed Elimination Of Adoption Tax Credit](#)

[With Trump In Asia, “Tax Team” Keeps Presidential Priorities On Track On Capitol Hill](#)

#### ***Story Lineup From Last Night’s Network News:***

**ABC:** Kevin Spacey Sexual Allegations; Tennessee Escapees Manhunt; Texas Church Shooting; Trump-Asia Tour; Gubernatorial Elections; Tax Reform Plan; Airport Security Concerns; Roy Halladay Dies; UCLA Basketball

Player-China Tour Shoplifting; Plane Catching Fire; Marine Veterans.

**CBS:** Gubernatorial Elections; State Elections-Winners; Kevin Spacey Sexual Allegations; Texas Church Shooting; AT&T And Time Warner Merger; Trump-Asia Tour; Roy Halladay Dies; Airport Security Concerns; Obama-Jury Duty; Trump Presidency-Public Opinion.

**NBC:** Kevin Spacey Sexual Allegations; Airport Security Concerns; Gubernatorial Elections; Trump-Asia Tour; Roy Halladay Dies; Texas Church Shooting; Yahoo, Equifax Data Breaches; UCLA Basketball Player-China Tour Shoplifting; Health-Breast Cancer; Cold Weather Moving In; Christmas Music; Obama-Jury Duty; College Application Season.

### **Network TV At A Glance:**

Gubernatorial Elections – 9 minutes, 15 seconds

Kevin Spacey Sexual Allegations – 9 minutes, 5 seconds

Trump-Asia Tour – 5 minutes, 45 seconds

Texas Church Shooting – 5 minutes, 10 seconds

Airport Security Concerns – 4 minutes, 40 seconds

### **Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News**

#### **Broadcasts:**

**ABC:** Tax Reform Plan; Texas Church Shooting; Trump-Asia Tour; Roy Halladay Dies; Wall Street News.

**CBS:** Texas Church Shooting; Trump-Asia Tour; Tax Reform Plan; Kevin Spacey Sexual Allegations; CMA Award; Obama-Jury Duty; Wall Street News.

**FOX:** Trump-Asia Tour; Texas Church Shooting; Tax Reform Plan; Roy Halladay Dies.

**NPR:** Texas Church Shooting; Gubernatorial Elections; State Elections; Venezuela-Media Law.

## **WASHINGTON'S SCHEDULE**

### **Today's Events In Washington.**

#### **White House:**

**PRESIDENT TRUMP** — Participates in a welcome ceremony with President Xi Jinping of the People's Republic of China and Madame Peng Liyuan; participates in a restricted bilateral meeting with President Xi; participates in a business event with President Xi; meets with Premier Li Keqiang of the People's Republic of China; participates in an embassy meet and greet; attends a state dinner and view a cultural performance.

**VICE PRESIDENT PENCE** — No public schedule announced.

**US Senate:** 9:30 AM Senate Agriculture Committee nominations hearing – Nominations hearing considers Glen Smith to be a Farm Credit Administration Board member; and Stephen Vaden to be U.S. Department of Agriculture General Counsel Location: Russell Senate Office Building, Rm 328A, Washington, DC <http://agriculture.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate Armed Services Committee nominations hearing – Nominations hearing considers Robert McMahon to be Assistant Secretary of Defense for Logistics and Materiel Readiness; R.D. James to be Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works; Dr Bruce Jette to be Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics, and Technology; and Shon Manasco to be Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Manpower and Reserve Affairs Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm G50, Washington, DC <http://armed-services.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate Judiciary Committee Executive Business Meeting – Executive Business Meeting, with agenda including nominations of Gregory Katsas to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the District of Columbia Circuit; Jeffrey Uhlman Beaverstock to be U.S. District Judge for the Southern District of Alabama; Emily Coody Marks and Brett Joseph Talley to be U.S. District Judges for the Middle District of Alabama; Holly Lou Teeter to be U.S. District Judge for the District of Kansas; Bobby Christine to be U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Georgia; and David Freed to be U.S. Attorney for the Middle District of Pennsylvania; as well as 'S. 2070, Kevin and Avonte's Law' Location: Rm 226, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://judiciary.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM 'Innovation vs. Maintenance in the Drive Toward 'Hybrid' Infrastructure' panel discussion – 'Innovation vs. Maintenance in the Drive Toward 'Hybrid' Infrastructure' panel discussion, hosted by the Information Technology and Innovation Foundation (ITIF) and the Office of Democratic Sen. Chris Coons, on 'how best to strike a balance between maintenance and innovation in future U.S. infrastructure investments' Location: Russell Senate Office Building, Rm 485, Washington, DC [www.itif.org](http://www.itif.org) <https://twitter.com/ITIFdc>

10:00 AM U.S. Capitol Police Medal of Honor presented to police involved in the Alexandria, VA, shootings in June – U.S. Capitol Police Chief Matthew Verderosa presents the USCP Medal of Honor – the highest award granted by the department – to the five officers who 'carried out their duties with exceptional courage, risking their lives to save others when an active shooter opened fire on the Republican Congressional baseball team's practice 14 Jun in Alexandria, VA': U.S. Capitol Police Special Agents David Bailey and Crystal Griner and Alexandria Police Department Officers Nicole Battaglia, Alexander Jensen, and Kevin Jobe. Other speakers include House Speaker Paul Ryan, Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, and Majority Whip Steve Scalise (who was shot during the incident) and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and Minority Leader Chuck Schumer Location: U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, Congressional Auditorium, Washington, DC [www.uscapitolpolice.gov](http://www.uscapitolpolice.gov)

10:30 AM Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee votes on DHS secretary nominee – Business Meeting, with agenda including



nominations of Kirstjen Nielsen to be Secretary of Homeland Security; Ernest DuBester, Colleen Kiko, and James Abbott to be Federal Labor Relations Authority members; and Jonathan Pittman to be Superior Court of the District of Columbia Associate Judge Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 342, Washington, DC <http://hsgac.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenateHSGAC>

11:00 AM Bicameral Dems call for FEC to move forward on disclaimer rules for online political advertisements – Democrats Sens. Amy Klobuchar and Chris Coons and Rep. Derek Kilmer call on the Federal Election Commission to move forward with a rulemaking process establishing disclaimer rules for online political advertisements, via press conference with Indivisible Project Foreign Policy Manager Elizabeth Beavers, Public Citizen Vice President of Legislative Affairs Lisa Gilbert, People For the American Way Senior Director of Outreach and Public Engagement Diallo Brooks, End Citizens United President and Executive Director Tiffany Muller, Common Cause Chief of Strategy and External Affairs Steve Spaulding, and League of Women Voters Senior Director of Elections Jeanette Senecal \* Following the event, the groups deliver over 100,000 signatures to the FEC urging them to address the issue of 'secretive sponsorship' of online campaign ads Location: Senate Swamp, Washington, DC [www.citizen.org](http://www.citizen.org) [https://twitter.com/public\\_citizen](https://twitter.com/public_citizen)

**US House:** 9:00 AM House Foreign Affairs subcommittee hearing on DR Congo – Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations Subcommittee hearing on 'Resolving the Political Crisis in the Democratic Republic of the Congo', with testimony from Acting Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Donald Yamamoto; USAID Acting Assistant Administrator for Africa Cheryl Anderson; Johns Hopkins University Professor of African History Mvemba Dizolele; La Lutte pour le Changement representative Fred Bauma; Columbia University Barnard College Professor of Political Science Dr Severine Autesserre; and Human Rights Watch Central Africa Director Ida Sawyer Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2172, Washington, DC <http://www.hcfa.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HouseForeign>

9:00 AM POSTPONED: House Financial Services subcommittee latest hearing on housing finance – POSTPONED: Housing and Insurance Subcommittee hearing on 'Sustainable Housing Finance: The Role of Ginnie Mae in the Housing Finance System' Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2128, Washington, DC <http://financialservices.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/FinancialCmte>

9:00 AM House votes on Micro Offering Safe Harbor Act – House of Representatives meets for legislative business, with agenda including completion of consideration

of 'H.R. 2201 – Micro Offering Safe Harbor Act' Location: Washington, DC <http://www.house.gov/>

9:30 AM House Space subcommittee hearing on NASA exploration systems development – Space Subcommittee hearing on 'An Update on NASA Exploration Systems Development', with testimony from NASA Associate Administrator for Human Exploration and Operations William Gerstenmaier; and American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) Executive Director Dr Sandra Magnus Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2318, Washington, DC <http://science.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HouseScience>

10:00 AM U.S. Capitol Police Medal of Honor presented to police involved in the Alexandria, VA, shootings in June – U.S. Capitol Police Chief Matthew Verderosa presents the USCP Medal of Honor – the highest award granted by the department – to the five officers who 'carried out their duties with exceptional courage, risking their lives to save others when an active shooter opened fire on the Republican Congressional baseball team's practice 14 Jun in Alexandria, VA': U.S. Capitol Police Special Agents David Bailey and Crystal Griner and Alexandria Police Department Officers Nicole Battaglia, Alexander Jensen, and Kevin Jobe. Other speakers include House Speaker Paul Ryan, Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, and Majority Whip Steve Scalise (who was shot during the incident) and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and Minority Leader Chuck Schumer Location: U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, Congressional Auditorium, Washington, DC [www.uscapitolpolice.gov](http://www.uscapitolpolice.gov)

10:00 AM House Commerce subcommittee hearing on MMA – Digital Commerce and Consumer Protection Subcommittee hearing on 'Perspectives on Mixed Martial Arts', with testimony from Xtreme Couture MMA President Randy Couture; Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai Brain Injury Research Center Director Dr Kristen Dams-O'Connor; Ultimate Fighting Championship Senior Vice President of Government and Regulatory Affairs Marc Ratner; and Pennsylvania State Athletic Commission Executive Director Greg Sirb Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2123, Washington, DC <http://energycommerce.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseCommerce>

10:15 AM House Commerce subcommittee hearing on the Farm Regulatory Certainty Act – Environment Subcommittee hearing on 'H.R.XXX, Farm Regulatory Certainty Act', with testimony from bipartisan Reps. Jim Costa and Dan Newhouse; Public Justice Food Project Attorney Jessica Culpepper; Plews Shadley Racher & Braun partner Amy Romig; Kewaunee Citizens Advocating Responsible Environmental Stewardship founder Lynn Utesch; and Washington State Dairy Federation Executive Director Dan Wood Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2322,

Washington, DC <http://energycommerce.house.gov/>  
<https://twitter.com/HouseCommerce>

10:30 AM House Armed Services subcommittee hearing on aviation readiness – Readiness Subcommittee hearing on ‘Aviation Readiness: What’s the Flight Plan?’, with testimony from U.S. Air Force Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations, Headquarters Lt. Gen. Chris Nowland; Naval Air Forces Commander Vice Adm. Mike Shoemaker; U.S. Marine Corps Deputy Commandant for Aviation Lt. Gen. Steven Rudder; and U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence Commanding General Major Gen. William Gayler Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2212, Washington, DC [www.armedservices.house.gov](http://www.armedservices.house.gov)  
<https://twitter.com/HASCRpublicans>

11:00 AM Bicameral Dems call for FEC to move forward on disclaimer rules for online political advertisements – Democrats Sens. Amy Klobuchar and Chris Coons and Rep. Derek Kilmer call on the Federal Election Commission to move forward with a rulemaking process establishing disclaimer rules for online political advertisements, via press conference with Indivisible Project Foreign Policy Manager Elizabeth Beavers, Public Citizen Vice President of Legislative Affairs Lisa Gilbert, People For the American Way Senior Director of Outreach and Public Engagement Diallo Brooks, End Citizens United President and Executive Director Tiffany Muller, Common Cause Chief of Strategy and External Affairs Steve Spaulding, and League of Women Voters Senior Director of Elections Jeanette Senecal \* Following the event, the groups deliver over 100,000 signatures to the FEC urging them to address the issue of ‘secretive sponsorship’ of online campaign ads Location: Senate Swamp, Washington, DC [www.citizen.org](http://www.citizen.org)  
[https://twitter.com/public\\_citizen](https://twitter.com/public_citizen)

4:30 PM Jubilee USA event on FEMA, aid and debt in Puerto Rico and the USVI after hurricanes – Jubilee USA congressional event on FEMA, aid and debt in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands after Hurricanes Irma and Maria, with speakers including Resident Commissioner of Puerto Rico Rep. Jenniffer Gonzalez-Colon, Delegate of the U.S. Virgin Islands Rep. Stacey Plaskett, Jubilee USA Network Executive Director Eric LeCompte, Archbishop of San Juan, Puerto Rico, The Most Reverend Roberto Octavio Gonzalez Nieves, Bishop of Saint Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands, The Most Reverend Herbert Armstrong Bevard, and Puerto Rico Bible Society General Secretary Heriberto Martinez Rivera Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2044, Washington, DC [www.jubileeusa.org](http://www.jubileeusa.org)  
<https://twitter.com/jubileeusa>

**Other:** 10:30 AM NDN / New Policy Institute discussion on ‘Protecting Our Elections and Politics from Interference’ – NDN / New Policy Institute discussion on ‘Protecting Our Elections and Politics from Interference’, headlined by Democratic Rep. Adam Smith. Speakers also include former

Clinton / Obama administration official Karen Kornbluh who talks about the new information landscape facing modern democracies; Dewey Digital’s Tim Chambers who talks about the new information landscape, with a particular focus on tackling the challenge of malicious social media bots; and OSET Institute’s Greg Miller who discusses ways to fortify and modernize the elections infrastructure Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2456, Washington, DC [www.ndn.org](http://www.ndn.org) [https://twitter.com/NDN\\_NPI](https://twitter.com/NDN_NPI)

12:00 PM ‘Mounting Challenges to U.S. Naval Power’ Hudson Institute discussion – ‘Mounting Challenges to U.S. Naval Power’ Hudson Institute book discussion with Seth Crospey on his new book, ‘Seablandness: How Political Neglect is Choking American Seapower and What to Do About It’. Includes keynote from Republican Rep. Mike Gallagher, with other speakers including former U.S. Pacific Fleet Training Command Commander Rear Adm. (Ret.) James Stark and Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments Senior Fellow Bryan Clark Location: Hudson Institute, 1015 15th St NW, Washington, DC <http://www.hudson.org> <https://twitter.com/HudsonInstitute>

UK foreign secretary continues visit to Washington, DC, to pressure politicians over Iran nuclear deal – UK Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson concludes two-day visit to Washington, DC, to meet senior Members of Congress – including House Speaker Paul Ryan, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy, bipartisan Sens. Bob Corker and Ben Cardin, and bipartisan Reps. Ed Royce and Eliot Engel – and ‘underline the importance of the Iran nuclear deal to global security’ \* Marks his first visit to Washington, DC, since President Donald Trump’s announcement that he would not certify Iran’s compliance with the agreement. Secretary Johnson has said that it is ‘vital that the international community sticks to the deal’ and that it is ‘not the moment to put that at risk’ Location: Washington, DC <https://www.gov.uk/fco>  
<https://twitter.com/foreignoffice>

## **LAST LAUGHS**

### **Late Night Political Humor.**

**Jimmy Kimmel:** “Today is the one-year anniversary of Donald Trump becoming President. ... So much has happened over the past year. Not in Congress, nothing has happened there.”

**Jimmy Kimmel:** “Trump gave a major foreign policy speech yesterday in South Korea, during which he described living in North Korea as ‘a hell no person deserves’ and warned North Korea not to try us. That’s right, don’t try us. If you do, you’re going to like us.”

**Jimmy Kimmel:** “Meanwhile, this is what President Obama is up to. President Obama had jury duty today. He reported for jury duty this morning in Chicago. You see he shook hands with some of the people there, he said hello to the other prospective jurors, then was not selected. He was dismissed. Of course he was dismissed. In order to serve on a jury, you have to be born in the United States, right?”

**Stephen Colbert:** “So, Democrats have their swagger back. ... They also made major gains in Virginia’s House of Delegates, winning at least 15 seats in an upset that stunned members of both parties. Both parties? So, even the Democrats didn’t believe they could win. ‘What? No, people hate us. I demand a recount!’”

**James Corden:** “This was a big occasion, ladies and gentlemen. Today was the one-year anniversary of Donald Trump winning the presidency. ... Now, the traditional one-year anniversary gift is paper. So if you want to get Trump something, you can’t go wrong with a federal indictment.”

**James Corden:** “Trump said that [Virginia Republican candidate for governor Ed] Gillespie never embraced him. The problem is not that Ed Gillespie never embraced Trump – the problem is that Trump’s father never embraced Donald Trump.”

**Trevor Noah:** “What a night for Democrats, or as a wise man once said, so much winning. Yeah, how do you like that, Republicans? You may control the presidency, Congress, and the Supreme Court, but the Democrats got the Virginia House of Delegates, maybe. Yeah!”

**Trevor Noah:** [Referring to Trump’s tweet on Ed Gillespie’s defeat] “Trump does not play games with how fast he will abandon you. Like, he quit the guy out of nowhere. One day when the US economy crashes, I bet Trump will be like, ‘What a loser economy. I’ve never even heard of America.’”

**Trevor Noah:** “Karma was all over America. In Helena, Montana, the mayor who did not want to host refugees in his city lost his re-election bid to a Liberian refugee.”

**Trevor Noah:** “So America now says good-bye to its favorite least favorite governor. Like, if this was ‘Fast and the Furious,’ this would be the moment when [Gov. Chris] Christie would be in Paul Walker’s car driving away into the sunset until he hits a traffic jam that he started to make a point.”

**Seth Meyers:** “Democrats last night won the governorships in Virginia and New Jersey. Or as Fox News reported, are emojis turning kids gay?”

**Seth Meyers:** “President Trump arrived in China today. ‘It’s so great to be home,’ said his tie.”

**Conan O’Brien:** “Big change for Twitter yesterday. They’ve officially doubled the maximum length of a tweet to 280 characters. In a related story, President Trump’s thumbs have been rushed to intensive care.”

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**From:** (b) (6)  
**To:** (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Washington State Reveals Upcoming Federal Cybersecurity Pilot, After DHS Confirms Attempted Election Breaches  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 27, 2017 7:01:17 PM

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Gents,

FYSA. Article from 2 days ago.

<http://www.govtech.com/security/Washington-State-Reveals-Upcoming-Federal-Cybersecurity-Pilot-After-DHS-Confirms-Attempted-Election-Breaches.html>

V/r,

(b) (6)

///Signed///

(b) (6)

Seattle District (Washington State)  
Office of Infrastructure Protection (IP)  
National Protection and Programs Directorate  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

(b) (6)

@hq.dhs.gov



**From:** The Seattle Times  
**To:** (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Wednesday Morning Brief: Wild election's results, and the big picture  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 8, 2017 10:28:08 AM

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A weekday roundup of your need-to-know news. View in browser <<http://mailchi.mp/seattletimes/11-8-17?e=5a562adea8>> .

The Seattle Times <<https://seattletimes.us10.list-manage.com/track/click?u=b5e1d09b63c2638d50cc50676&id=ab6f438232&e=5a562adea8>>

Morning Brief

Wednesday, NOVEMBER 8, 2017

Jenny Durkan with supporters <<https://seattletimes.us10.list-manage.com/track/click?u=b5e1d09b63c2638d50cc50676&id=1ceb380d49&e=5a562adea8>>

(Photo by Erika Schultz / The Seattle Times)

## ELECTION RESULTS

Seattle is getting its first female mayor in 91 years — and it'll be Jenny Durkan, above. The former U.S. attorney claimed a decisive lead <<https://seattletimes.us10.list-manage.com/track/click?u=b5e1d09b63c2638d50cc50676&id=1b0cbdb0e0&e=5a562adea8>> over Cary Moon, winning 61 percent of the vote in last night's returns. It's one of several major races that women are dominating. After a particularly bitter contest for King County sheriff, <<https://seattletimes.us10.list-man>

**From:** GovInfoSecurity Enews  
**To:** (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Week in Review: DHS Official: No Proof Kaspersky Software Used to Hack Fed IT  
**Date:** Friday, November 17, 2017 1:34:40 PM

DHS Official: No Proof Kaspersky Software Used to Hack Fed IT | Live Webinar: The Anatomy of a Privileged Account Hack  
[View the online version »](#)



**Week in Review**  
November 17, 2017

**In this issue:** [News](#) | [Featured Summit](#) | [Around the Network](#) | [Jobs](#)

## This Week's Top Stories

### NEWS

#### **DHS Official: No Proof Kaspersky Software Used to Hack Fed IT**

*by Eric Chabrow*

A top DHS cybersecurity official says she has seen no conclusive evidence that Russian-owned Kaspersky Lab's security software had been exploited to breach federal information systems. Jeanette Manfra told a House panel most agencies have complied with a directive to stop using Kaspersky software.

### WEBINAR

#### **Live Webinar: The Anatomy of a Privileged Account Hack**

*by Thycotic*

### WHITE PAPER

#### **Thirteen Essential Steps to Meeting the Security Challenges of the New EU GDPR**

*Presented by Tenable*

### NEWS

#### **US-CERT: North Korean Hackers Targeting Three Sectors**

*by Eric Chabrow*

### NEWS

#### **Australian InfoSec Analysts Hit With Restraining Orders**

*by Jeremy Kirk*

### WHITE PAPER

#### **The Need to Expand**

**From:** (b) (6)  
**To:** [CIR Policy](#)  
**Subject:** FW: GRIZZLY STEPPE - Russian Malicious Cyber Activity  
**Date:** Thursday, December 29, 2016 12:58:28 PM

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**From:** US-CERT  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 29, 2016 8:23:07 PM  
**To:** (b) (6)  
**Subject:** GRIZZLY STEPPE - Russian Malicious Cyber Activity

U.S. Department of Homeland Security US-CERT



National Cyber Awareness System:

## **GRIZZLY STEPPE - Russian Malicious Cyber Activity**

12/29/2016 02:21 PM EST

Original release date: December 29, 2016

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has released a Joint Analysis Report (JAR) that details Russian malicious cyber activity, designated as GRIZZLY STEPPE. This activity by Russian civilian and military intelligence services (RIS) is part of an ongoing campaign of cyber-enabled operations directed at the U.S. government and private sector entities.

DHS recommends that network administrators review the [Security Publication](#) for more information and implement the recommendations provided.

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