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DHS MORNING BRIEFING

Prepared for the Office of Public Affairs (OPA)
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
By TechMIS
(b)(7)(E)

Mobile User Copy

Editorial Note: The DHS Daily Briefing is a collection of news articles related to Department's mission. The inclusion of particular stories is not intended to reflect their importance, nor is it intended to endorse the political viewpoints or affiliations included in news coverage.

TO: **Homeland Security Secretary & Staff**
DATE: **Tuesday, February 18, 2025 6:00 AM ET**

Top News

New York Times: Costa Rica Will Take Central Asian and Indian Migrants Deported by U.S.

NBC News: Department of Homeland Security preparing to fire hundreds of senior leaders this week

FOX News/ABC News: 'Criminal' migrants are 'not welcome,' according to new multimillion-dollar ad from DHS

FOX News: Trump greenlights some pro-immigrant moves amid broader anti-migrant crackdown

New York Times: Trump Wants Sheriffs to Aid Deportation Efforts, but Who Would Pay?

AP: Trump begins firings of FAA air traffic control staff just weeks after fatal DC plane crash

AP: Dismantling of federal efforts to monitor election interference creates opening for foreign meddling

CNN: GOP-led states quickly mirror Trump's policy agenda

AP: Justice Department's independence is threatened as Trump's team asserts power over cases and staff

NBC News: DOGE-affiliated employee has accessed IRS system with sensitive taxpayer information

New York Times: Thousands Gather on Presidents' Day to Call Trump a Tyrant

FOX News: [NY] Trump DOJ brings down 'Sovereign' District of New York

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Newsweek: [NY] Donald Trump's Border Czar Confronted on Alleged Deal With Eric Adams

CBS New York: [NY] 4 NYC deputy mayors announce resignations after DOJ moves to drop Adams charges

New York Times: [NY] Wave of Resignations Plunges Adams Administration Into Crisis Again

New York Times: [NY] Hochul to Meet With City Leaders to Discuss the 'Path Forward' for Mayor

The Dispatch: [NY] Trump Administration Halts Funds to NYC for Migrant Services

USA Today/AP: [MD] Police arrest apparent leader of cultlike 'Zizian' group linked to multiple killings in the US

NPR: [DC] Thousands of people protest in Washington, D.C., and across the U.S. on Presidents Day

CBS Miami: [FL] Facing South Florida: The battle over immigration

Yahoo! News: [FL] Florida begins immigration crackdown, names migrant flights official to lead enforcement

CBS Austin: [TX] Protesters rally at Texas Capitol against Trump administration

CBS San Francisco: [CA] Bay Area immigration activists march 21 miles to stand up against Trump's policies

Opinion – Op-Eds

Dallas Morning News: Suspending refugee program doesn't fix illegal immigration problem

FOX News: Trump's designation of cartels as terrorists ends the fiction that Mexico is a trustworthy ally

New York Times: [Afghanistan] The U.S. Can No Longer Ignore the Threat Arising in Afghanistan

Top News (Sunday Talk Shows)

CNN's State of the Union With Jake Tapper and Dana Bash: Border Czar, Tom Homan comments on Adams DOJ case and the opening of Rikers Island | Part One

CNN's State of the Union With Jake Tapper and Dana Bash: Border Czar, Tom Homan: It's Not About Raiding Schools, Its About Arresting The Bad Guy | Part Two

CBS' Face The Nation: Secretary Marco Rubio: "We Want Every Hostage Out As Soon As Possible." | Part One

CBS' Face The Nation: Secretary Marco Rubio: Speak With Russia's Top Diplomat | Part Two

NBC's Meet the Press: President Volodymyr Zelensky Speaks About NATO Membership | Part One

NBC's Meet the Press: President Volodymyr Zelensky: No Good Faith In Putin | Part Two

Immigration and Customs Enforcement

CNN/VOA News: US 'border czar' unhappy with pace of migrant arrests

Washington Examiner: Homan focuses on making illegal drug cartels in US 'eradicated'

The Hill: Homan says he's asked DOJ whether Ocasio-Cortez is impeding ICE

FOX News: [MA] Boston police commissioner doubles down on ICE resistance: 'We don't enforce' detainers

WHTM: [PA] Man wanted for murder in Philadelphia arrested in Lancaster County

FOX News: [FL] Florida sheriff says ICE partnership only the beginning in illegal migrant crackdown

WCMH: [OH] Mexican national with prior drug trafficking conviction arrested in Fayette County

Newsweek: [MI] Michigan Police Defy Donald Trump's Mass Deportation Plan

Border Report: [TX] 36 migrants found in tractor-trailer at remote Border Patrol checkpoint

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FOX News: [TX] ICE arrests 'predator' migrant convicted of secretly recording others in bathroom

Yahoo! News: [KS] Kansas AG Kris Kobach says KBI agents will work with ICE on illegal immigration

Yahoo! News: [WA] Push for inspections at Tacoma immigration detention center reemerges in WA Legislature

FOX 11: [CA] ICE raids: Latest arrests made in Southern California

Newsweek: [CA] California Beach Town Wants Cameras To Stop Migrants

Citizenship and Immigration Services

VOA News: [CA] Deportations bring uncertainty for California farm workers and local growers

Customs and Border Protection

Newsweek: Border Patrol Ditching Body Cameras: Report

Border Report: New Border Patrol chief discusses changes, support for agents

FOX News: House Democrat's smear of Border Patrol bill backfires after dozens of Dems support it: 'Fearmongering'

Yahoo! News: Recent drug seizures at ports of entry in 3 states top $32M

WSBTV: [GA] Border patrol officers save the life of woman having medical emergency at Atlanta airport

FOX News: [IL] CBP finds 161K fake US stamps in shipment from China

Newsweek: [TX] US Border Guard Allegedly in Violent Mexican Drug Cartel

Yahoo! News: [TX] U.S. Marshals visit southern border

Newsweek: [NM] War on Drug Cartels Ramps Up at America's Blue Border

Border Report: [NM] Sunland Park Fire, Border Patrol rescue female from Mount Cristo Rey

FOX News: [CA] San Diego migrant shelter closes after no new arrivals since Trump took office; over 100 employees laid off

FOX News: [CA] Wealthy California beach town skirts state's sanctuary law in planned migrant boat crackdown

FOX News: [Canada] Illegal-smuggling coyotes now advertising at Canada border amid Trump migrant crackdown: report

Transportation Security Administration

New York Times: String of Air Crashes in 2025 Has Rattled Travelers

WPXI: [PA] Ohio woman accused of trying to bring gun through Pittsburgh International Airport without license

KDVR: [CO] More than 400 flights delayed, 12 canceled at DIA Sunday after snowy weekend

Federal Emergency Management Agency

NPR: Deadly storms sweep through the South, leaving at least 12 dead

Yahoo! News: FEMA's flood insurance program to borrow billions to pay 2024 post-Hurricane claims

WAVY: [VA] Gov. Youngkin requests "Expedited Major Disaster Declaration" for winter storm relief

Yahoo! News: [WV] One dead, several missing after 'devastating' floods hit WV's southern coalfields over the weekend

AP: [NC] Some in Hurricane Helene-ravaged North Carolina embrace Trump's push to abolish FEMA

Reuters/AP/Miami Herald: [KY] Kentucky flooding death toll rises to 11 as snowstorm arrives

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CBS News/Newsweek: [KY] Beshear on FEMA, Trump administration's response as deadly flooding slams Kentucky

NPR: [KY] Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear updates with latest on disastrous flooding in the state

NPR: [KY] Recovery efforts underway in Kentucky where flooding has killed at least 11

New York Times: [KY] 'Here We Go Again': Kentucky Residents Face More Destruction and Anxiety From Storms

CBS Los Angeles: [CA] Residents concerned over FEMA's decision not to test soil Palisades Fire burn scar

NPR: [CA] Radio traffic reveals power problems continued for days after L.A. fire first began

NBC News: [CA] For some L.A. wildfire survivors, rebuilding will not be an option

Secret Service

Palm Beach Post: [FL] Secret Service arrests man who jumped over wall at Mar-a-Lago one day before Trump's return

Coast Guard

Yahoo! News: Data Breach Prompts Coast Guard to Take Personnel and Pay System Offline

CBS Los Angeles: [CA] Boater, dog rescued by Coast Guard 18 miles off coast of Catalina Island

San Diego Union Tribune: [CA] Lifeguards, Coast Guard search Mission Bay for lost man after canoe found

Yahoo! News: [CA] Man still missing after falling into San Francisco Bay

KIRO 7: [CA] USCG Cutter returns after assisting in law enforcement patrols in California

Yahoo! News: [CA] Coast Guard seizes 37K lbs. of cocaine worth $275M

CISA/Cybersecurity

CBS Austin: Cyber attacks using AI bypass traditional security advice

Terrorism Investigations

Yahoo! News: [IN] Washington County Sheriff's Office helps thwart school shooting plot in Indiana, authorities say

National Security News

Washington Post: Under Trump, CIA plots bigger role in drug cartel fight

CBS San Francisco: Trump administration fires and then tries to rehire nuclear weapons workers in DOGE reversal

VOA News: US Vice President warns Europe of "threat from within."

Washington Examiner: Marco Rubio defends JD Vance's lecture on free speech

Newsweek: [Lithuania] Rubio Praises NATO Member's Defense Spending Increase Amid Trump Threats

CBS News: [Ukraine] Rubio says "we have a long ways to go" before talks on ending Russia-Ukraine war

Bloomberg: [Ukraine] Trump Says Zelenskiy to Take Part in Peace Talks With Russia

The Hill: [Ukraine] Trump sidelines allies in Ukraine-Russia negotiations

New York Times: [Ukraine] Ukraine Won't Accept a Deal It Didn't Help Negotiate, Zelensky Says

Miami Herald: [Ukraine] Trump aide says Americans deserve 'payback' for Ukraine support

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Miami Herald: [Russia] Trump May Meet Putin In February In Stunning Setback For Ukraine, Europe

ABC News: [Russia] Russia launches 176 drones into Ukraine as US talks begin

CNN: [Russia] Trump and his team are "great problem-solvers," Russian negotiator in Riyadh says ahead of US-Russia talks

VOA News: [Syria] US says strike in Syria killed Al-Qaeda affiliate official

Miami Herald: [Israel] US says talks about phase two of Gaza ceasefire to continue this week

Newsweek: [Israel] Netanyahu Calls Trump's Gaza Plan 'Only Viable' Option

New York Times: [Saudi Arabia] Rubio Lands in Saudi Arabia for Talks on Gaza and Ukraine

CBS News: [Saudi Arabia] Top U.S., Russian diplomats meet on improving ties, ending Ukraine war — without Ukraine officials at the table

Newsweek: [China] China Sends Ships Near US Ally in 'Show of Force'

The Hill: [China] Paxton launches investigation into DeepSeek

Newsweek: [China] China's DeepSeek AI Hit With New Setback

Newsweek: [China] Beijing Says History Supports Sweeping Claims in South China Sea

AP: [Philippines] Chinese navy helicopter flies within 10 feet of Philippine patrol plane over disputed shoal

Reuters: [North Korea] North Korea denounces 'absurd' denuclearisation pledge by US and allies

Newsweek: [Australia] China Clashes With US Ally Over Fighter Jet Intercept

Top News

New York Times: Costa Rica Will Take Central Asian and Indian Migrants Deported by U.S.
New York Times [2/17/2025 10:52 PM, Annie Correal, 161405K] reports Costa Rica announced on Monday that it would receive a flight this week from the United States carrying 200 migrants from Central Asia and India, making it the second nation in Central America to accept deportees from faraway countries who had crossed illegally into the United States. Last week, Panama received three U.S. deportation flights, carrying migrants from countries in Asia, the Middle East and Africa. Such flights appear to be the Trump administration's new tactic for dealing with unauthorized migrants from countries to which it might not be easy to return them, as the administration seeks to ramp up deportations. Rather than keep such migrants in detention centers on the southern border, the administration is recruiting other countries willing to accept them, where it is not clear what will ultimately happen to the deportees. While traveling through Central America and the Caribbean earlier this month, Secretary of State Marco Rubio received assurances from several governments, including Panama's and Costa Rica's, that they were committed to working with the Trump administration on migration issues. But few details were offered. In its Monday announcement, the Costa Rican government said the first group of deportees would arrive on a commercial flight on Wednesday afternoon. Costa Rica said its territory would "serve as a bridge" for the migrants' return to their countries of origin, and that the repatriation process would be "fully funded by the U.S. government, under the supervision of the International Organization for Migration," a United Nations agency that Costa Rica said would be responsible for the care of the migrants during their stay in the country. Panama has described a similar process for the deportees sent there by the United States. The U.N. agency's representatives in Costa Rica did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

NBC News: Department of Homeland Security preparing to fire hundreds of senior leaders this week
NBC News [2/17/2025 6:46 PM, Julia Ainsley, 50804K] reports the Trump administration is preparing to fire hundreds of high-level Department of Homeland Security employees this week as part of a move to rid

the country's third-largest agency of people deemed to be misaligned with the administration's goals, according to three sources familiar with the matter. The sources said the Trump administration has a "centralized plan" and a list of people in high-level positions across every component of DHS who are to be targeted this week. The firings will come on top of hundreds of more general cuts that began across DHS on Friday night, which targeted the Federal Emergency Management Agency, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency. Those firings were the latest in a governmentwide effort to reduce the federal workforce. This week, the three sources told NBC News, career employees at high managerial levels, namely Senior Executive Service and General Schedule 15 employees, may be removed from agencies across DHS — not to reduce the size of the workforce but to remove employees whom the administration sees as potentially standing in the way of goals the Trump administration has for the agency. DHS, which includes Customs and Border Protection and Immigration and Customs Enforcement, is the primary agency tasked with enforcing U.S. immigration law. Trump has relied heavily on CBP to secure the southwest border and on ICE to ramp up arrests and deportations of undocumented immigrants living in the United States. The employees at those high levels "are career people who have an influence on policy and strategy in those positions," said a former senior Biden administration official, responding to news of the plan.

FOX News/ABC News: 'Criminal' migrants are 'not welcome,' according to new multimillion-dollar ad from DHS

FOX News [2/17/2025 10:00 PM, Greg Wehner, 57114K] reports Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Kristi Noem sent a stern warning on behalf of President Donald Trump, to those planning on entering the U.S. illegally, saying, "Don't even think about it." Noem announced Monday that she is launching a major multi-million-dollar ad campaign targeting illegal immigrants. "Tonight, I'm announcing a nationwide and international multimillion-dollar ad campaign warning illegal aliens to leave our country NOW or face deportation with the inability to return to the US," the DHS secretary said in a post on X. "This serves as a strong warning to criminal illegal aliens to not come to America. If they do, they will be hunted down and deported." Noem also shared a video of her delivering a message to illegal aliens thinking about coming to the U.S. illegally. ABC News [2/17/2025 9:30 PM, Luke Barr, 57114K] Video: HERE reports the Department of Homeland Security launched a multimillion-dollar advertising campaign on Tuesday directed at those who try and come to the United States illegally, saying: Don't try it. There are two versions of the ad, according to the DHS. One is set to run domestically, and the other is set to run internationally. The domestic version of the ad has DHS Secretary Kristi Noem praising President Donald Trump for "securing the border." "Thank you, President Donald J. Trump, for securing our border and putting America first," Noem said in the ad set to run in the U.S. She continued: "President Trump has a clear message: if you are here illegally, we will find you and deport you. You will never return. But if you leave now, you may have an opportunity to return and enjoy our freedom and live the American Dream." "If you are a criminal alien considering entering America illegally: Don't even think about it. If you come here and break our laws, we will hunt you down. Criminals are not welcome in the United States," Noem said. The ads will run on radio, broadcast and digital, in multiple countries and regions, and in various dialects, according to DHS. Ads will be hyper-targeted, including through social media, text message and digital to reach illegal migrants in the interior of the United States and abroad, according to DHS. "Follow the law and you'll find opportunity. Break it and you'll find consequences," the ad's message said. The international version of the ad warns those who try and enter illegally will be "caught and removed." "Let me deliver a message from President Trump to the world: If you are thinking of entering America illegally, don't even think about it," Noem emphasized in the ad.

Reported similarly:
Newsweek [2/18/2025 4:43 AM, Billal Rahman, 56005K]
Yahoo! News [2/18/2025 12:59 AM, Darryl Coote, 57114K] Video: HERE

FOX News: Trump greenlights some pro-immigrant moves amid broader anti-migrant crackdown

FOX News [2/18/2025 4:00 AM, Adam Shaw, 49889K] reports that, while President Donald Trump has taken a series of measures to restrict immigration into the U.S., particularly illegal immigration, he has

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also made a handful of less-scrutinized moves to help some immigrants on their way to becoming citizens. Trump ran on a platform of securing the southern border, deporting illegal immigrants and also shutting down parole programs introduced by the Biden administration to allow migrants to enter the U.S. Since taking office, he has also signed executive orders declaring a national emergency at the border and suspending refugee resettlement. But he made an apparent exception to the refugee resettlement pause this month when he signed an executive order accusing the South African government of allowing attacks on white Afrikaner farmers. That executive order, which cut assistance to the South African government, was accompanied by a move to offer Afrikaners refugee status. "The Secretary of State and the Secretary of Homeland Security shall take appropriate steps, consistent with law, to prioritize humanitarian relief, including admission and resettlement through the United States Refugee Admissions Program, for Afrikaners in South Africa who are victims of unjust racial discrimination," Trump's order said. "Such plan shall be submitted to the President through the Assistant to the President and Homeland Security Advisor," he said. Trump's administration also made a significant move affecting immigrants in the U.S. already, if they are applying for their green card. U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) posted a short announcement on Jan 22, announcing that it was waiving the requirements that those immigrants applying for an adjustment to permanent legal status present documentation showing they have had a COVID-19 vaccine. Mandates for the COVID vaccine were controversial, and many Americans have declined to take it and pushed back against requirements that they do so. Now, those who are seeking to remain in the U.S. permanently have the ability to avoid the vaccine but still progress on the way to citizenship. "USCIS will not issue any Request for Evidence or Notice of Intent to Deny related to proving a COVID-19 vaccination," the announcement said. "USCIS will not deny any adjustment of status application based on the applicant's failure to present documentation that they received the COVID-19 vaccination."

New York Times: Trump Wants Sheriffs to Aid Deportation Efforts, but Who Would Pay?
New York Times [2/16/2025 7:00 AM, Eileen Sullivan, 740K] reports that President Trump and his team are looking to state and local law enforcement to help them arrest and deport foreigners who are in the country without authorization. Many of the nation's sheriffs have responded with enthusiasm. They are thrilled to work with the Trump administration, they said, and to once again "have a seat at the table" after four years of what they have described as being ignored by the Biden administration. But the sheriffs say they need something in return: money, and lots of it, to cover the cost of what it will take to refocus scant local resources on what is inherently a federal responsibility. "The federal government will have to dedicate substantial resources in order to help cover this, and that's no secret. They know that," said Jim Skinner, the sheriff in Collin County, Texas. Where the money would come from is not yet clear. And the sheriffs' role would be part of a larger federal effort to crack down on immigration violations, all of which will require a significant infusion of new federal funding at a time when there is a commitment to vast cost-cutting across the federal government. Mr. Trump's "border czar," Tom Homan, has said mass deportations will cost around $86 billion. While the Trump administration is looking to all state and local law enforcement for help on combating illegal immigration, the country's sheriffs are a logical place to start. As elected officials, they operate with more autonomy than police chiefs, and they control thousands of jails.

AP: Trump begins firings of FAA air traffic control staff just weeks after fatal DC plane crash
AP [2/17/2025 2:03 PM, Tara Copp, 11K] reports the Trump administration has begun firing several hundred Federal Aviation Administration employees, upending staff on a busy air travel weekend and just weeks after a January fatal mid-air collision at Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport. Probationary workers were targeted in late night emails Friday notifying them they had been fired, David Spero, president of the Professional Aviation Safety Specialists union, said in a statement. The impacted workers include personnel hired for FAA radar, landing and navigational aid maintenance, one air traffic controller told the Associated Press. The air traffic controller was not authorized to talk to the media and spoke on condition of anonymity. The National Air Traffic Controllers Association said in a brief statement Monday it was "analyzing the effect of the reported federal employee terminations on aviation safety, the national airspace system and our members." Other FAA employees who were fired were working on an urgent and

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classified early warning radar system the Air Force had announced in 2023 for Hawaii to detect incoming cruise missiles, through a program that was in part funded by the Department of Defense. It's one of several programs that the FAA's National Defense Program manages that involve radars providing longer-range detection around the country's borders. Due to the nature of their work, staff in that office typically provide an extensive knowledge transfer before retiring to make sure no institutional knowledge is lost, said Charles Spitzer-Stadtlander, one of the employees in that branch who was terminated. "This is about protecting national security, and I'm scared to death," Spitzer-Stadtlander said. "And the American public should be scared too." The Hawaii radar and the FAA National Defense Program office working on it "is about protecting national security," Spitzer-Stadtlander said. "I don't think they even knew what NDP does, they just thought, oh no big deal, he just works for the FAA."

Reported similarly:
CBS News [2/17/2025 9:37 AM, Kathryn Krupnik, 52225K]
NBC News [2/17/2025 6:52 PM, Kelly O'Donnell, 50804K] Video: HERE
Newsweek [2/17/2025 11:47 AM, Natalie Venegas, 56005K]

AP: Dismantling of federal efforts to monitor election interference creates opening for foreign meddling
AP [2/16/2025 8:21 PM, Ali Swenson and Christina A. Cassidy, 2315K] reports that when a suspicious video of ballots being ripped up in Pennsylvania gained attention on social media last October, federal agencies responded quickly and called it out as Russian disinformation. On Election Day in November, bomb threats to polling places in numerous states caused relatively few disruptions to voting. It's one of the many scenarios covered by the nation's cybersecurity agency in its outreach to state and local officials. The future of that assistance is now uncertain. The Trump administration's downsizing and disbanding of federal agencies has hit efforts that improve election security and monitor foreign influence. That could create gaps for America's enemies to exploit the next time the country holds a major election. "Our adversaries are upping their game every day," said former Department of Homeland Security cyber chief Suzanne Spaulding. "I'm worried that we are, at the same time, tearing down our defenses." Last week, new Attorney General Pam Bondi disbanded an FBI task force focused on investigating foreign influence operations, including those that target U.S. elections.

CNN: GOP-led states quickly mirror Trump's policy agenda
CNN [2/16/2025 7:00 AM, Arit John, 987K] reports that, in his nearly four weeks in office, President Donald Trump has unveiled a constant stream of policy priorities in quick succession, from shrinking government, to cutting taxes, to waging a war on diversity initiatives, illegal immigration and transgender rights. His allies in the states are rushing to keep up. The Florida and Tennessee legislatures have passed sweeping immigration packages that will make it easier for state law enforcement and federal immigration officials to coordinate during recent special sessions. Leaders in Ohio and Arkansas are renewing efforts to place work requirements on Medicaid recipients. And Republicans in at least nine states have moved to create government efficiency task forces inspired by the initiative helmed by billionaire Elon Musk. Across the country, Republican governors and legislatures are taking advantage of the national spotlight – and friendlier regulatory environment – the Trump administration has created to advance longtime conservative policy goals. In State of the State speeches, X posts and press conferences, they've described the new administration as a partner they're eager to support. And they have been eager to portray themselves as loyal allies. For Democrats, it's a reminder that elections have consequences at both the federal level and the state level, where Republicans have dominated for years. Republican-backed laws, particularly measures passed in the nearly two dozen states where their party controls the governorship and both chambers of the legislature, have been at the center of some of the biggest culture war fights of the last few years, including the 2022 Dobbs decision that ended federal abortion protections and a pending case on gender-affirming care for minors. Democrats have increasingly pitched the need to build their power at the state level as a way to combat Republican gains. "Red states are feeling even more empowered under Trump's takeover of Washington to push legislation that sows confusion and chaos, from cutting programs families rely on to rolling back fundamental rights,"

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said Sam Paisley, a spokesperson for the Democratic Legislative Campaign Committee. “Democrats in state legislatures are the strongest defense against MAGA Republicans’ destruction.”

AP: Justice Department’s independence is threatened as Trump’s team asserts power over cases and staff

AP [2/16/2025 5:30 PM, Eric Tucker and Alanna Durkin Richer, 4917K] reports Pam Bondi had insisted at her Senate confirmation hearing that as attorney general, her Justice Department would not “play politics.” Yet in the month since the Trump administration took over the building, a succession of actions has raised concerns the department is doing exactly that. Top officials have demanded the names of thousands of FBI agents who investigated the Capitol riot, sued a state attorney general who had won a massive fraud verdict against Donald Trump before the 2024 election, and ordered the dismissal of a criminal case against New York Mayor Eric Adams by saying the charges had handicapped the Democrat’s ability to partner in the Republican administration’s fight against illegal immigration. Even for a department that has endured its share of scandals, the moves have produced upheaval not seen in decades, tested its independence and rattled the foundations of an institution that has long prided itself on being driven solely by facts, evidence and the law. As firings and resignations mount, the unrest raises the question of whether a president who raged against his own Justice Department during his first term can succeed in bending it to his will in his second. “We have seen now a punishing ruthlessness that acting department leadership and the attorney general are bringing to essentially subjugate the workforce to the wishes and demands of the administration, even when it’s obvious” that some of the decisions have all the signs “of corrupting the criminal justice system,” said retired federal prosecutor David Laufman, a senior department official across Democratic and Republican administrations. He spoke not long after Manhattan’s top federal prosecutor, Danielle Sassoon, resigned in protest following a directive from Emil Bove, the Justice Department’s acting No. 2 official, to dismiss the case against Adams. In a letter foreshadowing her decision, Sassoon accused the department of acceding to a “quid pro quo” — dropping the case to ensure Adams’ help with Trump’s immigration agenda. Though a Democrat, Adams had for months positioned himself as eager to aid the administration’s effort in America’s largest city, even meeting privately with Trump at Trump’s Florida estate just days before the Republican took office.

NBC News: DOGE-affiliated employee has accessed IRS system with sensitive taxpayer information

NBC News [2/16/2025 10:59 PM, Garrett Haake and Megan Lebowitz, 36472K] reports that an IRS employee who is affiliated with the Department of Government Efficiency is expected to seek access to an IRS system that houses sensitive taxpayer information, according to an administration official. The access would be to the Integrated Data Retrieval System, which allows IRS employees to access taxpayer accounts. An administration official originally said that the employee had been granted access but later clarified that the employee was expected to seek access and was not already in the system. The IDRS allows employees to have "instantaneous visual access to certain taxpayer accounts," according to the IRS website. The system can be used for "researching account information and requesting returns" and "automatically generating notices, collection documents and other outputs." It contains information such as taxpayers’ individual master files, taxpayer identification numbers, retirement account information and details on pending adoptions. The DOGE-affiliated person in question is an IRS employee who started after President Donald Trump’s second inauguration, the administration official confirmed to NBC News. The official said the employee was carrying out the "DOGE mission" and acting "legally and with the appropriate security clearances." NBC News has reported that DOGE has accessed the Treasury Department’s payment system, which stores sensitive information like Social Security numbers. Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem also said this month that Trump authorized Musk to access FEMA disaster data.

Reported similarly:
New York Times [2/17/2025 12:29 AM, Alan Rappeport, Andrew Duehren, and Maggie Haberman, 161405K]

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New York Times: Thousands Gather on Presidents' Day to Call Trump a Tyrant
New York Times [2/17/2025 5:56 PM, Minho Kim, Stephanie Saul and Winnie Hu, 161405K] reports thousands of protesters opposing broad swaths of President Trump's agenda took to the streets across the United States on Monday, calling Mr. Trump a "king" on Presidents' Day for his efforts to terminate thousands of federal workers and to fire prosecutors and independent watchdogs within the federal government. On Saturday, Mr. Trump suggested on social media that he would not heed concerns that his sweeping actions could be breaking laws, posting a riff on a phrase often attributed to Napoleon Bonaparte: "He who saves his country does not violate any law." "No king, no crown, we will not back down," chanted those who gathered a few hundred feet from the U.S. Capitol on the National Mall in Washington. Many protesters opposed to Mr. Trump's agenda embraced symbols of patriotism, waving flags and wearing heart-shaped earrings and beanies adorned with the U.S. flag. The members of an a cappella group sang the national anthem by the Capitol Reflecting Pool. The audience burst into applause after the final line: "And the home of the brave." "It's our anthem. It's our flag. It belongs to us," said Shawn Morris, the president of the Gay Men's Chorus of Washington, D.C. "We wanted to take it back." Mr. Morris said he was deeply troubled by Mr. Trump's moves to push transgender people out of the military and to erase any mention of them from federal government websites. He expressed concerns that protections for same-sex marriages could be threatened next. "There's nothing more patriotic than fighting against tyranny," said Kat Duesterhaus, who traveled from Miami to join the Washington protest. "We're out here because we are patriots." The protests came as Democrats have struggled to counter Mr. Trump's moves, with Republicans holding majorities in both the House and the Senate and Democratic leaders and operatives worried about alienating voters in reacting hastily without reflecting first on why they lost in 2024. Many activists, however, have voiced frustration at the lack of a more aggressive stance.

Reported similarly:
Yahoo! News [2/17/2025 5:00 PM, Dana DiFilippo, 57114K]

FOX News: [NY] Trump DOJ brings down 'Sovereign' District of New York
FOX News [2/16/2025 7:03 PM, Mike Davis, 49889K] reports that Acting Deputy Attorney General Emil Bove just delivered a civics lesson to a now-former top New York prosecutor who was apparently confused about who she worked for. It all began when Bove, as authorized by Attorney General Pam Bondi, directed Acting United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York Danielle Sassoon to dismiss the federal indictment against New York City Mayor Eric Adams. The Biden Justice Department had indicted Adams on a somewhat questionable bribery charge after he had voiced public criticism of President Biden's policies on illegal immigration. When he assumed office, President Donald Trump issued an order to de-weaponize the Justice Department, which had engaged in lawfare against him for years. In the spirit of this order, Bove—while not addressing the merits of Adams' prosecution or impugning the integrity of the prosecutors—ordered the dismissal without prejudice, meaning charges can be brought in the future. Bove provided two rationales for the decision. First, the indictment reasonably could be viewed as interfering with the November 2025 mayoral election in which Adams is a candidate. Second, the indictment would hinder Adams' ability to assist the Trump administration in its illegal immigration enforcement activities.

Newsweek: [NY] Donald Trump's Border Czar Confronted on Alleged Deal With Eric Adams
Newsweek [2/16/2025 12:24 PM, Peter Aitken, 6595K] reports that President Donald Trump's border czar Tom Homan denied that there was any "deal" with New York City Mayor Eric Adams that had led to the Department of Justice (DOJ) ordering the Southern District of New York to drop its case against the embattled mayor. Newsweek reached out to the New York City mayor's office by email for comment on Sunday morning. The Southern District of New York in September brought charges of conspiracy, wire fraud and bribery against Adams. The charges were in connection with an alleged $100,000 in luxury gifts and illegal campaign contributions from Turkish officials and businesspeople for opening a consulate in New York without proper fire inspections. Adams has denied all allegations against him. However, the DOJ last week ordered the charges against Adams dropped, prompting more than half a dozen federal

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prosecutors to quit rather than enforce the order. Adams and Homan appeared on Fox & Friends on Friday, when Homan said he would be holding Adams to account, and that if he did not deliver on their agreement in the coming weeks and months, he would walk into the mayor's office and demand to know why.

Reported similarly:
NBC News [2/16/2025 3:29 PM, Raquel Coronell Uribe, 50804K]

CBS New York: [NY] 4 NYC deputy mayors announce resignations after DOJ moves to drop Adams charges

CBS New York [2/17/2025 4:01 PM, Marcia Kramer, Jesse Zanger, Christina Fan, 52225K] reports four New York City deputy mayors announced their resignations Monday as the controversy continued to grow over the allegation that Mayor Eric Adams agreed to a quid pro quo to get his criminal case dropped. Maria Torres-Springer, the city's First Deputy Mayor, Anne Williams-Isom, deputy mayor for Health and Human Services, Meera Joshi, the deputy mayor for Operations, and Chauncey Parker, deputy mayor for Public Safety, announced Monday they were resigning. They cited recent "extraordinary events" in the Adams administration and the need "to stay faithful to the oaths we swore to New Yorkers and our families." "Serving as deputy mayors has been the greatest honor and privilege of our lives. We have worked each day with the singular mission of improving the lives of New Yorkers and strengthening the physical foundation of the city we love. Due to the extraordinary events of the last few weeks and to stay faithful to the oaths we swore to New Yorkers and our families, we have come to the difficult decision to step down from our roles. While our time in this administration will come to a close, our support for the incredible public servants across the administration with whom we have stood shoulder to shoulder and our championing of this great city and all it stands for will never cease. We sincerely thank the mayor for giving us the opportunity to serve New Yorkers in these roles, stand ready to ensure a smooth transition of our duties, and wish Mayor Adams and all of our colleagues much strength and courage in the work ahead," Torres-Springer, Williams-Isom and Joshi said in a joint statement. "Serving as deputy mayor for public safety under Mayor Adams has been an honor of a lifetime. Together, we have made our streets safer, more just, and have improved quality of life for all New Yorkers. I am confident that the administration will continue on our mission to deliver for the people of this city," Parker said in a statement. Adams has remained defiant in the face of calls for him to step down, and held a campaign rally in Brooklyn Monday. He called the four "extraordinary public servants who have been vital to our work reshaping New York City." ""New Yorkers owe them an enormous debt of gratitude for their service to our city," Adams said in a statement. "I am disappointed to see them go, but given the current challenges, I understand their decision and wish them nothing but success in the future."

Reported similarly:
New York Times [2/17/2025 12:45 PM, William K. Rashbaum, Dana Rubinstein and Emma G. Fitzsimmons, 161405K]

New York Times: [NY] Wave of Resignations Plunges Adams Administration Into Crisis Again

New York Times [2/18/2025 3:00 AM, Emma G. Fitzsimmons, 161405K] reports four months ago, the administration of Mayor Eric Adams seemed to be in an irreversible state of crisis. Two of his deputy mayors and his police commissioner had resigned. His five-count federal indictment was still very much in play. Mr. Adams soldiered on. He hired well-regarded replacements, eschewing his often-tapped pool of loyalists. He hired a fiery criminal defense lawyer and began to openly court President Trump as an ally. The moves seemed to pay off. Mr. Adams's new team, led by the first deputy mayor, Maria Torres-Springer, won admiration for keeping New York City running; the mayor seemed to score an even bigger victory when the Justice Department moved to drop the case against him. But Mr. Adams's seeming legal triumph has brought him into a deeper political crisis. The prosecutor overseeing the mayor's case accused Mr. Adams late last week of agreeing to a quid pro quo with Trump administration officials. In exchange for leniency in the criminal case, she said, the mayor would help the president with immigration enforcement. The suggestion that Mr. Adams would do Mr. Trump's bidding, which the mayor has denied,

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brought widespread condemnation and calls for him to step down or for Gov. Kathy Hochul to remove him. Ms. Hochul, a Democrat who has been an ally to the mayor, released a statement late Monday saying that she would meet with elected officials on Tuesday to discuss the mayor's future and that the allegations against him were "troubling and cannot be ignored." The latest blows came on Monday, when Ms. Torres-Springer and three other deputy mayors said they would be resigning. They did not directly cite the mayor's cooperation with the Trump administration but alluded to "the extraordinary events of the last few weeks." The officials were respected government veterans who served as the backbone of the administration, leading a vast bureaucracy of roughly 300,000 city workers and key initiatives to build urgently needed housing and to improve public safety. "This is an unmitigated disaster," said Mark Levine, the Manhattan borough president. "Each one of these leaders is a seasoned, talented professional. Their loss will leave New York City government in a truly precarious position."

New York Times: [NY] Hochul to Meet With City Leaders to Discuss the 'Path Forward' for Mayor
New York Times [2/18/2025 3:08 AM, Andy Newman, 161405K] reports Gov. Kathy Hochul raised the prospect of removing Mayor Eric Adams from office and announced plans to meet on Tuesday with "key leaders" in Manhattan to discuss "the path forward, with the goal of ensuring stability for the City of New York." "Overturning the will of the voters is a serious step that should not be taken lightly," Ms. Hochul said in a statement late Monday. "That said, the alleged conduct at City Hall that has been reported over the past two weeks is troubling and cannot be ignored." The governor was referring to comments from the federal prosecutor in Mr. Adams's criminal case that the mayor's lawyers had offered the White House a "quid pro quo" — helping President Trump's immigration crackdown in return for dropping the charges. Her comments followed the resignations of four of Mr. Adams's deputy mayors, including his second-in-command, amid criticism that the mayor has put his own interests above those of New Yorkers. Last week, after months of overtures by Mr. Adams to Mr. Trump, the Justice Department moved to drop the corruption case against the mayor, arguing that it was hindering his ability to cooperate with the president's crackdown on illegal immigration. (The prosecutor who alleged a quid pro quo resigned rather than withdraw the charges.) On Monday night, Ms. Hochul, a fellow Democrat who has the power to remove the mayor under the state Constitution, said that the resignations in his cabinet prompted "serious questions about the long-term future of this mayoral administration." Calls for the mayor to resign are growing louder and more numerous, with the City Council speaker, Adrienne Adams, who is no relation to the mayor, writing on Monday that the mayor has "lost the confidence and trust of his own staff, his colleagues in government, and New Yorkers."

The Dispatch: [NY] Trump Administration Halts Funds to NYC for Migrant Services
The Dispatch [2/17/2025 2:42 AM, Grayson Logue] reports in what has emerged as a playbook of sorts for Elon Musk's government efficiency campaign, the tech billionaire's team discovers a government spending program it deems objectionable, and the recently appointed leaders of the agency behind the program respond by immediately halting the funding. Such was the case last week with a funding program administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to support municipalities and local nonprofits in managing the effects of the migrant crisis as hundreds of thousands of people have flooded across the U.S. border with Mexico and into cities across the country in recent years. The Trump administration has now halted the Shelter and Services Program's (SSP) payments to the New York City government, even clawing back some $80 million in already disbursed funds, and the future of the program remains uncertain.

USA Today/AP: [MD] Police arrest apparent leader of cultlike 'Zizian' group linked to multiple killings in the US
USA Today [2/17/2025 5:24 PM, Trevor Hughes, 89965K] reports Maryland State police have arrested two people in connection with a string of homicides nationally, including several deaths in California, two deaths in Pennsylvania and the shooting of a U.S. border patrol agent in Vermont earlier this year. Taken into custody were Jack "Ziz" Lasota, 34, and Michelle Zajko, 32. Authorities believe Zajko supplied the guns that were used during the January shooting of Border Patrol agent David Maland near the Canadian border on Jan. 20. Maryland State Police confirmed the arrests on Monday but declined to comment

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further. A third person, Daniel Blank, 26 was arrested alongside Zajko and Lasota; his connection was not immediately clear. Maryland authorities did not immediately disclose the circumstances under which the three were arrested. "The Maryland State Police is working in coordination with our federal law enforcement partners and the Office of the State's Attorney in Allegany County as this investigation continues," a spokesperson for the Maryland State Police said in a statement. The FBI confirmed agents are working with Maryland State police but declined to comment further. The linked cases have drawn worldwide attention, in part because some of the people involved were transgender, and many were vegan, an unusual combination of circumstances, experts said. The AP [2/17/2025 4:07 PM, Michael Casey, 11K] report the apparent leader of a cultlike group known as the Zizians has been arrested in Maryland along with another member of the group, Maryland State Police said Monday. Jack Lasota, 34, was arrested Sunday along with Michelle Zajko, 33, of Media, Pennsylvania. They face multiple charges including trespassing, obstructing and hindering and possession of a handgun in the vehicle. A bail hearing for the two is scheduled for 11 a.m. Tuesday at Allegany District Court. The Zizians have been tied to the killing of U.S. Border Patrol Agent David Maland near the Canadian border in January and five other homicides in Vermont, Pennsylvania and California. Maland, 44, was killed in a Jan. 20 shootout following a traffic stop in Coventry, Vermont, a small town about 20 miles (32 kilometers) from the Canadian border. Officials have offered few details of the cross-country investigation, which broke open after the Jan. 20 shooting death of Maland. Associated Press interviews and a review of court records and online postings tell the story of how a group of young, highly intelligent computer scientists, most of them in their 20s and 30s, met online, shared anarchist beliefs, and became increasingly violent. Their goals aren't clear, but online writings span topics from radical veganism and gender identity to artificial intelligence. At the middle of it all is "Ziz," who appears to be the leader of the strange group members who called themselves "Zizians." She has been seen near multiple crime scenes and has connections to various suspects. LaSota published a dark and sometimes violent blog under the name Ziz and, in one section, described her theory that the two hemispheres of the brain could hold separate values and genders and "often desire to kill each other."

NPR: [DC] Thousands of people protest in Washington, D.C., and across the U.S. on Presidents Day

NPR [2/17/2025 10:10 PM, Chandelis Duster, Juliana Kim, 35747K] Video: HERE reports that, on Presidents Day, demonstrators across the U.S. descended upon state capitol buildings and other locations to protest actions by President Donald Trump and billionaire Elon Musk, who is implementing significant changes to the federal government. In Washington, D.C., the nation's capital, thousands of people gathered at the Capitol Reflecting Pool chanting "Where is Congress?" and urging members of Congress to "do your job!" despite nearly 40-degree temperatures and 20-mile-per-hour wind gusts. Potus Black, an organizer of the D.C. chapter of the 50501 Movement, which spearheaded the rallies, called on the sea of protesters to stand united to "uphold the Constitution." "To oppose tyranny is to stand behind democracy and remind our elected officials that we, the people, are who they're elected to serve, not themselves," Black said. "The events over the past month have been built to exhaust us, to break our wills. But we are the American people. We will not break." The nationwide protests were part of the 50501 Movement, which stands for "50 protests. 50 states. 1 movement." These protests were a response to what organizers describe as "the anti-democratic and illegal actions of the Trump administration." Monday's demonstrations marked the group's second nationwide campaign, following a series of executive orders signed by Trump. Both Musk and Trump have faced criticism for mass firings across several federal agencies. Several attendees spoke with NPR, expressing their anger over Musk and Trump's actions and their fears about future executive orders. Their concerns ranged from Musk's team at the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), gaining access to Americans' personal data through the IRS and other federal agency records, to the firing of national park rangers. Suzanne, a resident of Maryland, who requested that her last name be withheld because she fears retaliation against her family. She told NPR she attended the rally in support of her husband, a federal employee with a financial regulatory agency. She mentioned their worries about him potentially being laid off among thousands of others. "It's put us in a pretty tenuous financial situation. Currently, his paychecks are going through, but we're looking to Plan B as an alternative on how to support our family, our children," she said. "But it has really motivated him and his co-workers to stand united, to stand as a solid, solidified workers force."

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CBS Miami: [FL] Facing South Florida: The battle over immigration
CBS Miami [2/16/2025 7:45 AM, Staff, 52225K] Video: HERE reports CBS News Miami's Jim DeFede devotes the entire half-hour to the immigration bill that Florida Governor Ron DeSantis signed, and the tumultuous events leading up to it. This past week, for the third time in less than three weeks, the Florida legislature held a special session to supposedly crackdown on illegal immigration. The bill the Governor signed was a compromise between him and legislative leaders. But DeSantis clearly did not get what he wanted. Jim talks to Republican Representative Juan Carlos Porras, from Miami-Dade County, who is a close ally of House Speaker Danny Perez, and Senate Minority Leader Jason Pizzo, a Democrat who represents folks in Miami-Dade and Broward counties, about what they think the bill will accomplish, and where things go from here, including the likelihood that the existing rift between the governor and legislator will only widen when the regular session opens next month. Guests: State Rep. Juan Carlos Porrras/R-Miami Dade County State Sen. Jason Pizzo/D-Minority Leader Catch Facing South Florida With Jim DeFede on Sundays at 11:30AM ET.

Yahoo! News: [FL] Florida begins immigration crackdown, names migrant flights official to lead enforcement
Yahoo! News [2/17/2025 6:53 PM, Ana Goñi-Lessan, 57114K] reports Florida's GOP leaders named Larry Keefe as the executive director for the new State Board of Immigration Enforcement at an emergency Cabinet meeting on Monday in Niceville. Keefe, who used to be north Florida's top federal prosecutor and the state's public safety czar, was heavily involved in the 2022 publicity move of arranging flights of migrants from the U.S.-Mexico border to blue states. "Last time it was Martha's Vineyard, this time, maybe Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. I don't know how it's going to shake out, I just know we're going to be there," Gov. Ron DeSantis said at the meeting. After a few weeks of bickering between the governor and the Republican-led legislature and three special sessions, the two branches of government came up with a compromise that they touted as the "toughest" legislation on immigration in the country. This included establishing a board of immigration enforcement to work closely with the federal government on President Donald Trump's immigration overhaul and with mass deportations. Keefe, who has been the subject of lawsuits and investigations that have stemmed from the migrant flights, said this executive director position is the "perfect thing for me." "It blends federal, state and local, getting people to work together with a great sense of urgency, tearing down barriers. And I tell each one of you as I look each one of you in the eye, I will make you proud," Keefe said. The legislation (SB 2C) that established the new board also increased criminal penalties for immigrants who enter the country illegally, required enrollment in what's known as the 287(g) program (a collaboration with federal immigration enforcement) and repealed in-state tuition for undocumented students. But it also served as a blow to the unauthorized alien transport program that DeSantis and the Legislature established for the migrant flights. Now the state will only be allowed to transport migrants under the direction of the federal government. DeSantis originally had asked for $350 million for his program, according to reports. SB 2C in total cost about $300 million.

CBS Austin: [TX] Protesters rally at Texas Capitol against Trump administration
CBS Austin [2/17/2025 6:18 PM, Jahmal Kennedy and Tara Brolley, 581K] reports protesters gathered at the Texas State Capitol on Monday, demonstrating against the Trump administration as part of a nationwide "Not My President" rally. Demonstrators carried signs with messages including "Not My President," "Resist," and "Make Racists Afraid Again" outside the Capitol building. "If not me, who? If not now, what hell am I going to die on? This is it," said protest speaker Kristin Jenn. Jenn was one of the many speakers who took over the megaphone on Monday. Jenn has recently been affected by the current administration's policies and goals. "I'm an American citizen, I'm a National Park Ranger, and I'm a disabled veteran," she said. "And Donald Trump stole my job." Tesla CEO Elon Musk heads the Department of Government Efficiency, the agency in charge of looking into what it calls "waste management." Protester Michael Diatlevi believes it's doing more harm than good. "They're not trimming the fat. They're hacking off body parts, and they're killing the body that is the American people," he said. Today's protest didn't just take aim at the president. Lindsay Eck lives in Caldwell County and condemned Texas Gov. Greg Abbott's goal of passing private school vouchers. "Whether you're liberal or

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conservative, people in the rural counties don't want to have to go a 90-minute round trip to the nearest private school," said Eck.

CBS San Francisco: [CA] Bay Area immigration activists march 21 miles to stand up against Trump's policies
CBS San Francisco [2/16/2025 9:12 PM, Staff, 52225K] Video: HERE reports a large group is standing up against President Trump's immigration policies and mass deportations.

Opinion – Op-Eds

Dallas Morning News: Suspending refugee program doesn't fix illegal immigration problem
Dallas Morning News [2/17/2025 3:00 AM, Editorial Board, 3419K] reports that in 2023, Texas added 473,453 residents through births and migration. Of those, 5,050 were refugees. Background checks and health screenings weren't required for the Californians and Arkansans who moved to the Lone Star State, but they were for the refugees. Having fled their home countries out of fear of persecution, refugees often languish for months or years in a nearby nation while their personal histories are reviewed and investigated. It's a grueling process. "No one wakes up one day and says, this is a beautiful day to be a refugee," said Dr. Samira Izadi Page, who fled Iran and eventually founded Gateway of Grace, a faith-based nonprofit in Dallas that serves refugees. Nevertheless, President Donald Trump issued an executive order last month to suspend all refugee admissions, ostensibly out of security concerns. The administration also froze funding for resettlement agencies, forcing some local nonprofits, such as Catholic Charities of Dallas, to lay off employees who helped refugees assimilate. In a television interview last month, Vice President J. D. Vance defended the order, arguing that refugees were not being properly vetted before they arrived. The only specific example he offered was an Afghan national living in Oklahoma City who was arrested on charges of planning an Election Day terrorist attack last year. That suspect, Nasir Ahmad Tawhedi, was not a refugee.

FOX News: Trump's designation of cartels as terrorists ends the fiction that Mexico is a trustworthy ally
FOX News [2/17/2025 5:00 AM, Chuck DeVore, 49889K] reports that on President Donald J. Trump's first day in office, he issued an executive order designating human and drug trafficking cartels as Foreign Terrorist Organizations (FTOs). This week, the other shoe is expected to drop, as the State Department under Secretary Marco Rubio names names, designating six Mexican cartels as FTOs. Official Washington has long peddled the comfortable fiction that Mexico is an honest partner in the fight against drugs and human trafficking. This myth persists, despite decades of overwhelming evidence that the Mexican government is at best willfully negligent, and at worst, in active collusion with the criminal networks destroying lives on both sides of the border – cartels that Trump just called out by name. Trump has put a forceful end to this lie. Trump's action exposes the inconvenient truth: Mexico, first under former President Andrés Manuel López Obrador (AMLO) and his Morena Party and now with President Claudia Sheinbaum, is no peer ally. It is a state deeply compromised by cartel corruption and control. While Washington elites fret over diplomacy and stability, tens of thousands of Americans are dying from fentanyl poisoning every year. This crisis is directly fueled by cartels operating with impunity in Mexico and with material, financial and intelligence support from China.

New York Times: [Afghanistan] The U.S. Can No Longer Ignore the Threat Arising in Afghanistan
New York Times [2/17/2025 1:14 AM, Javid Ahmad, 161405K] reports President Trump has promised a bold new American approach to the world. Nowhere is that more urgently needed than in Afghanistan. Not only have its Taliban rulers crushed dissent and stripped away the rights of the country's women and girls; they have also taken Americans hostage and are allowing Afghanistan to serve as a nerve center of violent jihadist networks such as Al Qaeda. We all know what happened on Sept. 11, 2001, the last time this state of affairs existed. The Trump administration faces a stark choice: Let Afghanistan spiral further into jihadism or engage pragmatically with the Taliban. Engagement is, of course, a tough case to make,

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given the regime's brutal nature and America's painful history in Afghanistan. But dealing directly with the Taliban may be the only way to gain enough leverage to minimize serious potential threats to U.S. national security and interests. The Biden administration's approach — neither toppling the regime nor normalizing relations — has allowed the Taliban to entrench its rule without hope of the United States exerting any positive influence over it. Afghanistan requires realpolitik — putting results over ideals. The hard-nosed deal-making aspects of Mr. Trump's "America first" outlook may offer the right framework. The Trump administration should establish at least a limited diplomatic presence in Afghanistan or even reopen America's embassy in Kabul to facilitate regular contact with Taliban leaders toward the ultimate goal of deploying specialized intelligence teams in the country to track and respond to potential threats.

Top News (Sunday Talk Shows)

CNN's State of the Union With Jake Tapper and Dana Bash: Border Czar, Tom Homan comments on Adams DOJ case and the opening of Rikers Island | Part One

CNN's State of the Union With Jake Tapper and Dana Bash [2/16/2025 9:29 AM, Staff] reports President Trump's Border Czar, Tom Homan met on Thursday with the New York mayor, and he announced then that he would give ICE agents access to the prison on Rikers Island. Homan called that a game changer. A few days before Adams made that announcement, the Justice Department instructed prosecutors to drop federal corruption charges against him. It sounds like the DOJ dropped the case against Adams and, in exchange, Border Czar Homan was let into Rikers. Is that what happened? "No, I think that's ridiculous. Me and Mayor Adams met a couple months ago. I think it was probably eight, nine weeks ago we met. And we had the same discussion. And we talked about getting a presence in Rikers Island. We talked about how we can collaborate on public safety threats and finding the missing children that were -- that can be found after they release the sponsors. We had that a couple months ago, long before this other discussion. So I don't think it had anything to do with it. Matter of fact, the meeting went very well. It was the same meeting we had a few weeks ago. The reason we had the follow-up meeting because there was no action being done. So we followed up on how we can get some of this stuff in place, and that's what the meeting Thursday was about." Border Czar Homan states. Homan says that him and Adams met back in December. He says that they had to reschedule a meeting and that meeting took place Thursday when the access of Rikers Island was announced.

CNN's State of the Union With Jake Tapper and Dana Bash: Border Czar, Tom Homan: It's Not About Raiding Schools, Its About Arresting The Bad Guy | Part Two

CNN's State of the Union With Jake Tapper and Dana Bash [2/16/2025 9:29 AM, Staff] reports New York City Mayor Eric Adams says that Border Czar, Tom Homan isn't looking into New York schools or churches as they hunt for undocumented immigrants. Did Homan make that commitment to him? "What me and Mr. Adams talked about is telling the truth that the leftist has tried to scare the American people. We ended the sensitive location policy for one reason, because we're the only federal law enforcement agency that had those type of requirements. What I made clear to Governor -- to Mayor Adams is that we're not raiding schools, we're not raiding churches, we're not raiding college campuses, but if we have a significant public safety threat, significant public safety threat or national security, let's say, for instance, an MS-13 member who's a senior in the high school who's wanted for drug distribution or strong-arm robberies, we will go to that school and arrest that MS-13 member with the help of the local authorities. It's not about raiding the schools. It's about arresting one bad guy where we know he is and not let him escape back into the community. That's what discussion we had, " Border Czar Homan comments.

CBS' Face The Nation: Secretary Marco Rubio: "We Want Every Hostage Out As Soon As Possible." | Part One

CBS' Face The Nation [2/16/2025 11:47 AM, Staff, 4201K] reports Secretary of State Marco Rubio joins from Israel, as the negotiations with Hamas to end that conflict enter a crucial stage. Secretary Rubio me with Prime Minister Netanyahu. He said he's lockstep with the Trump administration, but he can't share details on – quote – "when the gates of hell will be open if all our hostages are not released." Does

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President Trump want to keep talks going to get to phase two of this hostage deal? "I think we share a common goal. We want to see every hostage released. Frankly, I think – and the president has said this – we want to see them out as soon as we possibly can. And – and, certainly, you know, the world has watched these images of people – and it's just heartbreaking to remember that some of them have been now almost two years there. It's a horrifying situation. So we coordinate and work very close with them. We share the goal that every hostage needs to come home, every single one, without delay. Obviously, the – there are details of how we're pursuing that and coordinating that we're not going to share publicly because we don't want to endanger the hostages and we don't want to endanger this process. But suffice it to say that, if it was up to us, every one of these hostages would be home right now, and we want it to happen as soon as possible, " Secretary Rubio comments.

CBS' Face The Nation: Secretary Marco Rubio: Speak With Russia's Top Diplomat | Part Two
CBS' Face The Nation [2/16/2025 11:47 AM, Staff, 4201K] reports Secretary Rubio had phone call with Russia's top diplomat, Sergey Lavrov. The Russian side claimed that trade restoration was discussed, which seemed to be a nod to sanctions, easing restrictions on diplomats, and other gestures like a high-level leaders meeting. Is the Trump administration considering lifting sanctions on Russia? " The phone call was to establish communications that are consistent with the call the president made last week with Vladimir Putin, because if we are – if there is going to be the possibility of – of progress here towards peace, we are going to need to talk to the Russians. I mean, that is going to have to happen, and we're going to have to be able to be able to do it across our channels." Secretary Rubio comments. When asked about the sanctions he had this to say: "I also raised in that conversation concerns that – well, we didn't go into any details. I mean, what we just discussed is basically the ability to begin communicating. I had never spoken to Mr. Lavrov in my life, so it was an opportunity for us to begin to open that channel of communication, which, again, if there's the potential for peace here, that's a channel that has to exist. But let me add one more thing. I also raised the issue of our embassy in Moscow, which operates under very difficult conditions. I raised that because it's important. It's going to be very difficult to engage in communication with Russia about anything if our embassy is not functioning. And he raised concerns about his diplomatic mission in the United States. So, at a very basic level, if, in fact, there is going to be an opportunity here to pursue peace by engaging with the Russians, we're going to need to have functional embassies in Moscow and in Washington, D.C., and that's certainly something foreign ministers would talk about as a matter of normal course."

NBC's Meet the Press: President Volodymyr Zelensky Speaks About NATO Membership | Part One
NBC's Meet the Press [2/16/2025 11:15 AM, Staff, 5130K] reports President Trump said, he does not think Ukrainian membership in NATO is, quote, practical. President Volodymyr Zelensky is asked "In your view, is NATO membership something that should be determined as a part of this deal?" "Well, I want to be very clear with NATO for us and for everybody. It's the cheapest security guarantees, the cheapest for us, the cheapest for Europe, the cheapest for United States and the cheapest really for Russia. And if we are not in NATO, it means that we will build NATO in Ukraine. Otherwise, we will not recognize the security guarantees." Zelensky comments. President Trump said on Wednesday that restoring all of the territory seized by Russia since 2014 is unlikely. Zelensky is asked "Are you willing to say here that you are prepared to formally cede some of the sovereign territory of Ukraine to Russia in order to stop the killing?" "Judicially, we will not recognize everybody and standards, it's out of constitution to recognize our occupied territory like territory of Russia. We will never do it. It's not about – it's not about any negotiations. We will never speak about it.' Zelensky comments.

NBC's Meet the Press: President Volodymyr Zelensky: No Good Faith In Putin | Part Two
NBC's Meet the Press [2/16/2025 11:15 AM, Staff, 5130K] reports President Volodymyr Zelensky is asked is he thinks President Trump is negotiating in good faith. Zelensky says he hopes and counts on it very much, but when asked if he believes Putin is Putin capable of negotiating in good faith Zelensky said no. "He conducted military training exercises, he said that these are exercises that are always ongoing on Belarus territories, that they are a allied state with Belarus and that they do regular business. But he started the invasion, and the missiles, and the first night flew from the Belarus, and the invasion came

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from Belarus. We know for sure that he is preparing that from the territory of Belarus this year. It can happen in summer, maybe in the beginning, maybe in the end of summer. I do not know when he prepares it. But it will happen. And at that moment, knowing that he did not succeed in occupying us, we do not know where he will go. There are risks that this can be Poland and Lithuania because we believe – we believe that Putin will wage war against NATO. That is why I told you that, "What is he waiting for?" For a weakening of NATO by, for instance, policy of the United States of America, for example, that the United States of America will think to take its military from Europe. Yes, Putin thinks of that. But I will believe that the United States will not take its forces, its contingents from Europe because that will severely weaken NATO and the European continent. Putin definitely counts on that. And the fact that we receive information that he will think of the invasion against former Soviet republics. And forgive me, but today these are NATO countries." Zelensky states.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement

CNN/VOA News: US 'border czar' unhappy with pace of migrant arrests
CNN [2/16/2025 11:53 AM, Dana Bash, 22417K] reports White House border czar Tom Homan tells CNN's Dana Bash "we have got to do more" to increase the number of immigration arrests. [Editorial note: consult video at source link] VOA News [2/16/2025 1:16 PM, Ken Bredemeier, 2717K] reports Tom Homan told CNN's "State of the Union" show that 14,000 migrants had been arrested since Trump was inaugurated January 20, but said, "We've got to do a lot more." Many of those arrested have been flown back to their native lands or sent to the prison on the U.S. naval base at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba, while some have been released to live in the United States pending court proceedings. The U.S. estimates that 11 million undocumented migrants are living in the U.S., with Trump pledging during his 2024 run for the presidency to find and deport "millions" of them. Officials say that the first arrests have targeted migrants convicted of crimes in the U.S. but that anyone living in the country without proper immigration documentation could be targeted. Homan said the number being deported is "a lot higher" than under the former administration of President Joe Biden, but added, "We've got to get the targeting and production up. It's hard work."

Washington Examiner: Homan focuses on making illegal drug cartels in US 'eradicated'
Washington Examiner [2/17/2025 7:00 AM, Asher Notheis, 2365K] reports that Border czar Tom Homan underscored how the United States is determined to target the "foothold" that drug cartels have within the country, thanking President Donald Trump for aiding him in fighting gangs, such as Tren de Aragua. Homan detailed how some drug cartels are operating in almost four dozen different countries, and have drastically increased their businesses to having a hold of "every major city" within the U.S. As such, he and the U.S. Immigration Customs and Enforcement are "concentrating" on drug cartels and the Venezuelan gang Tren de Aragua. "They have a strong foothold here, and that's why we're concentrating on drug cartels, concentrating on TDA, Tren de Aragua, I'm not going to be happy till every single one of Tren de Aragua is out of this country," Homan stated on Fox News's Sunday Morning Futures with Maria Bartiromo. "They need to be eradicated, along with MS-13." Homan added that Trump has proven to be pivotal in combating illegal immigration, specifically how the president deemed Tren de Aragua a "terrorist" organization. He also forewarned that the U.S. will bring "the weight of the world" on this gang, and that Trump will "wipe them off the face of the earth" before he leaves office.

The Hill: Homan says he's asked DOJ whether Ocasio-Cortez is impeding ICE
The Hill [2/17/2025 4:48 PM, Ailia Zehra, 16346K] reports President Trump's "border czar" Tom Homan said Monday he asked the Department of Justice (DOJ) whether Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez's (D-N.Y.) efforts to educate people about their rights while facing Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is impeding the agency's operations. Speaking on Fox News, Homan said he finds it disturbing that "any member of Congress wants to educate people how they evade law enforcement." "You can claim you [are] educating [them about] constitutional rights," he said, adding, "But what she [Ocasio-Cortez] is, in fact, doing is telling people 'don't open the door, hide in your home, don't talk to ICE.'". "We are talking

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about people who are in the country illegally [and have] committed a crime. They are public safety threats," he continued, saying that federal judges have ordered the removal of many such individuals. "It's like AOC and others don't want ICE to enforce the law that they enacted," Homan said, referencing the congress member. When the Fox News host asked him if he thought Ocasio-Cortez was breaking the law, Homan said he would leave that question to the DOJ. This is not the first time Homan has suggested the possibility of action against Ocasio-Cortez for her attempts to educate people about their rights during ICE raids.

Reported similarly:
Washington Examiner [2/16/2025 12:36 PM, Jenny Goldsberry, 2365K]

FOX News: [MA] Boston police commissioner doubles down on ICE resistance: 'We don't enforce' detainers

FOX News [2/17/2025 5:26 PM, Peter Pinedo, 49889K] reports Democrat-appointed Boston Police Commissioner Michael Cox is echoing Mayor Michelle Wu's pledged resistance to the Trump administration's deportations, saying on a local news station on Sunday that "we don't enforce" civil immigration detainers filed by ICE. While speaking on a segment of WCVB's "On the Record" show, Cox, who was appointed as police commissioner by Wu in 2022, said that in line with state and city laws, Boston police officers "don't have authority to enforce federal immigration law." Pressed on whether this policy conflicts with federal immigration law, Cox said that "the Boston Police Department has pretty defined rules and we abide by the law here in the state." "We just don't do that," he said. "We don't enforce civil detainers regarding federal immigration law. It's defined here in the state, and that's just how it works." Both the Boston "Trust Act," passed in 2014, and a 2017 Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court ruling known as Lunn vs. Commonwealth both limit law enforcement entities in the city and state from cooperating with ICE "detainer" requests to hold illegal immigrants for potential deportation. Speaking on the same show shortly after the presidential election, Wu said: "Elections have consequences, and the federal government is responsible for a certain set of actions, and cities, no individual city, can reverse or override some parts of that. But what we can do is make sure that we are doing our part to protect our residents in every possible way, that we are not cooperating with those efforts that actually threaten the safety of everyone by causing widespread fear and having large scale economic impact." ICE has said that such policies endanger local communities by forcing the agency to track down illegals and to make often high-risk arrests in public spaces.

WHTM: [PA] Man wanted for murder in Philadelphia arrested in Lancaster County

WHTM [2/16/2025 12:39 PM, Hayden Sherry] reports a man wanted in Philadelphia for murder was arrested by Lancaster County police and detained by the Department of Homeland Security. According to the Columbia Borough Police Department, authorities were alerted that 36-year-old Wascar Del Rosario-Ernestor was wanted out of Philadelphia for homicide (murder) and received information about his whereabouts. Columbia Police say they conducted a warrant service in the 200 block of Locust Street and located Del Rosario-Ernestor on a rooftop. He was taken into custody without incident yesterday. Del Rosario-Ernestor has been confirmed not to be a U.S. Citizen and was issued a detainer by The Department of Homeland Security (DOHS) (ICE), per police. Del Rosario-Ernestor was committed to Lancaster County Prison on charges of arrest before requisition, the Philadelphia murder charges, and the DOHS ICE detainer.

FOX News: [FL] Florida sheriff says ICE partnership only the beginning in illegal migrant crackdown

FOX News [2/17/2025 4:00 AM, Sarah Rumpf-Whitten] reports a Florida sheriff said leveraging relationships with federal immigration enforcement officials is the "tip of the spear" to fight criminal migrants. St. Johns County is part of the 287(g) program that allows U.S. Immigration and Customs Protection (ICE) to delegate to state and local law enforcement officers certain immigration functions, including identifying and detaining suspected illegal immigrants. St. Johns County Sheriff Rob Hardwick shared how his department is working with federal immigration authorities.

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WCMH: [OH] Mexican national with prior drug trafficking conviction arrested in Fayette County
WCMH [2/16/2025 8:00 AM, Adam Conn] reports a Mexican national citizen, previously convicted of felony drug charges in the United States, was arrested Thursday by federal agents in Fayette County. According to the United States Attorney for the Southern District of Ohio, federal agents arrested 34-year-old Pedro Marquez, of Bloomingburg, which is north of Washington Court House. Marquez, who was initially deported from the United States in 2009, is charged with illegally reentering the country after being convicted of an aggravated felony. Two years later, Marquez was convicted of participating in a drug trafficking conspiracy and illegally reentering the United States. Convicted of possession with intent to distribute 500 grams or more of methamphetamine in 2011, Marquez was sentenced to federal prison. Five years later, he was again removed from the country. On Thursday, investigators observed Marquez exit a home in Bloomingburg and was arrested for violating U.S. immigration laws. He told Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers his true name is Alex Ravis Vasquez but has previously used Pedro Marquez and Peter Marquez during prior immigration and criminal encounters.

Newsweek: [MI] Michigan Police Defy Donald Trump's Mass Deportation Plan
Newsweek [2/17/2025 12:41 PM, Billal Rahman, 56005K] reports Michigan law enforcement agencies are pushing back against President Donald Trump's mass deportation plans, citing a lack of resources to carry out large-scale immigration enforcement. President Donald Trump was elected after a campaign heavily focused on immigration and the promise of deporting millions of people who have no legal status in the U.S. A New York Times/Ipsos survey (January 2-10) found that 55 percent of voters back Trump's mass deportation plan, while 88 percent support deporting immigrants with criminal records who have no legal permission to live in the U.S. Most Democrats and Republicans agree that the immigration system is broken. Multiple police departments told the Detroit Free Press that they lack the time, funding, or interest to enact Trump's mass deportation policies. State agencies and education institutions could risk losing federal funding if they do not cooperate with the Trump administration, and the Department of Justice (DOJ) has directed prosecutors to investigate state officials who impede President Trump's crackdown on immigration. The Michigan House of Representatives adopted a resolution that requires local governments and universities to ensure their policies, "do not include language that requires, encourages or supports subverting immigration enforcement in any way or refusing to comply with federal immigration enforcement measures." Grand Rapids Police Chief Eric Winstrom has been one of Michigan's most vocal opponents of assisting ICE, refusing to support the Trump administration's immigration efforts. When asked by the Detroit Free Press about a potential federal investigation, he appeared unconcerned. "I am confident GRPD's policy of declining to participate in immigration enforcement with the federal government is on sound legal footing. As our policy makes clear, they have their responsibilities and we have ours," he said.

Border Report: [TX] 36 migrants found in tractor-trailer at remote Border Patrol checkpoint
Border Report [2/17/2025 6:06 PM, Sandra Sanchez, 153K] reports a South Texas man has pleaded guilty to smuggling 36 immigrants in the back of a tractor-trailer, according to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Eusebio Cavazos, 33, of Alamo, pleaded guilty in federal court to transporting aliens into or within the United States, ICE says. Prosecutors say Cavazos was stopped by immigration officials on Dec. 13, 2024, after he drove a tractor-trailer into the primary inspection lane at the Border Patrol checkpoint in Sarita in Kenedy County, Texas. A canine unit flagged the truck and it was sent to secondary inspection where officials say they discovered 36 undocumented immigrants inside the trailer, which was not carrying anything else. This included 15 Guatemalans, 10 Hondurans, eight Mexican nationals and three from El Salvador, ICE says. "The days of transnational criminal organizations raking in billions in illicit profits each year by trampling on our nation's sovereignty and flooding our country with millions of unvetted aliens who could present a threat to public safety or national security are over," ICE Homeland Security Investigations Houston Special Agent in Charge Chad Plantz said. "The law enforcement community in Southeast Texas is united in our effort to restore law and order along the southern border by aggressively pursuing and dismantling human smuggling organizations and other criminal organizations who are bold enough to test our collective resolve."

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FOX News: [TX] ICE arrests 'predator' migrant convicted of secretly recording others in bathroom
FOX News [2/17/2025 2:22 PM, Peter Pinedo, 49889K] reports ICE officials in Houston arrested an immigrant "predator" previously convicted of secretly recording others in a bathroom in one of the latest developments in President Donald Trump's immigration crackdown. The immigrant, Mexican national Daniel Alejandro Tristan-Guerra, was arrested by Houston Homeland Security Investigations officials "when his guard was down" on Feb. 11, according to an ICE statement released on Friday. Tristan-Guerra, 28, was arrested in a small town called Hallettsville in Lavaca County, Texas. After his arrest, he was taken to the Victoria County Jail pending his removal from the U.S. While several law enforcement entities in Democrat-controlled cities and states are refusing to cooperate with the Trump administration's immigration enforcement operations, this arrest was made following a joint investigation by ICE and the Victoria County Sheriff's Office. Tristan-Guerra was convicted on two counts of invasive visual recording in a bathroom in August 2021 after an investigation by ICE HSI Houston and the Victoria County Sheriff's Office. ICE and federal agents in Houston have been very active in recent weeks, making several arrests in addition to Tristan-Guerra, including the arrest of several suspected members of the international criminal migrant group Tren de Aragua.

Yahoo! News: [KS] Kansas AG Kris Kobach says KBI agents will work with ICE on illegal immigration
Yahoo! News [2/17/2025 5:15 PM, Jason Alatidd, 57114K] reports Kansas state law enforcement officers will assist federal officials with Immigrations and Customs Enforcement on illegal immigration cases, Attorney General Kris Kobach announced Monday. Kobach said the attorney general's office and the Kansas Bureau of Investigation have signed an agreement with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security allowing KBI agents to work with ICE on removing "criminal illegal aliens" from Kansas. "All across Kansas, illegal aliens who are dangerous criminals or gang members are released back to the streets on a regular basis," Kobach said in a statement. "That will end. This agreement will ensure that those criminals are deported." Kansas Attorney General Kris Kobach speaks with the media outside of the Kansas Statehouse on Monday, Feb. 17, 2025. Kansas is among the first states to enter such an agreement, Kobach's office said, which is under Section 287(g) of the Immigration and Nationality Act. "Under the terms of the agreement," the attorney general's office said in a news release, "a limited number of KBI agents will receive ICE training that authorizes the agents to arrest illegal aliens, to serve and execute warrants for some immigration violations, and to issue immigration detainers." "The KBI is pleased to have another tool at our disposal to get known criminal offenders out of our communities," KBI director Tony Mattivi said in a statement. "This agreement will not shift KBI investigative priorities but will allow us to more swiftly achieve justice in cases in which the KBI currently focuses — major violent crimes, crimes committed against children, and targeting drug trafficking organizations."

Yahoo! News: [WA] Push for inspections at Tacoma immigration detention center reemerges in WA Legislature
Yahoo! News [2/17/2025 7:21 PM, Jacquelyn Jimenez Romero, 57114K] reports mist shrouds the state Capitol dome in Olympia, Wash. on Jan. 27, 2025. (Bill Lucia/Washington State Standard) Following multiple lawsuits involving the Northwest ICE Processing Center in Tacoma, state lawmakers are pushing again for greater transparency at the for-profit immigrant detention center. House Bill 1232, sponsored by Rep. Lillian Ortiz-Self, D-Mukilteo, would expand the definition of private detention facilities to include those run by nonprofit organizations. In fighting the state's attempts at oversight in court, The GEO Group, which runs the Tacoma facility, claimed they were singled out by previous legislation. "If they really had nothing to hide, they would have opened their doors," Ortiz-Self said. The Northwest ICE Processing Center is the only privately run adult detention facility in the state. GEO operates the center under a contract with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. The Martin Hall Juvenile Detention Facility, near Spokane, is not-for-profit and would be covered by this year's bill. Through this legislation, Ortiz-Self hopes to demonstrate the state is not targeting a single facility. "It's really very simple, you do business in the state of Washington, you should uphold some basic human standards," Ortiz-Self said. "We would go after any other private detention facility," she added, "but we don't have any others." The bill also includes some changes to the standards the state is seeking to enforce at the facilities, sets out new civil penalties

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for violations, and would make inspection findings available to the public. GEO did not return a request for comment. Debate over the legislation comes as President Donald Trump has pursued a set of hardline immigration policies since taking office last month. The Northwest ICE Processing Center is the largest immigration detention site in the region, with the capacity to hold about 1,575 people. For years, it has been the subject of complaints over human rights violations.

FOX 11: [CA] ICE raids: Latest arrests made in Southern California
FOX 11 [2/17/2025 10:08 AM, Staff] reports nearly a month into President Donald Trump's second term and his efforts to crack down on illegal immigration, federal officers continue to make arrests across the U.S., including in Southern California. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents began targeting major sanctuary cities immediately after Trump's inauguration Monday, including Los Angeles, Chicago, and Atlanta. The following day, Trump lifted longtime guidelines that restricted ICE from operating at "sensitive locations" such as schools, churches or hospitals.

Newsweek: [CA] California Beach Town Wants Cameras To Stop Migrants
Newsweek [2/17/2025 7:45 AM, Billal Rahman, 56005K] reports that a California beach town southeast of Los Angeles in Orange County is stepping up efforts to monitor its coastline amid a rise in migrant-smuggling by boat. San Clemente officials want federal authorities to install cameras along the shore, aiming to enhance security and deter illegal crossings. Illegal border crossings have fallen under President Donald Trump as Republicans look to "secure the border." Trump has implemented hard-line immigration reforms, including limiting asylum opportunities and lifting restrictions on Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers making arrests at sensitive locations such as schools, churches and hospitals. In response, many Democrat-led cities and states have reinforced their sanctuary policies, which restrict local law enforcement from cooperating with federal immigration authorities. However, some cities in sanctuary states have begun to break away from protecting undocumented migrants. "In the last month or so, we've had a large increase in the number of pangas [fishing boats] that have come up on our beach," San Clemente Mayor Steve Knoblock told Fox News Digital. "It happens, and nobody seems to notice. No one seems to capture it. There's no interdiction, and we've been having them with much greater frequency," he said.

Citizenship and Immigration Services

VOA News: [CA] Deportations bring uncertainty for California farm workers and local growers
VOA News [2/17/2025 5:25 AM, Genia Dulot, 2717K] reports that in central California, it is harvesting season for strawberries and citrus fruits. But some farm workers who aren't legal U.S. residents are staying away from work, following migrant roundups that are part of President Donald Trump's crackdown on illegal immigration. [Editorial note: consult video at source link]

Customs and Border Protection

Newsweek: Border Patrol Ditching Body Cameras: Report
Newsweek [2/17/2025 6:32 AM, Billal Rahman, 56005K] reports that Border Patrol agents will immediately cease using body cameras in the field, multiple sources have confirmed to NewsNation. Newsweek contacted Customs and Border Protection for comment via email outside normal office hours. President Donald Trump, who made border security and strict immigration measures key elements of his 2024 campaign, has pledged to carry out the largest mass deportation program in U.S. history. With increased immigration enforcement actions expected under his administration, body-worn cameras are arguably essential for Border Patrol agents as they enhance transparency, accountability and public trust by providing an objective record of interactions. Removing body cameras could reduce oversight and transparency, potentially undermining public confidence in border enforcement operations. According to sources cited by NewsNation, the policy change applies to all operational activities and has been driven

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by social media posts that discuss ways of identifying Border Patrol or Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents. "All U.S. Border Patrol Agents will cease the use of body-worn cameras (BWC) in all operational environments," a statement to Border Patrol agents said, according to the outlet.

Reported similarly:
FOX News [2/16/2025 12:41 PM, Michael Lee, 49889K]

Border Report: New Border Patrol chief discusses changes, support for agents
Border Report [2/17/2025 11:31 AM, Staff, 153K] reports the highest-ranking U.S. Border Patrol Chief visited the Rio Grande Valley Friday to speak with agents on the line and commission 300 National Guardsmen with the authority to detain and arrest people who are illegally entering the country. Chief Mike Banks is no stranger to the U.S. Border Patrol. Banks has merit and the experience to get the job done. The U.S. Navy Veteran has over 23 years of experience in border security operations, even holding high-ranking official titles here in the Rio Grande Valley. “This is my forever home, the valley has a special place in my heart, I got married and fell in love here and I’m very excited to come back to the U.S. Border Patrol,” said Banks, “My number one priority is to empower the agents to do the job. They can expect a level of accountability and someone that is going to have their back, without fear of appraisal even when they haven’t done anything wrong.” Banks says he plans on doing that by updating and reviewing policies.

FOX News: House Democrat’s smear of Border Patrol bill backfires after dozens of Dems support it: ‘Fearmongering’
FOX News [2/17/2025 1:18 PM, Cameron Arcand, 49889K] reports a House Democrat’s strategy to demonize legislation aimed at making it a federal crime to try to evade law enforcement within 100 miles of the border backfired last week after dozens of House Democrats voted in favor of the bill. "I urge my colleagues to oppose H.R. 35. Let’s call this bill what it is: fearmongering dressed up as officer safety," Rep. Janelle Bynum, D-Ore., said last week about the bill named after late Border Patrol Agent Raul Gonzalez, who died in a pursuit in 2022. House Resolution 35 would make individuals convicted of "intentionally fleeing" law enforcement in a vehicle subject to up to two years in prison and fines. If the police chase results in a death, the individual could face up to life imprisonment under the legislation, and potentially face deportation if the person involved is in the country illegally. "This bill echoes one of the darkest chapters in our nation’s history, ‘The Fugitive Slave Act of 1850.’ Just like that shameful law, H.R. 35 forces local authorities and encourages the deputizing of randos to do the federal government’s work, punishing them if they refuse. Back then, it was hunting people down who dared to seek freedom. Today, it’s forcing local police to become federal enforcers," she continued in her House floor speech. Regardless, the bill passed 264-155, with 50 Democrats voting in favor, including a handful in border states. The legislation is now in the hands of the Senate, where Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, is leading the charge on the proposal. "This bill delivers a clear message to anyone who endangers our community that they will be held accountable to the fullest extent of the law," Rep. Juan Ciscomani, R-Ariz., said about the legislation he is sponsoring.

Yahoo! News: Recent drug seizures at ports of entry in 3 states top $32M
Yahoo! News [2/17/2025 2:25 PM, Noi Mahoney, 57114K] reports more than $32.6 million worth of cocaine, fentanyl and methamphetamine has been seized over the past month from commercial shipments at ports of entry in Texas, Michigan and Washington. U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers at Pharr-Reynosa International Bridge found $19.8 million in methamphetamine and $144,500 worth of heroin concealed in a shipment of cucumbers and jalapenos. CBP officers were checking a tractor-trailer arriving from Mexico at the bridge in Pharr, Texas, on Feb. 4 when they found 26 packages of suspected heroin weighing 7 pounds and 8,206 packages of suspected methamphetamine weighing 2,218 pounds. CBP seized the narcotics and the tractor-trailer, and the case was turned over to the Department of Homeland Security. The seizure occurred Jan. 24 when officers were searching a commercial truck arriving from Mexico. CBP officers found nearly 890 pounds of suspected methamphetamine hidden in the shipment. CBP seized the narcotics, and Homeland Security

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Investigations is investigating the case. Truck driver Muhammad Shaikh was charged with possession with intent to distribute 240 pounds of cocaine as the result of an investigation and vehicle inspection Tuesday at the Ambassador Bridge, according to the Detroit Free Press.

WSBTV: [GA] Border patrol officers save the life of woman having medical emergency at Atlanta airport

WSBTV [2/16/2025 11:52 PM, Staff] reports the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers in Atlanta saved the life of a woman they say experiencing a medical emergency at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport in January. On January 5 just after 8 a.m., officials with border protection noticed a traveler collapse near the inspection area. Mary Mellette, 74, from Charleston, S.C. arrived at the airport after a 15-hour flight from Johannesburg, South Africa. Officers began to provide life support to Mellette after she went unconscious, was unresponsive and had no pulse. At the request of the family, responding CBP officers met Mellette and her sister at the Atlanta area hospital where she received medical treatment. Later, she was released to her home to receive further medical care and continue her recovery. Even though she experienced a medical emergency, Mellette still received her passport stamp while officer Graham visited her in the hospital.

FOX News: [IL] CBP finds 161K fake US stamps in shipment from China

FOX News [2/16/2025 8:00 AM, Stephen Sorace] reports more than 161,000 counterfeit U.S. Forever stamps from China were recently seized in Chicago, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) said Thursday. Anti-Terrorism Contraband Enforcement officers at the Chicago International Mail Branch stopped eight shipments containing a total of 161,860 fake stamps that violated trademark laws last weekend, CBP said. All the parcels were arriving from China, according to authorities, and would be valued at over $118,000 if real.

Newsweek: [TX] US Border Guard Allegedly in Violent Mexican Drug Cartel

Newsweek [2/17/2025 11:44 AM, Billal Rahman, 56005K] reports that a U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officer smuggled migrants and has ties to a violent Mexican drug cartel, prosecutors have told a federal court. Newsweek has contacted CBP for further comment. The case raises concerns about corruption within border enforcement agencies. President Donald Trump has vowed to crack down on drug cartels after he signed executive orders declaring them as foreign terrorist organizations. A federal magistrate judge ordered CBP Officer Manuel Perez Jr., 32, of El Paso, to be held without bond following a detention hearing on Thursday, Feb. 13, in federal court in Downtown El Paso. Perez Jr is affiliated with La Línea, also known as the Juárez drug cartel, investigators alleged at his arraignment. Perez's employment was terminated on February 8 following his arrest by the FBI El Paso West Texas Border Corruption Task Force on federal charges of drug and human smuggling. He faces between 10 years to life in prison if he is convicted. A special agent testified that Perez admitted to receiving $2,500 for each undocumented person he allowed to pass through his inspection lane at the Paso Del Norte International Bridge in Downtown El Paso. Prosecutors said that Perez may have received up to $400,000 as part of a border migrant smuggling operation that began in December 2023, according to the El Paso Times. Perez remains in federal custody as the case moves forward.

Yahoo! News: [TX] U.S. Marshals visit southern border

Yahoo! News [2/17/2025 8:30 PM, Kerry Charles, 57114K] reports the U.S. Marshal's Service is playing a key role in a coordinated effort with the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to address illegal entries into the country. Marshal Michael Black with the Southern District of Ohio recently visited the border and shared his insights. Black's team is prioritizing local cases involving fugitives who are in the country illegally. The marshal and several of his counterparts from throughout the country recently met with federal judges, Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), and border patrol agents to see firsthand how they are enforcing the Trump administration's new policies. Del Rio, Texas, sits along the U.S. Southern border with Mexico, more than 1,400 miles from Columbus. "HSI and ICE immigration and the DOJ direction for us to get involved in and assist in immigration in the Immigration Enforcement Initiative," Black said. "I wanted to get a better handle and a better understanding of how that's going to impact us in

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the interior states." According to Black, this particular border crossing has seen a significant decrease in illegal crossings, averaging 50 per day, down from 1,500 per day in 2022. "While we're down there, we actually saw standing on the border, looking across into Mexico, standing at the fence, we saw no activity at all. Zero activity," Black said. On Feb. 5, the group visited Robb Elementary School in Uvalde and learned about the tactics used by marshal's teams in response to a mass shooting nearly three years ago in which 19 children and two adults lost their lives.

Newsweek: [NM] War on Drug Cartels Ramps Up at America's Blue Border
Newsweek [2/17/2025 5:20 AM, Billal Rahman and Sophie Clark, 6595K] reports that Fentanyl overdoses have been at crisis levels in New Mexico for the past three years. State leaders are calling for a mix of punitive and community-based strategies to combat the fatal drug amid a White House push to seal off the Southern border. While President Donald Trump has sent troops to the U.S.-Mexico border to curb immigration and the flow of fentanyl, a move backed by New Mexico Republicans, many Democrats in the blue border state of New Mexico have said his policy will do little to help residents who are suffering from addiction or are at risk from the cartels. The most recent data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) shows that in 2022 the state recorded one of the highest overdose rates in the country from the synthetic opioid, with fentanyl-related deaths making up 63 percent of fatalities. This rose in 2023, with fentanyl use making up 66.7 percent of drug-related deaths in the state. Fentanyl remains a killer, even as New Mexico has seen a fall in total overdose deaths across the state, per New Mexico Health. Ash Soular, a spokeswoman for the Republican Party of New Mexico, told Newsweek that state Republicans back Trump's plans to use the military to curb the flow of drugs entering the country.

Border Report: [NM] Sunland Park Fire, Border Patrol rescue female from Mount Cristo Rey
Border Report [2/17/2025 3:50 PM, Dave Burge, 153K] reports Sunland Park Fire assisted Border Patrol with rescuing an unconscious female patient who was found Sunday evening, Feb. 16 on Mount Cristo Rey in Sunland Park, New Mexico. The female, no age given, was found at about 7:30 p.m. Sunday near the railroad tracks on Mount Cristo Rey and was transported to Fire Station No. 1, Sunland Park Fire said. Sunland Park Fire crews and Border Patrol provided patient care until an ambulance arrived. She regained consciousness before transport and was taken in for further evaluation, Sunland Park Fire said.

FOX News: [CA] San Diego migrant shelter closes after no new arrivals since Trump took office; over 100 employees laid off
FOX News [2/16/2025 8:11 PM, Stepheny Price and Bill Melugin, 49889K] reports that a San Diego migrant shelter is closing its doors and laying off more than 100 employees because of funding and policy changes under the Trump administration. The Jewish Family Service of San Diego, which has operated a regional migrant shelter for over six years, announced it will close its facility and lay off 115 employees due to "changes in federal funding and policy." "Jewish Family Service of San Diego (JFS) is working to meet the evolving needs of the community in response to recent and anticipated federal policy changes," the organization previously said. The non-governmental organization (NGO) said they have not received new asylum-seeking families or individuals since the CBP One phone app went down on Jan. 20. The app, which ultimately allowed immigrants to be paroled into the U.S., was created during the first Trump administration to assist with scheduling cargo inspections. As of the end of December, more than 936,500 individuals had made appointments to be paroled through the app, according to Customs and Border Protection.

FOX News: [CA] Wealthy California beach town skirts state's sanctuary law in planned migrant boat crackdown
FOX News [2/17/2025 4:00 AM, Louis Casiano, 49889K] reports as other California cities double down on sanctuary policies to protect illegal immigrants, one coastal enclave is looking to work directly with border authorities to monitor its beaches 24 hours a day in an effort to thwart boats carrying illegal migrants. San Clemente city leaders told City Manager Andy Hall earlier this month to coordinate with U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to discuss installing and using existing cameras to watch over the city's 7 miles of coastline. Mayor Steve Knoblock told Fox News Digital the cameras are intended to deter illegal

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immigration and other criminal activity. He noted that small fishing boats called pangas often come ashore to drop off illegal migrants who disappear inland. A woman walks along the beach north of the San Clemente Pier as waves crash against the rocks just below the railroad tracks in San Clemente, Calif. "In the last month or so, we've had a large increase in the number of pangas that have come up on our beach," he said. "It happens, and nobody seems to notice. No one seems to capture it. There's no interdiction, and we've been having them with much greater frequency." The city has cameras on its pier to monitor the beach for marine safety issues but none that monitor the ocean, said Knoblock. He suggested turning the cameras toward the water and adding technological upgrades. At a Feb. 4 meeting, the City Council agreed to contact the U.S. Border Patrol to inquire about working together to surveil the waters off the city, the mayor said.

FOX News: [Canada] Illegal-smuggling coyotes now advertising at Canada border amid Trump migrant crackdown: report

FOX News [2/17/2025 12:20 PM, Michael Ruiz, 49889K] reports Canadian traffickers are advertising an alleged human smuggling operation for illegals looking to enter the U.S. across the northern border openly on TikTok, according to a new report. "cad to usa," reads a screenshot of a message from user @helper4731. 'dm me.' The account and several others like it were no longer accessible Monday. The legitimacy of the advertisements could not immediately be confirmed, but TikTok told Fox News Digital the videos had been removed because they violate the platform's community standards, which prohibit content that promotes any form of human smuggling. "The danger is they're gonna go where we're not," Rep. Ryan Zinke, a Montana Republican and chairman of the Northern Border Security Caucus, told Fox News. "The northern border has had hundreds of crossings from people on the terrorist watch list." Driving east to west along the border in Montana alone takes 10 hours, he said, and most of the territory is unprotected. "[There's] a lot of border and a lot of distance between officers," he said. The New York Post uncovered at least a half-dozen northern coyote advertisers, primarily targeting illegals from India, who are often wealthier than South American migrants. The accounts allegedly advertise "safe," same-day crossings for $4,000 or more. Of nearly 1.8 million single adults from India encountered by Border Patrol agents last year, just over 150,000 of them came into the U.S. from Canada, according to government data.

Transportation Security Administration

New York Times: String of Air Crashes in 2025 Has Rattled Travelers

New York Times [2/17/2025 11:34 PM, Qasim Nauman, 161405K] reports the Delta Air Lines crash at Toronto Pearson International Airport on Monday is the latest in a series of accidents this year that has spread anxiety among air travelers and prompted sharp criticism of American aviation regulators. On the night of Jan. 29, an American Airlines plane was approaching Washington's Reagan National Airport when it collided with an Army helicopter that was on a training mission. The collision set off a fireball and sent both aircraft and 67 people — 64 on the Bombardier CRJ700 and three on the UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter — crashing into the Potomac River. There were no survivors. It was the deadliest air crash in the United States in 20 years. In the aftermath, questions emerged about the flight paths of the helicopter and the plane, and whether staffing at Reagan National's air traffic control contributed to the collision. An investigation is ongoing. A small medical plane slammed into the ground in northeast Philadelphia a minute after taking off on Jan. 31, bursting into fire and engulfing homes and vehicles in flames. All six people on board, and one person on the ground, were killed, the authorities said. The Learjet 55 was transporting a child who had completed treatment in Philadelphia to her home in Mexico. She was accompanied by her mother, and there were also two pilots, a doctor and a paramedic on board, according to Jet Rescue Air Ambulance, which operated the plane. A small passenger plane carrying 10 people vanished on Feb. 6 as it was flying to Nome, Alaska. Its disappearance set off a massive search operation, with Coast Guard and Air Force planes scanning a remote area along the western coast of Alaska. The Cessna 208 Caravan was operated by Bering Air, a regional airline. Its wreckage, with the bodies of the pilot and nine passengers, was found the next day. Before it crashed, its pilot had told air traffic control that he intended to enter a holding pattern while waiting for the runway in Nome to be

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cleared, according to the Nome fire department. But Alaska's Transportation Department said the runway that the plane had been approaching had remained open throughout that day.

WPXI: [PA] Ohio woman accused of trying to bring gun through Pittsburgh International Airport without license
WPXI [2/16/2025 10:32 PM, Staff] reports an Ohio woman is accused of trying to bring a gun she did not have a license for through a checkpoint at the Pittsburgh International Airport. Allegheny County Police said they were called to the airport at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday. TSA workers told them Rachel Scott-Roth, 44, of Belmont, Ohio, had a gun in her carry-on bag at the main security checkpoint. Police said she did not have a valid concealed carry permit. The FBI was brought in to help investigate.

KDVR: [CO] More than 400 flights delayed, 12 canceled at DIA Sunday after snowy weekend
KDVR [2/16/2025 4:45 PM, Jacob Factor] reports more than 400 flights at Denver International Airport are delayed Sunday afternoon after a snowy weekend that already caused more than 1,000 delays. Nearly 1,100 flights were delayed in total Saturday as a snowstorm hit Denver, and as of 2:45 p.m. Sunday, 424 flights are delayed in and out of the airport. An additional 12 flights were canceled. United and Southwest airlines have the most delays, 156 and 126, respectively. Southwest and SkyWest airlines have four canceled flights each; United and Air Canace have two cancellations each as well. The delays are evenly divided between arrivals and departures, and most of the canceled flights were arriving flights into Denver.

Federal Emergency Management Agency

NPR: Deadly storms sweep through the South, leaving at least 12 dead
NPR [2/17/2025 12:43 PM, Joe Hernandez, 35747K] reports a major storm system with a deadly mix of heavy rains, winds and flash flooding swept through a large swath of the Southeast overnight, causing at least 11 fatalities in Kentucky and one in Georgia. The storms rendered some roads impassable, damaged buildings and knocked out power to hundreds of thousands of homes and businesses. The National Weather Service reported at least one tornado overnight in Alabama, and tornado warnings were issued in multiple states. Bob Oravec, lead forecaster with the National Weather Service in College Park, Md., said the slow-moving storm system dropped significant rainfall across parts of Kentucky, Arkansas and Tennessee during the day Saturday. Later, a line of thunderstorms that formed overnight moved more quickly through the area, dropping less rain but mixing with windy conditions. "The high winds across the South caused several reports of damage to trees, to homes, so a very impactful event," he said. Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear said at a Monday morning press conference that at least 11 people had been killed in the state during the storm, including a woman and child who died in floodwaters. He said the number of fatalities could still rise. Another person died in Atlanta after a tree fell on their home, WANF reported. Beshear said all of Kentucky's 120 counties were impacted by the weekend storm. "The biggest challenge of this event is it's everywhere," he said. Parts of Kentucky received more than 6 inches of rain. Beshear said early Sunday afternoon that emergency response crews had already conducted more than 1,000 rescues in Kentucky. He urged Kentuckians to avoid driving if possible as floodwaters remained and search-and-rescue efforts were active. Some 142 people were being housed at state parks. President Trump approved Beshear's request for an emergency disaster declaration for Kentucky, which frees up federal funding for impacted areas. The governor said he had also spoken with Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem and that FEMA personnel had been deployed to the state.

Reported similarly:
AP [2/17/2025 9:17 AM, Jack Dura and Matthew Brown, 12036K]
CNN [2/16/2025 9:53 PM, Mary Gilbert, Dalia Faheid, Emma Tucker, Karina Tsui, Chris Boyette and Lauren Mascarenhas, 987K]

Yahoo! News: FEMA's flood insurance program to borrow billions to pay 2024 post-Hurricane claims

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Yahoo! News [2/17/2025 5:33 PM, Chris Benson, 57114K] reports the Federal Emergency Management Agency says its National Flood Insurance Program was forced to borrow $2 billion to help pay claims following Hurricanes Milton and Helene to help cover many more billions of dollars in losses. "The widespread, devastating flooding following hurricanes Helene and Milton re-emphasizes the financial effects flooding can have not just to survivors, but also the National Flood Insurance Program," Elizabeth Asche, senior executive of the program, said in a statement. FEMA, which will borrow extra money from the U.S. Treasury, said that as of Feb. 6, the two hurricanes brought more than 78,000 claims, with an estimated $10 billion in possible losses. According to the Congressional Research Service, as of Jan. 25 the flood insurance program, which is administered by FEMA, had $615 million on hand to pay claims. "We are strategically utilizing short-term borrowings in 60-day increments, demonstrating our careful and responsible management of the borrowing authority," Asche said. The flood insurance program could face losses that total from $6 billion to $7.4 billion, officials say. As of last week, according to FEMA, more than 57,400 claims just for flood insurance that totaled more than $4 billion. That number was not broken down by state. "This borrowing action follows payouts in 2024 from several large-scale and back-to-back flooding events," FEMA officials said this week.

WAVY: [VA] Gov. Youngkin requests "Expedited Major Disaster Declaration" for winter storm relief

WAVY [2/16/2025 8:20 PM, Chrysnel Banzouzi] reports Virginia Governor Glenn Youngkin announced Sunday that he submitted an Expedited Major Disaster Declaration to President Trump to support the ongoing response and recovery efforts of communities impacted by the recent February winter storms. As the winter storms and flooding moved in, over seven inches of rain fell in some areas of Southwest Virginia with significant life-threatening flash flooding across Virginia's most vulnerable and least resourced areas, the Governor's Office said in a release. The release also added that throughout the regions, over 150 swift water rescues, including evacuations, were made on Sunday. Support efforts continue as high water is blocking access to critical facilities, and access to the hardest hit areas is not yet available due to receding water and debris.

Yahoo! News: [WV] One dead, several missing after 'devastating' floods hit WV's southern coalfields over the weekend

Yahoo! News [2/17/2025 7:32 PM, Caity Coyne, 57114K] reports Gov. Patrick Morrisey traveled to Southern West Virginia on Monday, Feb. 17, 2025, to meet with local officials and survey damage from the flooding that occurred over the weekend. (@wvgovernor X account). At least one person is dead following severe flooding in West Virginia's southern coalfields over the weekend. In a news briefing Monday, Gov. Patrick Morrisey said officials were working to contact the family of the deceased before sharing any information on their identity or the circumstances of the fatality with the public. Rainfall started in the southern part of the state early Saturday and culminated over hours. Leading into Sunday, there were multiple instances of flash flooding and high water in many of the region's waterways. The damage from the storms is unlike any seen in the coalfields region in the last 20 years, local officials said. "The Tug Fork River and the Bluestone River and some of their tributaries, they've been swollen, and they've experienced major flooding levels, which is something we haven't seen before in a very long time," Morrisey said on Monday. "That means that there's damage to significant numbers of structures and roads and significant evacuations [of] people to higher elevations." On Monday evening — after spending the afternoon surveying damage across the region — Morrisey announced that he would be issuing a formal request to President Donald Trump for a Major Disaster Declaration in West Virginia. "This will help unlock federal resources to support West Virginians hardest hit by the major flooding events of the past few days," Morrisey said in a statement.

AP: [NC] Some in Hurricane Helene-ravaged North Carolina embrace Trump's push to abolish FEMA

AP [2/16/2025 9:29 AM, Makiya Seminera, 33392K] Video: HERE reports Emily Russell remembers feeling hopeful after she managed to get an appointment with the Federal Emergency Management Agency not long after Hurricane Helene ripped though her home in Swannanoa, North Carolina. But after several assistance requests were denied or left pending, Russell says the agency has been of "no help" to

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her family after the late September storm. Still reeling in a world turned upside-down by the most damaging storm in state history, she finds herself open to President Donald Trump's suggestion about "getting rid of" FEMA. That is a common sentiment in the mountains of western North Carolina, where living in a trailer with limited supplies for months can try anyone's patience. Russell, who like many others did not have flood insurance, endured those stresses as she prepared for the birth of her son, but then volunteers stepped up to rebuild her home. Back there now, she can cradle her tiny infant in her arms on her newly constructed front porch — overlooking a heaping pile of rotting debris and two Trump-Vance signs posted to a pole in her yard. Frustration with stopgap relief efforts has been exacerbated by confusion over where long-term help should come from. FEMA is meant to be a first line, providing temporary housing and funding for repairs while insurance foots most of the bill. It is not the message residents heard initially, when politicians, including then-President Joe Biden, who toured the damaged area, promised residents they would have whatever they needed. As more time passes, the reality of long-term recovery has gotten complicated. To Russell and many others, Trump saying he would consider eliminating FEMA made sense. To some experts and officials, however, that could cause more problems than it would solve. Days after Trump took office on Jan. 20, he surveyed the fallout from wildfires in California and the hurricane in North Carolina and suggested that states primarily manage the response to natural disasters. As a candidate, he had disparaged FEMA's work in the southern states hit by Helene. That criticism, which began almost as soon as the wind stopped blowing, has not stopped. More recently, FEMA was criticized by Trump adviser Elon Musk over payments to reimburse New York City for hotel costs for migrants. Four FEMA employees were fired, accused of circumventing leadership to make the transactions, which have been standard for years through a program that helps with costs to care for a surge in migration.

Reuters/AP/Miami Herald: [KY] Kentucky flooding death toll rises to 11 as snowstorm arrives
Reuters [2/17/2025 12:55 PM, Daniel Trotta, 48128K] reports the death toll from flooding in Kentucky rose to 11 on Monday with the potential to increase further as the state was due to get pummeled by a snowstorm that could jeopardize relief efforts, Governor Andy Beshear said. Search teams conducted more than 1,000 rescue missions in the wake of flash flooding that affected nearly all of Kentucky and several surrounding states on Saturday. Hundreds of people were displaced, more than 14,000 homes and businesses remained without power and another 17,000 had no water, Beshear said. The Kentucky National Guard was deployed with assistance from aviation crews from Indiana and Tennessee. Federal urban search and rescue teams from Ohio, Indiana and Tennessee also responded. Some parts of the state received more than 8 inches (200 mm) of rain while forecasts project up to 6 inches (150 mm) of snow on the way. "We are still in the search and rescue phase of this emergency. We still have multiple different missions that are underway. There are still people that are in harm's way," Beshear told a news conference. The AP [2/16/2025 8:43 PM, Dylan Lovan, 581K] reports Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear said Sunday that hundreds of people stranded by flooding had to be rescued. President Donald Trump approved the state's request for a disaster declaration, authorizing the Federal Emergency Management Agency to coordinate relief efforts throughout the state. Beshear said most of the deaths, including a mother and 7-year-old child, were caused by cars getting stuck in high water. "So folks, stay off the roads right now and stay alive," he said. "This is the search and rescue phase, and I am very proud of all the Kentuckians that are out there responding, putting their lives on the line." Beshear said there have been 1,000 rescues across the state since the storms began Saturday. The storms knocked out power to about 39,000 homes, but Beshear warned that harsh winds in some areas could increase outages. Parts of Kentucky and Tennessee received up to 6 inches (15 centimeters) of rain, said Bob Oravec, a senior forecaster with the National Weather Service. "The effects will continue for awhile, a lot of swollen streams and a lot of flooding going on," Oravec said Sunday. In Alabama, the weather service in Birmingham said it had confirmed an EF-1 tornado touched down overnight in Hale County. Storms there and elsewhere in the state destroyed or damaged a handful of mobile homes, downed trees and toppled power lines, but no injuries were immediately reported. Extensive damage to downtown roofs and buildings was reported in the northern city of Tuscumbia, with authorities asking people to avoid the area, according to WAFF-TV and other local media. A state of emergency was declared for parts of Obion County, Tennessee, after a levee failed on Saturday, flooding the small community of Rives, home to around 300 people in the western part of the state. "There will be mandatory evacuations in effect for the residents in Rives due to

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the rising water, no electricity, and freezing temperatures creating a life-threatening situation," Mayor Steve Carr said in a statement Sunday. In Atlanta, a person was killed when a large tree fell on a home early Sunday, according to Atlanta Fire Rescue Capt. Scott Powell. Dangerously cold wind chill temperatures as low as 50 degrees below zero (minus 45.6) were expected in most of North Dakota, which remained under an "extreme cold warning" along with parts of Montana and large swaths of South Dakota and Minnesota, according to the National Weather Service. The Miami Herald [2/16/2025 4:50 PM, Mark Moran and Allen Cone, 6595K] reports that around 400,000 customers are without power in the Southeast, according to Poweroutage.us, including more than 22,000 in Kentucky. Strong winds and heavy rain have pummeled Kentucky, West Virginia, Virginia, Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana. Much of the region remained under a flash flood warning on Sunday. At least one person is reported dead in Georgia.

Reported similarly:
CBS News [2/17/2025 1:03 PM, Staff, 52225K]
NBC News [2/17/2025 11:02 AM, Marlene Lenthang and Kathryn Prociv, 50804K]
Newsweek [2/16/2025 5:32 PM, Peter Aitken, 6595K]

CBS News/Newsweek: [KY] Beshear on FEMA, Trump administration's response as deadly flooding slams Kentucky
CBS News [2/17/2025 2:15 PM, Staff, 57114K] Video: HERE reports Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear weighed in on FEMA's role during natural disasters as his state deals with flooding that has claimed the lives of several people. CBS News' Karen Hua reports, and meteorologist Jessica Burch has the latest weather forecast. Newsweek [2/16/2025 5:32 PM, Peter Aitken, 6595K] reports that ahead of his Sunday press conference, Beshear said: "Kentucky, we are seeing dangerous and life-threatening conditions across the state, and things are only going to get tougher due to widespread flooding and incoming weather. Please stay alert and check on your neighbors. We will get through this together." President Donald Trump declared a state of emergency in Kentucky and ordered federal assistance to bolster rescue efforts. Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem has also been in contact with Beshear to coordinate Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) assistance and efforts. Around 14,000 Kentuckians, primarily in the southeast of the state, experienced power outages ahead of the storm. [Editorial note: consult video at source link]

NPR: [KY] Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear updates with latest on disastrous flooding in the state
NPR [2/18/2025 4:12 AM, A Martínez, 35747K] reports Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear joins NPR's A Martinez with the latest from Kentucky following a weekend of floods and severe weather systems. [Editorial note: consult video at source link]

NPR: [KY] Recovery efforts underway in Kentucky where flooding has killed at least 11
NPR [2/18/2025 4:12 AM, Stanley Ingold, 35747K] reports recovery efforts are underway in Kentucky where widespread flooding has killed at least 11 people and displaced hundreds. The state is also preparing for even more severe weather in coming days. [Editorial note: consult video at source link]

New York Times: [KY] 'Here We Go Again': Kentucky Residents Face More Destruction and Anxiety From Storms
New York Times [2/17/2025 7:35 PM, Juliet Macur, David W. Chen, and Tricia Fulks Kelley,161405K] reports that as unrelenting rain pelted Kentucky, and as the river nearby continued to rise, the two sisters — and business partners — did what they could to protect the quilt shop they own in Hazard, a town of about 5,000 people in the eastern part of the state. They cleared the drains in their parking lot, and cleared the floors of their store, Appalachian Quilt, before moving bolts of material from the lower shelves, to ones at least three feet up. They were sure that they had done enough. But it was not nearly enough. "I've never seen anything like it because it came in so fast and the water just kept rising and rising," Sheridan Sparkman said on Monday, explaining that she and her sister, Sandy Hurt, had positioned themselves on a nearby overpass after the roads to the store became impassable. With their hearts

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beating fast, they watched the floodwaters travel closer and closer to their store — and then rise along its exterior. Similar scenes of hope and anxiety played out across the region over the past few days, as residents braced themselves for damage from yet more severe weather in a part of the country that has been pummeled by it. [Editorial note: consult video at source link]

CBS Los Angeles: [CA] Residents concerned over FEMA's decision not to test soil Palisades Fire burn scar
CBS Los Angeles [2/16/2025 11:17 PM, Nicole Comstock, 52225K] Video: HERE reports Nicole Comstock reports from the Pacific Palisades, where some residents have begun to express concerns over how FEMA is conducting the debris cleanup process from the devastating Palisades Fire.

NPR: [CA] Radio traffic reveals power problems continued for days after L.A. fire first began
NPR [2/17/2025 12:02 PM, Chiara Eisner, Nick McMillan, Graham Smith, 35747K] reports that days after the Eaton fire in Los Angeles first ignited, firefighters warned that downed power lines owned and operated by Southern California Edison were live and starting new fires, first responder radio traffic obtained by NPR reveals. The radio communications also indicate the utility company failed to respond quickly to multiple requests from firefighters to shut power off and sent confusing and sometimes incorrect information to first responders working on the Eaton fire, which ultimately claimed 17 lives and caused billions of dollars in damages. The new audio evidence comes after video and voltage data have already linked transmission towers operated by Edison to the fire's initial start on Jan. 7 and multiple lawsuits have been filed that claim the company is liable for fire damages. The Eaton fire took more than three weeks to fully contain, burning 14,000 acres and more than 10,000 structures. NPR downloaded and analyzed almost 100 hours of radio traffic between firefighters responding to the Eaton fire from broadcastify.com, a live audio streaming platform. The audio suggests Edison's work in affected areas during the fire played a role in slowing down firefighting efforts. By the end of the day on Jan. 8, firefighters were asking Edison to shut power off to a second neighborhood — Altadena. Most of the 17 people who died in the Eaton fire died there.

NBC News: [CA] For some L.A. wildfire survivors, rebuilding will not be an option
NBC News [2/17/2025 10:03 AM, Alicia Victoria Lozano, 50804K] reports that as work crews race to clear debris from thousands of homes and businesses destroyed in last month's wildfires, residents are grappling with whether they can afford to stay in a region where real estate prices were already out of reach for many people. Displaced homeowners and renters are facing an economic landscape rife with long-standing affordability and equity concerns, illuminating the gulf between those who can afford to start over from scratch and those who cannot. "It's intimidating," said Kaitlyn Little, who grew up in Pacific Palisades, one of hundreds of distinct neighborhoods that make up the city of Los Angeles. "It just reinforces the feelings of uncertainty and uneasiness about what the future of that town really does look like." Little lost the Palisades condominium she shared with her husband and their 2-year-old child in the Jan. 7 fires that razed entire communities. At least 29 people were killed in the multiday siege, and more than 16,000 structures, the majority residences, were destroyed. Now, Little finds herself in a market where the average home price in Los Angeles County is just shy of $1 million and the average rent is nearly $3,000, according to Zillow. State and local leaders have warned against price gouging, but displaced families said they are already feeling the pinch. At this point, Little said, she cannot afford to rebuild, much less buy a home.

Secret Service

Palm Beach Post: [FL] Secret Service arrests man who jumped over wall at Mar-a-Lago one day before Trump's return
Palm Beach Post [2/17/2025 12:47 PM, Hannah Phillips] reports authorities arrested a man who jumped over a wall and onto the lawn of Donald Trump's Mar-a-Lago Club one day before the president was scheduled to return to the Palm Beach estate. Investigators say Jeffrey Daniel Olson ignored "restricted

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access" signs posted around Mar-a-Lago's northern gate on South Ocean Boulevard when he trespassed Thursday. Secret Service agents detained and searched him as he made his way toward the property's east lawn. His arrest report does not indicate what, if anything, the agents' search yielded. Charged with knowingly entering a restricted building, Olson faces up to one year in federal prison, five years of probation and a fine of $100,000.

Coast Guard

Yahoo! News: Data Breach Prompts Coast Guard to Take Personnel and Pay System Offline
Yahoo! News [2/17/2025 4:32 PM, Patricia Kime, 57114K] reports the Coast Guard's personnel and pay system was taken offline Friday and will remain down until at least Feb. 19 while officials investigate a data breach that affected more than 1,100 members. Coast Guard officials said Friday that the service's Direct Access system, which manages pay and personnel matters, including orders, was hacked Friday, exposing sensitive information such as bank routing numbers and direct deposit account information. According to the service, a junior petty officer noticed odd activity in their pay account and reported it to Coast Guard Cyber Command, which took the system offline to safeguard all accounts. The breach, which occurred on a day that active-duty personnel received their paychecks, delayed payments to 1,135 members, according to a Coast Guard statement to Military.com. The Coast Guard did not provide the name of the official who issued the statement by publication. "The Coast Guard Personnel Service Center and Pay and Personnel Center are expediting pay to any impacted members and have begun processing offline payments," the statement said. The service said the Coast Guard Investigative Service and Coast Guard Cyber Command are leading "an exhaustive investigation" to determine the source of the breach and safeguard the systems.

CBS Los Angeles: [CA] Boater, dog rescued by Coast Guard 18 miles off coast of Catalina Island
CBS Los Angeles [2/16/2025 7:11 PM, Dean Fioresi, 52225K] reports a boater and his dog were rescued hours after going missing off the coast Avalon on Catalina Island on Saturday evening. The U.S. Coast Guard received a call from a man at around 8 p.m. who told them that his friend and dog were missing from the 34-foot sailing vessel he was on, according to a release from USCG. "The missing individual was last seen four to five hours earlier before reportedly falling asleep," they said. With the help of a USCG helicopter crew, the boater was found in a dinghy nearly 1,400 yards, just under .08 of a mile, away from the sailing vessel. The missing boater, who they say was suffering from mild hypothermia, was transported to shore near Cabrillo where he was tended to by awaiting paramedics. A Coast Guard cutter towed the dinghy back to the sailing vessel, which was then towed back to Newport Beach, officials said. No further information was provided.

Reported similarly:
Los Angeles Times [2/16/2025 5:43 PM, Jack Dolan]
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San Diego Union Tribune: [CA] Lifeguards, Coast Guard search Mission Bay for lost man after canoe found
San Diego Union Tribune [2/17/2025 3:27 PM, Phil Diehl, 2212K] reports that a search continued Sunday afternoon for a missing man after an outrigger canoe was found floating near the mouth of Mission Bay Friday, a U.S. Coast Guard spokesman said. "The official report is it was an outrigger," said Coast Guard spokesperson Adam Stanton. "It looked brand new, perfectly fine." San Diego lifeguards found the boat about 2:30 p.m. Friday with no sign of an occupant. Lifeguard officials could not be reached to provide an update on the incident Sunday. Stanton said a lot of questions remained after two days of searching, but the search soon could turn into a recovery effort. He declined to release the name of the missing person, but said that family members are on their way to the area.

Yahoo! News: [CA] Man still missing after falling into San Francisco Bay

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Yahoo! News [2/17/2025 9:58 PM, Staff, 57114K] reports a man who fell into the San Francisco Bay over the weekend is still missing. Authorities said the man and a woman fell into the water near Pier 32 just south of the Bay Bridge on Saturday night. The woman was pulled from the water and taken to a hospital with non-life-threatening injuries. Firefighters and the Coast Guard continued searching for the man using boats, thermal imaging and drones, but suspended the search Sunday afternoon. It remains unclear how the two fell into the water.

KIRO 7: [CA] USCG Cutter returns after assisting in law enforcement patrols in California
KIRO 7 [2/16/2025 10:22 PM, Steve Aguilar] reports on Feb. 14, the United States Coast Guard Cutter Active (WMEC 618) returned to Port Angeles after completing 65 days patrolling the Southern California coast. During their time, crews patrolled over 5,500 miles of coastal California supporting USCG District 11 with border security operations. The Cutter Active participated in countering transnational crime organizations and "alien interdiction operations." According to the USCG, Active's crew prevented three boats carrying a total of 46 illegal aliens and assisted in the apprehension of 40 others. The Active also assisted in four search-and-rescue operations. Several training events were also held with other units as part of their responsibility for protecting U.S. maritime borders, territorial integrity and sovereignty.

Yahoo! News: [CA] Coast Guard seizes 37K lbs. of cocaine worth $275M
Yahoo! News [2/17/2025 11:09 AM, Jorge Ventura, 57114K] reports the U.S. Coast Guard says it is increasing its interdiction operations to intercept immigrants entering the U.S. illegally and drug smugglers before they reach the U.S. As has been the case for some time, the U.S. Coast Guard is intercepting panga-style boats carrying immigrants wishing to illegally enter the country off California's coast. This issue has caught the attention of the mayor of San Clemente, who is seeking to install Border Patrol cameras on the city's beaches. On Thursday in San Diego, the Coast Guard offloaded over 37,000 pounds of cocaine worth $275 million. This comes from 11 separate drug interdictions. The incident follows the deployment of additional equipment and personnel, including cutters, aircraft, boats and deployable specialized forces, increasing its presence along maritime borders. Intercepting drugs is one facet of the Coast Guard's focus as human smugglers increasingly look to the seas as a vehicle for their trade. This past week in Florida, the Coast Guard intercepted a boat carrying immigrants of mixed nationalities trying to enter the country and returned it to the Bahamas. Another group carrying 16 Cuban nationals was also intercepted and returned to Cuba. In a statement, the Coast Guard said, "Through these ongoing operations, the Coast Guard is detecting, deterring and interdicting aliens, drug smugglers and individuals intent on terrorism or other hostile activity before they reach our border.

CISA/Cybersecurity

CBS Austin: Cyber attacks using AI bypass traditional security advice
CBS Austin [2/17/2025 9:48 AM, Cassy Arsenault, 581K] reports cyber attacks leveraging artificial intelligence are challenging conventional security measures, as demonstrated by a recent sophisticated Gmail scam. Victims receive a call from a number displaying a Google caller ID, with an American support technician warning that their Gmail account has been compromised. Upon checking, users find their email temporarily blocked. When victims suggest calling back using the official Gmail phone number, the scammers agree but warn of long hold times, prompting users to stay on the line. The scammers even send a code to the victim's phone to reset the account, mimicking secure authentication processes. This is just an AI-driven attack that has become more sophisticated to overcome the caution people are taking, "I say this to people all the time try to call Google and see if you can get a human being on the phone alright or fill in the blank Microsoft. The story is about Google but I want people to understand any large technology company is not going to call you. I can almost guarantee they are not going to call you. In fact, if you have an account takeover or something, try to email them, try to fill out the help form", said cyber security expert Dave Hatter. To protect against such scams, users are advised to hang up if someone calls claiming to be from Google or Microsoft. They should regularly check their Google account activity in privacy settings to ensure it aligns with their actions. Users should never respond to requests for sensitive

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information over the phone or email, and avoid entering passwords after clicking unsolicited links. Messages that appear urgent should be treated with skepticism. [Editorial note: consult video at source link]

Terrorism Investigations

Yahoo! News: [IN] Washington County Sheriff's Office helps thwart school shooting plot in Indiana, authorities say

Yahoo! News [2/17/2025 8:08 PM, Claudia Levens, 57114K] reports Wisconsin authorities helped avert catastrophe on Valentine's Day by assisting with an investigation that thwarted a teenager's school shooting plot in Indiana. Earlier that week, the Washington County Sheriff's Office investigated a 19-year-old woman from the Town of Addison who ultimately was not behind the plot but helped lead authorities to the main suspect, according to a Feb. 14 news release from the sheriff's office. The Addison woman had been part of Discord group about school shooters with the main suspect, who had possessed weapons and photographs of previous mass shooters, according to an anonymous tipster. On Feb. 12, Trinity Shockley, 18, was arrested in Mooresville, Indiana, and confessed to both the school shooting plot and a desire to murder her friend, according to the sheriff's office. Shockley, who goes by the name Jamie, was charged with one felony count of conspiracy to commit murder that does not result in death, according to Indiana court records. She also faces two felony counts for threats to commit terrorism. She is being held without bond, although a contested bond hearing is scheduled for Feb. 18. According to the Washington County Sheriff's Office: An anonymous tip about threats to commit a school shooting on Valentine's Day was received on Monday, Feb. 10, by the Sandy Hook Promise Violence Hotline, an anonymous tip line launched by parents who lost children in the 2012 shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut. Hotline operators forwarded the tip — which attributed the shooting threats to two social media accounts on Discord and Snapchat — to the FBI. The FBI had a difficult time tracking the Discord account, but was able to trace the Snapchat account to the 19-year-old woman from the Town of Addison, Washington County Sheriff's Lt. Tim Kemps told the Journal Sentinel on Monday. The agency passed the tip to the Wisconsin Department of Justice and the Washington County Sheriff's Office Dispatch Center, the release said. The 911 dispatcher working at the time recognized the seriousness of the threat and immediately contacted the shift supervisor to place the Addison suspect's house under surveillance.

National Security News

Washington Post: Under Trump, CIA plots bigger role in drug cartel fight

Washington Post [2/17/2025 6:00 AM, Warren P. Strobel and Isaac Stanley-Becker, 40736K] reports the Central Intelligence Agency is poised to take a larger, more aggressive role under President Donald Trump in the battle against Mexican-based drug cartels, devising and evaluating plans to share more intelligence with regional governments, train local counternarcotics units and possibly conduct other covert actions, according to people familiar with the matter. The expanded focus on cartels, which smuggle fentanyl and other narcotics into the United States, represents a new and potentially risky priority for the spy agency, which in recent years has made espionage against China, counterterrorism operations in the Middle East and Africa, and support for Ukraine after Russia's 2022 invasion its main concerns. CIA Director John Ratcliffe intends to shift agency resources to its counternarcotics mission and apply insights from its two decades of tracking, infiltrating and disrupting terrorist networks to fighting the cartels, said a person familiar with his plans who, like others, spoke on the condition of anonymity because of the subject's sensitivity and because the approach isn't finalized yet. "Lessons learned in the counterterrorism realm are applicable to the counternarcotics mission and the counter-cartel mission," this person said. "The full weight of those has not been brought to bear on this problem." A CIA spokesperson said in a statement that "countering drug cartels in Mexico and regionally is a priority for CIA as a part of the Trump Administration's broader efforts to end the grave threat from narco-trafficking. Director Ratcliffe is determined to put CIA's unique expertise to work against this multifaceted challenge." The emphasis will

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be on increased U.S. support to antidrug forces within Mexico and elsewhere in the hemisphere, people familiar with the emerging plan said. Less clear is whether armed U.S. personnel, either from the military's Special Operations forces or the CIA, could be tasked with taking direct action against cartel leaders on Mexican soil, something former intelligence and military officials warn would spark a ferocious backlash and harm U.S.-Mexican relations, including counternarcotics cooperation.

CBS San Francisco: Trump administration fires and then tries to rehire nuclear weapons workers in DOGE reversal

CBS San Francisco [2/17/2025 9:33 AM, Staff, 52225K] reports the Trump administration has paused the firings of hundreds of federal employees working on the nation's nuclear weapons programs, in a reversal that has left workers confused and experts cautioning that DOGE's blind cost cutting will put communities at risk. Late Thursday afternoon, a number probationary employees of the National Nuclear Security Administration were fired, a source in the Energy Department confirmed. This is the entity within the department that manages the nation's nuclear weapons stockpile, among other responsibilities. Three U.S. officials told The Associated Press up to 350 employees at the NNSA were abruptly laid off, with some losing access to email even before they'd learned they were fired, only to try to enter their offices on Friday morning to find they had been locked out. The officials spoke on the condition of anonymity for fear of retaliation. One of the hardest hit offices was the Pantex Plant near Amarillo, Texas, which saw about 30% of the cuts. Those employees work on reassembling warheads, one of the most sensitive jobs across the nuclear weapons enterprise, with the highest levels of clearance. The hundreds let go at NNSA were part of a DOGE purge across the Department of Energy that targeted about 2,000 employees. "The DOGE people are coming in with absolutely no knowledge of what these departments are responsible for," said Daryl Kimball, executive director of the Arms Control Association, referencing Elon Musk's Department of Government Efficiency team. "They don't seem to realize that it's actually the department of nuclear weapons more than it is the Department of Energy." By late Friday night, the agency's acting director, Teresa Robbins, issued a memo rescinding the firings for all but 28 of those hundreds of fired staff members. "This letter serves as formal notification that the termination decision issued to you on Feb. 13, 2025 has been rescinded, effective immediately," said the memo, which was obtained by the AP. [Editorial note: consult video at source link]

VOA News: US Vice President warns Europe of "threat from within."

VOA News [2/16/2025 10:35 PM, Staff, 2717K] reports that in a stunning speech at the Munich Security Conference, U.S. Vice President JD Vance barely spoke of Russia and Ukraine, and instead admonished European allies, arguing that their governments are censoring far-right speech and failing to control migration. His remarks came amid allies' alarm over President Donald Trump's decision to begin peace talks with Russia. Ukraine eyes its reserves of rare earth minerals and what role they may play in a future security agreement. In the Middle East, Hamas has released hostages and Israel freed prisoners as part of the fragile ceasefire deal. Should the Federal Emergency Management Agency be eliminated? Plus, at least 18 people killed in a stampede at a train station in India. [Editorial note: consult audio at source link]

Washington Examiner: Marco Rubio defends JD Vance's lecture on free speech

Washington Examiner [2/16/2025 4:45 PM, Jenny Goldsberry, 2365K] reports that Secretary of State Marco Rubio came to the defense of Vice President JD Vance regarding his recent plea to Europe that called for a commitment to free speech. Rubio attended the Munich Security Conference with Vance this weekend, which was Vance's first foreign trip since taking office as vice president. In his first international address, Vance assured other leaders that "under Donald Trump's leadership, we may disagree with your views, but we will fight to defend your right to offer it in the public square, agree, or disagree." During a segment on CBS News's Face the Nation Sunday, Rubio faced questions about the speech. "[Vance] also met with the leader of a far-right party known as the [Alternative for Germany], which, as you know, is under investigation and monitoring by German intelligence because of extremism. What did all of this accomplish other than irritating our allies?" host Margaret Brennan asked. "Why would our allies or anybody be irritated by free speech and by someone giving their opinion?" Rubio posed his own question in response. "He simply expressed in a speech his view of it, which a lot of people frankly share, and I

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thought he said a lot of things in that speech that needed to be said. And honestly, I don't know why anybody would be upset about it."

Newsweek: [Lithuania] Rubio Praises NATO Member's Defense Spending Increase Amid Trump Threats

Newsweek [2/16/2025 8:01 AM, Ewan Palmer, 6595K] reports that Secretary of State Marco Rubio has praised Lithuania for increasing its defense spending, as President Donald Trump pushes for NATO to more than double its current expenditure requirements. Newsweek has contacted the U.S. embassy in Lithuania for comment via email. Trump has frequently threatened to withdraw the U.S. from NATO over cost concerns, criticizing other member countries for failing to meet defense-spending goals. Rubio issued a statement in recognition of Lithuania's independence celebrations, praising the European country as a "trusted partner and stalwart ally" and highlighting its strong economic relationship with the U.S. Rubio also applauded Lithuania, which shares a border with Russia, for committing to increasing defense spending. Vilnius is set to raise its defense expenditure to between 5 and 6 percent of its gross domestic product (GDP) beginning in 2026, the Baltic nation's president, Gitanas Nausėda, announced in January. The increase to 5 percent would mean Lithuania overtakes Poland as the NATO country spending the most on defense as a percentage of its GDP.

CBS News: [Ukraine] Rubio says "we have a long ways to go" before talks on ending Russia-Ukraine war

CBS News [2/17/2025 6:20 AM, Kaia Hubbard, 52225K] reports Secretary of State Marco Rubio said "we have a long ways to go" before commencing any potential peace talks with Russia aimed at ending the war in Ukraine, adding that "nothing has been finalized" regarding possible upcoming meetings between U.S. and Russian officials in Saudi Arabia. "We stand ready to follow the president's lead on this and begin to explore ways, if those opportunities present itself, to begin a process toward peace," Rubio said on "Face the Nation with Margaret Brennan" on Sunday. On Monday morning, State Department spokesperson Tammy Bruce confirmed that Rubio, along with two other senior Trump administration officials, would meet the following day in Riyadh with a Russian delegation. Mr. Trump said last week that he had a "lengthy and highly productive phone call" with Russian President Vladimir Putin. The president announced that he was directing Rubio and other members of his national security team to "immediately" begin negotiations aimed at ending Russia's war with Ukraine. Mr. Trump also spoke with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. Rubio, speaking from Israel where he met Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Sunday, landed in Saudi Arabia Monday. The top U.S. diplomat noted that his trip had been scheduled before Mr. Trump's calls with Putin and Zelenskyy. He was joined by national security adviser Mike Waltz and Steve Witkoff, Mr. Trump's Middle East envoy. The secretary of state said Putin had "expressed his interest in peace" during his call with Mr. Trump, whom he said had made clear, "his desire to see an end of this conflict in a way that was enduring and that protected Ukrainian sovereignty." On Sunday, Mr. Trump told reporters that Putin wants to end the war, adding that he was expecting to meet with the Russian leader in Saudi Arabia "very soon." Asked whether he believes Putin is ready to negotiate and make concessions to bring an end to the fighting, Rubio said the call must be followed by action, and that "the next few weeks and days will determine whether it's serious or not." "One phone call does not solve a war as complex as this one," Rubio said. "But I can tell you that Donald Trump is the only leader in the world that could potentially begin that process." [Editorial note: consult video at source link]

Reported similarly:
Reuters [2/16/2025 6:26 PM, Gram Slattery, 30936K]

Bloomberg: [Ukraine] Trump Says Zelenskiy to Take Part in Peace Talks With Russia

Bloomberg [2/17/2025 2:09 AM, Hadriana Lowenkron and Wendy Benjaminson, 21617K] reports President Donald Trump said Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy will be involved in peace talks with Russia, a day after top US advisers suggested the negotiations might go on without him. "He will be involved, yes," Trump said Sunday in response to reporters' questions after attending the Daytona 500 car race in Florida. He didn't specify whether Zelenskiy or his aides would attend preliminary talks this week in

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Saudi Arabia or during a later summit among the country's leaders. It was the first definitive statement from the White House that Ukraine would be permitted a seat at the table when the US and Russia discuss ending the war, which started with Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022. Trump, who had a "lengthy and highly productive" phone call with Vladimir Putin on Wednesday, said he doesn't believe the Russian president has further territorial ambitions in Ukraine. "No, I think he wants to stop," Trump said. "That was my question to him, because if he was going to go on that would have been a big problem for us." Earlier, National Security Advisor Mike Waltz demurred when asked directly on Fox News Sunday whether Zelenskiy would be involved. Instead, he said the Ukrainian president would be "very wise" to accept Trump's proposed deal for the US to take half of Ukraine's critical mineral resources in return for continued US support. Waltz called the deal "protection in and of itself. I can't think of any better security guarantee than being co-invested with President Trump." "The American people deserve to be recouped, deserve to have some kind of payback for the billions they have invested in this war," he said. "I think that Zelenskiy would be very wise to enter into this agreement with the United States." Asked about the cost of the three-year war to Ukrainians, Waltz said, "Look, the Ukrainian people have fought valiantly, they have seen entire cities destroyed, the United States and Europe have supported this effort, but the United States has unquestionably borne the brunt of that support."

The Hill: [Ukraine] Trump sidelines allies in Ukraine-Russia negotiations
The Hill [2/17/2025 6:28 PM, Ellen Mitchell, 16346K] reports Secretary of State Marco Rubio said "real talks" will involve Europe and Ukraine, as he prepares to meet his Russian counterpart in Saudi Arabia on Tuesday. But that follows a slew of mixed messages from Trump's top officials and a brow-beating from Vice President Vance at the Munich Security Conference last week. Leaders of eight major European countries met Monday to coordinate a response, after being caught on their back foot by Trump's opening gambit on Russia-Ukraine talks. Even Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said Monday he "knew nothing about" the peace discussions in the Middle East until they were announced publicly. "I think Europe is realizing that they have to come up with a plan, quickly, and on their own to be ready for whatever comes next," said Sudha David-Wilp, Vice President of External Relations and Senior Fellow with the German Marshall Fund. "The mood was turning from bad to worse," said one European foreign policy expert who attended the Munich conference, granted anonymity to speak candidly. European officials expected to be taken to task over low defense spending, but not to be left out of talks completely. The uncertainty is already spurring talks on loosening the European Union's budgetary deficit requirements to allow more spending on defense, the expert said. "There will probably be a series of announcements by Europeans in the upcoming days to signal to the Americans that they are to be taken seriously – but also to reassure each other," they said.

New York Times: [Ukraine] Ukraine Won't Accept a Deal It Didn't Help Negotiate, Zelensky Says
New York Times [2/16/2025 1:00 PM, Maggie Haberman, 161405K] reports that President Volodymyr Zelensky of Ukraine reiterated in an interview that aired on Sunday that his country would "never" accept a peace deal struck by the United States and Russia if Ukraine did not have a seat at the negotiating table. In an interview on NBC's "Meet the Press," Mr. Zelensky sought to avoid criticisms of President Trump and instead praised his strength. He said he had told Mr. Trump during a phone call, shortly after Mr. Trump and President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia spoke for 90 minutes last week, that Mr. Putin is untrustworthy and feared Mr. Trump. Mr. Zelensky said he believed that Mr. Putin was "scared" of Mr. Trump, playing toward Mr. Trump's desire to be seen as strong and the hope that the U.S. president could push Mr. Putin toward a deal he might not otherwise favor. "I said that he is a liar," Mr. Zelensky said he told Mr. Trump of Mr. Putin. "And he said, 'I think my feeling is that he's ready for these negotiations.'" Mr. Zelensky added: "But I think he's really a little bit scared about President Trump. And I think the president has this chance, and he's strong. And I think that really he can push Putin to peace negotiations."

Miami Herald: [Ukraine] Trump aide says Americans deserve 'payback' for Ukraine support
Miami Herald [2/16/2025 1:30 PM, Wendy Benjaminson, 6595K] reports that President Donald Trump said Ukrainian President Volodomyr Zelenskyy will be involved in peace talks with Russia, a day after top U.S. advisers suggested the negotiations might go on without him. "He will be involved, yes," Trump said

Sunday in response to reporters' questions after attending the Daytona 500 car race in Florida. He didn't specify whether Zelenskyy or his aides would attend preliminary talks this week in Saudi Arabia or during a later summit among the country's leaders. It was the first definitive statement from the White House that Ukraine would be permitted a seat at the table when the U.S. and Russia discuss ending the war, which started with Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022. Trump, who had a "lengthy and highly productive" phone call with Vladimir Putin on Wednesday, said he doesn't believe the Russian president has further territorial ambitions in Ukraine. "No, I think he wants to stop," Trump said. "That was my question to him, because if he was going to go on that would have been a big problem for us." Earlier, national security adviser Mike Waltz demurred when asked directly on Fox News Sunday whether Zelenskyy would be involved. Instead, he said the Ukrainian president would be "very wise" to accept Trump's proposed deal for the U.S. to take half of Ukraine's rare-earth mineral resources in return for continued U.S. support.

Miami Herald: [Russia] Trump May Meet Putin In February In Stunning Setback For Ukraine, Europe

Miami Herald [2/16/2025 4:38 PM, Peter Aitken, 6595K] reports that President Donald Trump may meet with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Saudi Arabia by the end of the month, with officials from each country to meet next week to sort out final details, according to reports. Saudi Arabia initiated the meeting, inviting parties from the U.S., Ukraine and Russia to gather in Riyadh to discuss how to end the conflict, which will enter its fourth year at the end of the month. Both sides want a date for the meeting locked in before March, which is when Ramadan starts. Both sides are working out final details, but Bloomberg reported that most European officials have not been informed about the meeting, citing an official who spoke on condition of anonymity. Officials from Ukraine are expected to attend, along with national security advisors, but it remains unclear if Kyiv is being kept in the planning loop. However, Trump on Thursday indicated that Ukraine would be involved in the summit while plans remained up in the air. The timing of the meeting only came to light on Sunday.

ABC News: [Russia] Russia launches 176 drones into Ukraine as US talks begin

ABC News [2/18/2025 4:52 AM, David Brennan and Patrick Reevell, 33392K] reports Russia launched an unusually large drone attack on Ukraine overnight into Tuesday, shorty before Moscow's representatives opened talks with a U.S. delegation in Saudi Arabia on ending the Kremlin's three-year-old full-scale war on its neighbor. Ukraine's air force said Russia sent 176 drones -- just shy of a 188-drone record set in November -- into the country overnight, launched from six different directions. The air force said on Telegram that it shot down 103 drones with another 67 lost in flight due to jamming and other interference measures. Falling debris and impacts were reported in the Kirovohrad, Kharkiv, Kyiv and Cherkasy regions, the air force said. In Kirovohrad, the regional military administration said it was "a difficult night," reporting a drone strike on a high-rise building in the city of Dolynska. Three people were injured -- a mother and two children -- officials said. In Kyiv, Mayor Vitali Klitschko said a large fire in the west of the city was sparked by falling Russian drone debris. "There is a fire on the territory of an industrial enterprise," Klitschko wrote on Telegram. "Also, cars are burning in the yard of a residential building nearby." Russian long-range drone and missile strikes are a nightly occurrence across Ukraine, with Moscow often targeting key infrastructure facilities -- especially industrial and energy targets. Monday night's barrage -- notable for its scale -- came as Russia negotiators prepared to meet with American counterparts in Saudi Arabia for talks intended to revive peace negotiations. Ukrainian representatives were not invited to attend. The U.S. team is being led by Secretary of State Marco Rubio, Middle East envoy Steve Witkoff and National Security Adviser Michael Waltz. The Russian negotiating delegation includes Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, Kremlin foreign policy adviser Yuri Ushakov and Kirill Dmitriev, the head of Russia's sovereign wealth fund. Ukraine is also continuing its own long-range strike campaign against Russia, which Kyiv's Special Operations Forces (SSO) and Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) have termed "drone sanctions."

CNN: [Russia] Trump and his team are "great problem-solvers," Russian negotiator in Riyadh says ahead of US-Russia talks

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CNN [2/17/2025 3:03 AM, Matthew Chance, 22417K] reports President Donald Trump and his negotiating team are “great problem-solvers,” Russia’s sovereign wealth fund chief Kirill Dmitriev, who is in Saudi Arabia for bilateral talks with the United States, told CNN’s Chief Global Affairs Correspondent Matthew Chance on Monday. Talks between the US and Russia over the war in Ukraine are set to begin Tuesday. However, Dmitriev said he has already met with several members of the Trump team in Riyadh. “All I can say is they’re great problem-solvers. And I think President Trump is a great problem-solver,” he said. Dmitriev said that the US negotiators have not yet made direct promises with their Russian counterparts. “I think the promise is: let’s have dialogue, let’s figure out the best solution for our countries, for other countries, for the global community,” he said. He also denied that Russia primarily sought to alleviate the sanctions faced by the country and asserted that the US and Russian economies could both benefit from working together. “I think it’s very important to build bridges. I think US-Russia relations are very important for the world,” he said.

VOA News: [Syria] US says strike in Syria killed Al-Qaeda affiliate official
VOA News [2/16/2025 10:37 PM, Staff, 2717K] reports that the U.S. military said Sunday it killed a member of an Al-Qaeda affiliate organization in a precision airstrike in Syria. U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) said it conducted the strike Saturday "in Northwest Syria targeting and killing a senior finance and logistics official in the terrorist organization Hurras al-Din (HaD), an al-Qaida affiliate," according to a statement on X. CENTCOM did not identify its target. The strike was conducted "to disrupt and degrade efforts by terrorists to plan, organize, and conduct attacks against civilians and military personnel" from the United States and allies, the statement continued. On Jan. 30, CENTCOM killed another senior operative in Hurras al-Din, Muhammad Salah al-Zabir, in an airstrike. The U.S.-based SITE Intelligence Group said Hurras al-Din was founded in February 2018. It did not publicly confirm its allegiance to al-Qaida until its dissolution announcement last month. The United States designated Hurras al-Din as a terrorist organization in 2019 and has offered financial rewards for information on several of its members. "We will continue to relentlessly pursue terrorists in order to defend our homeland, and U.S., allied, and partner personnel in the region," CENTCOM General Michael Erik Kurilla said in a statement.

Miami Herald: [Israel] US says talks about phase two of Gaza ceasefire to continue this week
Miami Herald [2/16/2025 4:56 PM, Sara Lemel, Lars Nicolaysen, and Jan-Uwe Ronneburger, 6595K] reports that talks about the second phase of the Gaza ceasefire agreement and exchange of Israeli hostages for imprisoned Palestinians are set to continue in the coming week, according to U.S. Special Envoy Steve Witkoff on Sunday. The second phase of the negotiations foresees the release of all remaining Israeli hostages who are still alive. The talks are to continue at an undisclosed location, he said, following very "productive and constructive" telephone conversations with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Qatari Prime Minister Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani and Egyptian intelligence chief Hassan Rashad, according to U.S. broadcaster Fox News. The three countries worked as mediators to help bring about the first phase of the ceasefire and hostage deal, which began on January 19 and is due to be completed on March 1. Straight after Witkoff’s statement, Netanyahu’s office said the Israeli security cabinet would discuss the second phase on Monday. He instructed a delegation of Israeli negotiators to travel to Cairo for talks. After the cabinet meeting, he said they would receive instructions for the second phase, which aims to bring the fighting to a definitive end.

Newsweek: [Israel] Netanyahu Calls Trump’s Gaza Plan ‘Only Viable’ Option
Newsweek [2/16/2025 5:20 PM, Mandy Taheri, 56005K] reports that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Sunday that President Donald Trump’s Gaza plan, which includes resettling Palestinians in Gaza elsewhere and the U.S. taking ownership of the enclave, as the "only viable" option. Newsweek has reached out to Israel’s Foreign Ministry for comment via email on Sunday. Soon after taking office last month, Trump suggested that Jordan and Egypt should take in more Palestinian refugees from Gaza in an effort to "clean out" the territory, a move that would strip Palestinians of their homeland, which is a cornerstone of their history, identity, and culture. Days later, he announced that the U.S. would "take over the Gaza strip." Trump’s plans have been unanimously rejected by Arab leaders, Palestinians, and international advocacy groups, many of whom liken the plan to ethnic cleansing. Several

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Israeli officials have previously proposed relocating millions of Palestinians from Gaza to nearby Arab countries. Netanyahu's latest comments indicate the country supports Trump's proposal as negotiations between Israel and Hamas over the second phase of the ceasefire have yet to be finalized. Netanyahu spoke with U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio in Jerusalem on Sunday, which kicked off the Trump official's Middle East tour. He is set to speak with Russian officials in Saudi Arabia next week over Russia and Ukraine peace talks as the two countries continue to be at war.

Reported similarly:
AP [2/16/2025 5:05 PM, Matthew Lee and Natalie Melzer, 12036K]

New York Times: [Saudi Arabia] Rubio Lands in Saudi Arabia for Talks on Gaza and Ukraine
New York Times [2/17/2025 2:57 PM, Patrick Kingsley and Ismaeel Naar, 161405K] reports that the de facto leader of Saudi Arabia, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, met on Monday with three senior members of the Trump administration, including Secretary of State Marco Rubio, who were visiting the kingdom to discuss the future of both Gaza and Ukraine. The visit of Mr. Rubio, National Security Adviser Mike Waltz and Steve Witkoff, Mr. Trump's Mideast envoy, came amid criticism that the Trump administration was acting without consulting relevant foreign partners about the wars in both countries. Mr. Rubio also met earlier in the day with Faisal bin Farhan, the Saudi foreign minister. Little was released about the content of the meetings, except for a video of a brief exchange between the men in which the prince said he was glad to work with the Trump administration. Mr. Rubio, who flew to Riyadh from Israel, and his colleagues were expected to press the Saudi leadership to propose a vision for postwar Gaza. President Trump's idea to depopulate and occupy the territory has spurred widespread opposition in the Arab world, including in Saudi Arabia. That has led Mr. Rubio and other U.S. officials to encourage Arab leaders to suggest an alternative.

Reported similarly:
Reuters [2/16/2025 10:49 AM, Gram Slattery and David Ljunggren, 30936K]

CBS News: [Saudi Arabia] Top U.S., Russian diplomats meet on improving ties, ending Ukraine war — without Ukraine officials at the table
CBS News [2/18/2025 3:45 AM, Staff, 52225K] reports senior officials from Russia and the U.S. met in Saudi Arabia Tuesday to begin talks on improving ties and negotiating an end to the war in Ukraine. Delegations led by U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov met at the Diriyah Palace in Riyadh. The meeting marks another pivotal step by the Trump administration to reverse U.S. policy on isolating Russia and is meant to pave the way for a meeting between President Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin. Mr. Trump earlier this month upended U.S. policy toward Ukraine and Russia by saying he and Putin had agreed to begin negotiations on ending the war. Ukrainian officials aren't taking part in the meeting, and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Monday that his country wouldn't accept the outcome if Kyiv isn't included in negotiations. Rubio was accompanied by U.S. national security adviser Mike Waltz and Special Envoy Steve Witkoff, while Lavrov sat next to the Kremlin's foreign affairs adviser, Yuri Ushakov. Saudi Foreign Minister Faisal bin Farhan and national security adviser Musaed al Alban joined Rubio, Lavrov and others for the start of the meeting but were expected to leave early in the talks. Ushakov said Monday the talks would be "purely bilateral" and wouldn't include Ukrainian officials. The talks mark a significant expansion of U.S.-Russian contacts nearly three years into a war that has seen relations fall to the lowest level in decades. Lavrov and then-U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken talked briefly on the sidelines of a G-20 meeting in India nearly two years ago, and in the fall of 2022, U.S. and Russian spymasters met in Turkey amid Washington's concerns that Moscow could resort to nuclear weapons amid battlefield setbacks. The recent U.S. diplomatic blitz on the war has sent Kyiv and key allies scrambling to ensure a seat at the table amid concerns that Washington and Moscow could press ahead with a deal that won't be favorable to them. France called an emergency meeting of European Union countries and the U.K. on Monday to decide how to respond. French President Emmanuel Macron on Tuesday said he spoke by phone to Mr. Trump and Volodymyr Zelenskyy following the meeting. "We seek a strong and lasting peace in Ukraine," Macron

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wrote on X. "To achieve this, Russia must end its aggression, and this must be accompanied by strong and credible security guarantees for the Ukrainians," he said as he vowed to "work on this together with all Europeans, Americans, and Ukrainians." [Editorial note: consult video at source link]

Reported similarly:
New York Times [2/18/2025 3:35 AM, Anton Troianovski and Ismaeel Naar, 161405K]
Wall Street Journal [2/17/2025 11:47 AM, James Marson and Ian Lovett, 57114K]
Newsweek [2/18/2025 3:24 AM, Daniel Orton, 56005K]

Newsweek: [China] China Sends Ships Near US Ally in 'Show of Force'
Newsweek [2/17/2025 8:36 AM, Micah McCartney, 56005K] reports that China on Saturday deployed its coast guard in waters within 40 miles of the coast of the Philippines westernmost province, Palawan, in what one analyst said amounted to a "show of force." Newsweek has reached out to the Chinese Foreign Ministry and Philippine coast guard with written requests for comment. The Philippines remains locked in a bitter territorial dispute with Beijing in the South China Sea. Though this was previously focused mostly on a handful of reefs, China's coast guard has for over a month patrolled just dozens of miles from Zambalese Province off populous Luzon island, where the capital, Manila, is located. Beijing's ongoing patrols are viewed by Manila as an unlawful assertion of jurisdiction far from Chinese waters. China claims sovereignty over most of the South China Sea, alleging historical rights, despite a 2016 international arbitral court's decision that dismissed these claims. Shiptracking data shared Sunday by Ray Powell, director of the Stanford University-affiliated maritime analyst group SeaLight, shows the ships of the Chinese coast guard left the Scarborough Shoal—a contested reef China seized from its neighbor after a 2012 standoff—and sailed south to within 35 nautical miles (40 miles) of Palawan, an archipelagic province of 1 million.

The Hill: [China] Paxton launches investigation into DeepSeek
The Hill [2/17/2025 11:19 AM, Julia Shapero, 16346K] reports that Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton (R) has opened an investigation into Chinese artificial intelligence (AI) startup DeepSeek over its privacy practices and claims about its popular new AI model. Paxton said Friday that he sent requests for information to Apple and Google, seeking their analysis of DeepSeek's application and the documentation it was required to submit to appear on their respective app stores. "DeepSeek appears to be no more than a proxy for the CCP to undermine American AI dominance and steal the data of our citizens," Paxton said in a statement, referencing the Chinese Communist Party. "That's why I'm announcing a thorough investigation and calling on Google and Apple to cooperate immediately by providing all relevant documents related to the DeepSeek app." "The United States and Texas will continue to be at the forefront of global AI innovation, and any CCP-aligned company that tries to undermine that dominance by violating the rights of Texans and illegally undercutting American technology companies will face the full force of the law," he continued. Paxton also said he notified DeepSeek that its platform violates the Texas Data Privacy and Security Act.

Newsweek: [China] China's DeepSeek AI Hit With New Setback
Newsweek [2/17/2025 6:39 AM, Theo Burman, 56005K] reports that DeepSeek's growth in Southeast Asia has been stunted by a ban in South Korea, following fears that the Chinese chatbot breached the country's data protection regulations. The AI was taken down from the App Store and Google Play, with South Korean authorities saying it would only return if it was made compliant with the law. Newsweek has contacted DeepSeek for comment via email. DeepSeek has sent shock waves through the artificial intelligence industry, and poses a significant threat to U.S. control of this technology. DeepSeek overtook ChatGPT on January 27 to become the top-rated free app on Apple's App Store in the U.S., delivering a trillion-dollar blow to U.S. tech firms on the stock market. South Korea's Personal Information Protection Commission (PIPC) has blocked new downloads of the DeepSeek chatbot due to concerns over data privacy and national security. The government agency said DeepSeek would remain unavailable to new South Korean users until its developers implement "improvements and remedies" that bring the chatbot into compliance with the country's personal data protection laws. The announcement came after

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DeepSeek skyrocketed to the top of app store rankings in South Korea, amassing over a million weekly users following its surge in global popularity.

Newsweek: [China] Beijing Says History Supports Sweeping Claims in South China Sea
Newsweek [2/18/2025 4:00 AM, Ryan Chan, 56005K] reports China asserted on Friday that its territorial claims in the contested South China Sea are supported by a series of international treaties that date back to as early as the 1890s. Newsweek has reached out to the Philippine Embassy in Beijing for comment by email. China has claimed sovereignty over most of the South China Sea, claims that overlap with those of neighboring nations, including the Philippines, a defense treaty ally of the United States. Maritime forces of Beijing and Manila have frequently faced off and even clashed. Beijing has declared that China was the first to discover the South China Sea and thus has the so-called "historic rights" in the disputed waters within its "nine-dash line." However, this was rejected in 2016 by an international tribunal's ruling as having no legal basis. During a press briefing, the Chinese Defense Ministry spokesperson, Senior Colonel Zhang Xiaogang, said the Nansha Qundao (the Spratly Islands) and Huangyan Dao (Scarborough Shoal) "fall outside" the Philippine territory defined by international treaties. The treaties cited by Zhang were the 1898 Treaty of Peace between the U.S. and Spain, the 1900 Treaty between the U.S. and Spain for Cession of Outlying Islands of the Philippines, and the 1930 Convention between the United Kingdom and the U.S. with regard to the border between North Borneo and the Philippines. Spain ceded sovereignty over its Philippine colony after its defeat in the Spanish-American War in 1898. The U.S. granted the Philippines independence in 1946 and both countries signed a mutual defense treaty in 1951. The Chinese law-enforcement activities in the Spratly Islands and Scarborough Shoal were "reasonable, lawful, and beyond reproach," Zhang added. Both are within the Philippine 200-nautical-mile exclusive economic zone but outside its 12-nautical-mile territorial sea. The Chinese military's remarks came after Ferdinand Marcos Jr., the Philippine president, demanded China stop its aggression in the South China Sea, in exchange for the removal of the Typhon missile system, currently deployed in the Philippines by the U.S. military. [Editorial note: consult video at source link]

AP: [Philippines] Chinese navy helicopter flies within 10 feet of Philippine patrol plane over disputed shoal
AP [2/18/2025 4:45 AM, Joeal Calupitan, 57114K] reports a Chinese navy helicopter flew within 10 feet (3 meters) of a Philippine patrol plane on Tuesday in a disputed area of the South China Sea, prompting the Filipino pilot to warn by radio: "You are flying too close, you are very dangerous." The Chinese helicopter was attempting to force a Cessna Caravan turboprop plane belonging to the Philippine Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources out of what China claims is its airspace over the hotly disputed Scarborough Shoal off the northwestern Philippines. An Associated Press journalist and other invited foreign media on the plane witnessed the tense 30-minute standoff as the Philippine plane pressed on with its low-altitude patrol around Scarborough with the Chinese navy helicopter hovering close above it or flying to its left in cloudy weather. "You are flying too close, you are very dangerous and endangering the lives of our crew and passengers," the Philippine pilot told the Chinese navy helicopter by radio at one point. "Keep away and distance your aircraft from us, you are violating the safety standard set by FAA and ICAO." The pilot was referring to the standard distance between aircraft required by the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration and the International Civil Aviation Organization to prevent air disasters. There was no sign that the Philippine plane had to alter its planned path and altitude to avoid a collision. The Philippine Coast Guard and the Bureau of Fisheries said in a statement that they remain "committed to asserting our sovereignty, sovereign rights and maritime jurisdiction in the West Philippine Sea, despite the aggressive and escalatory actions of China." They referred to the Philippine name for the stretch of waters in the South China Sea closer to the Philippines' western coast. Chinese officials did not immediately comment on the incident, but in past encounters they have steadfastly asserted China's sovereign rights over the Scarborough and surrounding waters and warned that its forces would protect the country's territorial interests at all costs.

Reuters: [North Korea] North Korea denounces 'absurd' denuclearisation pledge by US and allies

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Reuters [2/18/2025 1:37 AM, Joyce Lee and Hyonhee Shin, 30936K] reports North Korea's foreign ministry said on Tuesday that it will keep bolstering its nuclear force, denouncing a recent joint pledge by the United States, South Korea and Japan for its denuclearisation, according to state media KCNA. U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio, South Korean Foreign Minister Cho Tae-yul and Japanese Foreign Minister Iwaya Takeshi held talks on Saturday on the sidelines of a security conference in Munich and issued a statement, opens new tab, reaffirming their commitment to North Korea's complete denuclearisation. Pyongyang's foreign ministry criticised the countries for pursuing an "outdated, absurd" plan, warning against seeking what it called "foolish acts inciting collective hostility and conflicts." "As long as the U.S. and its vassal forces' hostile threat exists, the DPRK's nukes are means for defending peace and sovereignty and a means for legitimate self-defence entrusted by the constitution of the state," an unnamed ministry spokesperson said in a statement carried by KCNA, vowing to continue strengthening its nuclear force. The spokesperson was referring to North Korea's formal name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. South Korea's foreign ministry urged the North to cease its illicit weapons programmes and return to the path to denuclearisation. "North Korea will never be recognised as a nuclear weapons state," ministry spokesperson Lee Jae-woong told a briefing. "We hope that they will realise that the development of nuclear weapons and missiles will only hinder their own security and economic development." The three-way meeting was their first since the inauguration of U.S. President Donald Trump, who held unprecedented summits with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un during his first term and has touted their personal rapport. South Korean lawmakers, after being briefed by the National Intelligence Service, have said that Pyongyang's recent missile tests were in part intended to "show off its U.S. deterrent assets and drawing Trump's attention."

Newsweek: [Australia] China Clashes With US Ally Over Fighter Jet Intercept

Newsweek [2/18/2025 5:19 AM, Ryan Chan, 56005K] reports China held a defense meeting on Monday with Australia, a major ally of the United States in the contested Western Pacific Ocean, just days after encounters involving their militaries. Australia accused China of an "unsafe and unprofessional" encounter after one of its warplanes intercepted an Australian Defence Force helicopter on May 4, 2024 in international waters. The Chinese have accused the U.S. and its allies of stirring up trouble in the East and South China seas, which Beijing considers to be its doorstep. An Australian P-8A maritime patrol aircraft was intercepted by Chinese J-16 fighter jets on February 11 during a surveillance patrol in international airspace over the South China Sea, which the Australian military described as an "unsafe and unprofessional interaction." The Chinese Foreign Ministry said the military took "legitimate measures" to expel the Australian aircraft as it intruded into China's airspace. Beijing has claimed sovereignty over most of the South China Sea, claims that overlap with those of neighboring nations. The 23rd Australia-China Defense Strategic Dialogue was held in Beijing, the capital city of China. It is a senior-level meeting between the officials from the Australian Department of Defense and the Chinese People's Liberation Army, according to Australia's statement. The bilateral meeting was suspended by China in 2019 after Australia banned Huawei, the Chinese telecommunications giant, from its 5G networks. Tensions between the two trading partners persisted until last year, when their leaders agreed to revive the defense dialogue. The Australian side reiterated that all nations should operate in a "safe and professional" manner to avoid miscalculation or escalation and act in a manner that respects sovereignty and upholds peace, security, and stability, the Australian military said of the meeting. "The two sides exchanged in-depth views on the relations between the two countries and two militaries, regional security, and other issues of common concern," said the Chinese military, adding that both sides agreed to handle their disputes and differences properly.

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DHS MORNING BRIEFING

Prepared for the Office of Public Affairs (OPA)
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

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Editorial Note: The DHS Daily Briefing is a collection of news articles related to Department's mission. The inclusion of particular stories is not intended to reflect their importance, nor is it intended to endorse the political viewpoints or affiliations included in news coverage.

TO: Homeland Security Secretary & Staff

DATE: Tuesday, February 18, 2025 6:00 AM ET

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Top News

New York Times: Costa Rica Will Take Central Asian and Indian Migrants Deported by U.S.

New York Times [2/17/2025 10:52 PM, Annie Correal, 161405K] reports Costa Rica announced on Monday that it would receive a flight this week from the United States carrying 200 migrants from Central Asia and India, making it the second nation in Central America to accept deportees from faraway countries who had crossed illegally into the United States. Last week, Panama received three U.S. deportation flights, carrying migrants from countries in Asia, the Middle East and Africa. Such flights appear to be the Trump administration's new tactic for dealing with unauthorized migrants from countries to which it might not be easy to return them, as the administration seeks to ramp up deportations. Rather than keep such migrants in detention centers on the southern border, the administration is recruiting other countries willing to accept them, where it is not clear what will ultimately happen to the deportees. While traveling through Central America and the Caribbean earlier this month, Secretary of State Marco Rubio received assurances from several governments, including Panama's and Costa Rica's, that they were committed to working with the Trump administration on migration issues. But few details were offered. In its Monday announcement, the Costa Rican government said the first group of deportees would arrive on a commercial flight on Wednesday afternoon. Costa Rica said its territory would "serve as a bridge" for the migrants' return to their countries of origin, and that the repatriation process would be "fully funded by the U.S. government, under the supervision

of the International Organization for Migration," a United Nations agency that Costa Rica said would be responsible for the care of the migrants during their stay in the country. Panama has described a similar process for the deportees sent there by the United States. The U.N. agency's representatives in Costa Rica did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

NBC News: Department of Homeland Security preparing to fire hundreds of senior leaders this week

NBC News [2/17/2025 6:46 PM, Julia Ainsley, 50804K] reports the Trump administration is preparing to fire hundreds of high-level Department of Homeland Security employees this week as part of a move to rid the country's third-largest agency of people deemed to be misaligned with the administration's goals, according to three sources familiar with the matter. The sources said the Trump administration has a "centralized plan" and a list of people in high-level positions across every component of DHS who are to be targeted this week. The firings will come on top of hundreds of more general cuts that began across DHS on Friday night, which targeted the Federal Emergency Management Agency, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency. Those firings were the latest in a governmentwide effort to reduce the federal workforce. This week, the three sources told NBC News, career employees at high managerial levels, namely Senior Executive Service and General Schedule 15 employees, may be removed from agencies across DHS — not to reduce the size of the workforce but to remove employees whom the administration sees as potentially standing in the way of goals the Trump administration has for the agency. DHS, which includes Customs and Border Protection and Immigration and Customs Enforcement, is the primary agency tasked with enforcing U.S. immigration law. Trump has relied heavily on CBP to secure the southwest border and on ICE to ramp up arrests and deportations of undocumented immigrants living in the United States. The employees at those high levels "are career people who have an influence on policy and strategy in those positions," said a former senior Biden administration official, responding to news of the plan.

FOX News/ABC News: 'Criminal' migrants are 'not welcome,' according to new multimillion-dollar ad from DHS

FOX News [2/17/2025 10:00 PM, Greg Wehner, 57114K] reports Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Kristi Noem sent a stern warning on behalf of President Donald Trump, to those planning on entering the U.S. illegally, saying, "Don't even think about it." Noem announced Monday that she is launching a major multi-million-dollar ad campaign targeting illegal immigrants. "Tonight, I'm announcing a nationwide and international multimillion-dollar ad campaign warning illegal aliens to leave our country NOW or face deportation with the inability to return to the US," the DHS secretary said in a post on X. "This serves as a strong warning to criminal illegal aliens to not come to America. If they do, they will be hunted down and deported." Noem also shared a video of her delivering a message to illegal aliens thinking about coming to the U.S. illegally. ABC News [2/17/2025 9:30 PM, Luke Barr, 57114K] Video: HERE reports the Department of Homeland Security launched a multimillion-dollar advertising campaign on Tuesday directed at those who try and come to the United States illegally, saying: Don't try it. There are two versions of the ad, according to the DHS. One is set to run domestically, and the other is set to run internationally. The domestic version of the ad has DHS Secretary Kristi Noem praising President Donald Trump for "securing the border." "Thank you, President Donald J. Trump, for securing our border and putting America first," Noem said in the ad set to run in the U.S.

She continued: "President Trump has a clear message: if you are here illegally, we will find you and deport you. You will never return. But if you leave now, you may have an opportunity to return and enjoy our freedom and live the American Dream." "If you are a criminal alien considering entering America illegally: Don't even think about it. If you come here and break our laws, we will hunt you down. Criminals are not welcome in the United States," Noem said. The ads will run on radio, broadcast and digital, in multiple countries and regions, and in various dialects, according to DHS. Ads will be hyper-targeted, including through social media, text message and digital to reach illegal migrants in the interior of the United States and abroad, according to DHS. "Follow the law and you'll find opportunity. Break it and you'll find consequences," the ad's message said. The international version of the ad warns those who try and enter illegally will be "caught and removed." "Let me deliver a message from President Trump to the world: If you are thinking of entering America illegally, don't even think about it," Noem emphasized in the ad.

Reported similarly:
Newsweek [2/18/2025 4:43 AM, Billal Rahman, 56005K]
Yahoo! News [2/18/2025 12:59 AM, Darryl Coote, 57114K] Video: HERE

FOX News: Trump greenlights some pro-immigrant moves amid broader anti-migrant crackdown

FOX News [2/18/2025 4:00 AM, Adam Shaw, 49889K] reports that, while President Donald Trump has taken a series of measures to restrict immigration into the U.S., particularly illegal immigration, he has also made a handful of less-scrutinized moves to help some immigrants on their way to becoming citizens. Trump ran on a platform of securing the southern border, deporting illegal immigrants and also shutting down parole programs introduced by the Biden administration to allow migrants to enter the U.S. Since taking office, he has also signed executive orders declaring a national emergency at the border and suspending refugee resettlement. But he made an apparent exception to the refugee resettlement pause this month when he signed an executive order accusing the South African government of allowing attacks on white Afrikaner farmers. That executive order, which cut assistance to the South African government, was accompanied by a move to offer Afrikaners refugee status. "The Secretary of State and the Secretary of Homeland Security shall take appropriate steps, consistent with law, to prioritize humanitarian relief, including admission and resettlement through the United States Refugee Admissions Program, for Afrikaners in South Africa who are victims of unjust racial discrimination," Trump's order said. "Such plan shall be submitted to the President through the Assistant to the President and Homeland Security Advisor," he said. Trump's administration also made a significant move affecting immigrants in the U.S. already, if they are applying for their green card. U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) posted a short announcement on Jan 22, announcing that it was waiving the requirements that those immigrants applying for an adjustment to permanent legal status present documentation showing they have had a COVID-19 vaccine. Mandates for the COVID vaccine were controversial, and many Americans have declined to take it and pushed back against requirements that they do so. Now, those who are seeking to remain in the U.S. permanently have the ability to avoid the vaccine but still progress on the way to citizenship. "USCIS will not issue any Request for Evidence or Notice of Intent to Deny related to proving a COVID-19 vaccination," the announcement said. "USCIS will not deny any adjustment of status application based on the applicant's failure to present documentation that they received the COVID-19 vaccination."

New York Times: Trump Wants Sheriffs to Aid Deportation Efforts, but Who Would Pay?

New York Times [2/16/2025 7:00 AM, Eileen Sullivan, 740K] reports that President Trump and his team are looking to state and local law enforcement to help them arrest and deport foreigners who are in the country without authorization. Many of the nation's sheriffs have responded with enthusiasm. They are thrilled to work with the Trump administration, they said, and to once again "have a seat at the table" after four years of what they have described as being ignored by the Biden administration. But the sheriffs say they need something in return: money, and lots of it, to cover the cost of what it will take to refocus scant local resources on what is inherently a federal responsibility. "The federal government will have to dedicate substantial resources in order to help cover this, and that's no secret. They know that," said Jim Skinner, the sheriff in Collin County, Texas. Where the money would come from is not yet clear. And the sheriffs' role would be part of a larger federal effort to crack down on immigration violations, all of which will require a significant infusion of new federal funding at a time when there is a commitment to vast cost-cutting across the federal government. Mr. Trump's "border czar," Tom Homan, has said mass deportations will cost around $86 billion. While the Trump administration is looking to all state and local law enforcement for help on combating illegal immigration, the country's sheriffs are a logical place to start. As elected officials, they operate with more autonomy than police chiefs, and they control thousands of jails.

AP: Trump begins firings of FAA air traffic control staff just weeks after fatal DC plane crash

AP [2/17/2025 2:03 PM, Tara Copp, 11K] reports the Trump administration has begun firing several hundred Federal Aviation Administration employees, upending staff on a busy air travel weekend and just weeks after a January fatal mid-air collision at Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport. Probationary workers were targeted in late night emails Friday notifying them they had been fired, David Spero, president of the Professional Aviation Safety Specialists union, said in a statement. The impacted workers include personnel hired for FAA radar, landing and navigational aid maintenance, one air traffic controller told the Associated Press. The air traffic controller was not authorized to talk to the media and spoke on condition of anonymity. The National Air Traffic Controllers Association said in a brief statement Monday it was "analyzing the effect of the reported federal employee terminations on aviation safety, the national airspace system and our members." Other FAA employees who were fired were working on an urgent and classified early warning radar system the Air Force had announced in 2023 for Hawaii to detect incoming cruise missiles, through a program that was in part funded by the Department of Defense. It's one of several programs that the FAA's National Defense Program manages that involve radars providing longer-range detection around the country's borders. Due to the nature of their work, staff in that office typically provide an extensive knowledge transfer before retiring to make sure no institutional knowledge is lost, said Charles Spitzer-Stadtlander, one of the employees in that branch who was terminated. "This is about protecting national security, and I'm scared to death," Spitzer-Stadtlander said. "And the American public should be scared too." The Hawaii radar and the FAA National Defense Program office working on it "is about protecting national security," Spitzer-Stadtlander said. "I don't think they even knew what NDP does, they just thought, oh no big deal, he just works for the FAA."

Reported similarly:
CBS News [2/17/2025 9:37 AM, Kathryn Krupnik, 52225K]

NBC News [2/17/2025 6:52 PM, Kelly O'Donnell, 50804K] Video: HERE
Newsweek [2/17/2025 11:47 AM, Natalie Venegas, 56005K]

AP: Dismantling of federal efforts to monitor election interference creates opening for foreign meddling

AP [2/16/2025 8:21 PM, Ali Swenson and Christina A. Cassidy, 2315K] reports that when a suspicious video of ballots being ripped up in Pennsylvania gained attention on social media last October, federal agencies responded quickly and called it out as Russian disinformation. On Election Day in November, bomb threats to polling places in numerous states caused relatively few disruptions to voting. It's one of the many scenarios covered by the nation's cybersecurity agency in its outreach to state and local officials. The future of that assistance is now uncertain. The Trump administration's downsizing and disbanding of federal agencies has hit efforts that improve election security and monitor foreign influence. That could create gaps for America's enemies to exploit the next time the country holds a major election. "Our adversaries are upping their game every day," said former Department of Homeland Security cyber chief Suzanne Spaulding. "I'm worried that we are, at the same time, tearing down our defenses." Last week, new Attorney General Pam Bondi disbanded an FBI task force focused on investigating foreign influence operations, including those that target U.S. elections.

CNN: GOP-led states quickly mirror Trump's policy agenda

CNN [2/16/2025 7:00 AM, Arit John, 987K] reports that, in his nearly four weeks in office, President Donald Trump has unveiled a constant stream of policy priorities in quick succession, from shrinking government, to cutting taxes, to waging a war on diversity initiatives, illegal immigration and transgender rights. His allies in the states are rushing to keep up. The Florida and Tennessee legislatures have passed sweeping immigration packages that will make it easier for state law enforcement and federal immigration officials to coordinate during recent special sessions. Leaders in Ohio and Arkansas are renewing efforts to place work requirements on Medicaid recipients. And Republicans in at least nine states have moved to create government efficiency task forces inspired by the initiative helmed by billionaire Elon Musk. Across the country, Republican governors and legislatures are taking advantage of the national spotlight – and friendlier regulatory environment – the Trump administration has created to advance longtime conservative policy goals. In State of the State speeches, X posts and press conferences, they've described the new administration as a partner they're eager to support. And they have been eager to portray themselves as loyal allies. For Democrats, it's a reminder that elections have consequences at both the federal level and the state level, where Republicans have dominated for years. Republican-backed laws, particularly measures passed in the nearly two dozen states where their party controls the governorship and both chambers of the legislature, have been at the center of some of the biggest culture war fights of the last few years, including the 2022 Dobbs decision that ended federal abortion protections and a pending case on gender-affirming care for minors. Democrats have increasingly pitched the need to build their power at the state level as a way to combat Republican gains. "Red states are feeling even more empowered under Trump's takeover of Washington to push legislation that sows confusion and chaos, from cutting programs families rely on to rolling back fundamental rights," said Sam Paisley, a spokesperson for the Democratic Legislative Campaign Committee. "Democrats in state legislatures are the strongest defense against MAGA Republicans' destruction."

AP: Justice Department's independence is threatened as Trump's team asserts power over cases and staff

AP [2/16/2025 5:30 PM, Eric Tucker and Alanna Durkin Richer, 4917K] reports Pam Bondi had insisted at her Senate confirmation hearing that as attorney general, her Justice Department would not "play politics." Yet in the month since the Trump administration took over the building, a succession of actions has raised concerns the department is doing exactly that. Top officials have demanded the names of thousands of FBI agents who investigated the Capitol riot, sued a state attorney general who had won a massive fraud verdict against Donald Trump before the 2024 election, and ordered the dismissal of a criminal case against New York Mayor Eric Adams by saying the charges had handicapped the Democrat's ability to partner in the Republican administration's fight against illegal immigration. Even for a department that has endured its share of scandals, the moves have produced upheaval not seen in decades, tested its independence and rattled the foundations of an institution that has long prided itself on being driven solely by facts, evidence and the law. As firings and resignations mount, the unrest raises the question of whether a president who raged against his own Justice Department during his first term can succeed in bending it to his will in his second. "We have seen now a punishing ruthlessness that acting department leadership and the attorney general are bringing to essentially subjugate the workforce to the wishes and demands of the administration, even when it's obvious" that some of the decisions have all the signs "of corrupting the criminal justice system," said retired federal prosecutor David Laufman, a senior department official across Democratic and Republican administrations. He spoke not long after Manhattan's top federal prosecutor, Danielle Sassoon, resigned in protest following a directive from Emil Bove, the Justice Department's acting No. 2 official, to dismiss the case against Adams. In a letter foreshadowing her decision, Sassoon accused the department of acceding to a "quid pro quo" — dropping the case to ensure Adams' help with Trump's immigration agenda. Though a Democrat, Adams had for months positioned himself as eager to aid the administration's effort in America's largest city, even meeting privately with Trump at Trump's Florida estate just days before the Republican took office.

NBC News: DOGE-affiliated employee has accessed IRS system with sensitive taxpayer information

NBC News [2/16/2025 10:59 PM, Garrett Haake and Megan Lebowitz, 36472K] reports that an IRS employee who is affiliated with the Department of Government Efficiency is expected to seek access to an IRS system that houses sensitive taxpayer information, according to an administration official. The access would be to the Integrated Data Retrieval System, which allows IRS employees to access taxpayer accounts. An administration official originally said that the employee had been granted access but later clarified that the employee was expected to seek access and was not already in the system. The IDRS allows employees to have "instantaneous visual access to certain taxpayer accounts," according to the IRS website. The system can be used for "researching account information and requesting returns" and "automatically generating notices, collection documents and other outputs." It contains information such as taxpayers' individual master files, taxpayer identification numbers, retirement account information and details on pending adoptions. The DOGE-affiliated person in question is an IRS employee who started after President Donald Trump's second inauguration, the administration official confirmed to NBC News. The official said the employee was carrying out the "DOGE mission" and acting "legally and with the appropriate security clearances." NBC News has reported that DOGE has accessed the Treasury Department's payment system, which stores sensitive information like Social Security numbers. Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem also said this month

that Trump authorized Musk to access FEMA disaster data.

Reported similarly:
New York Times [2/17/2025 12:29 AM, Alan Rappeport, Andrew Duehren, and Maggie Haberman, 161405K]

New York Times: Thousands Gather on Presidents' Day to Call Trump a Tyrant
New York Times [2/17/2025 5:56 PM, Minho Kim, Stephanie Saul and Winnie Hu, 161405K] reports thousands of protesters opposing broad swaths of President Trump's agenda took to the streets across the United States on Monday, calling Mr. Trump a "king" on Presidents' Day for his efforts to terminate thousands of federal workers and to fire prosecutors and independent watchdogs within the federal government. On Saturday, Mr. Trump suggested on social media that he would not heed concerns that his sweeping actions could be breaking laws, posting a riff on a phrase often attributed to Napoleon Bonaparte: "He who saves his country does not violate any law." "No king, no crown, we will not back down," chanted those who gathered a few hundred feet from the U.S. Capitol on the National Mall in Washington. Many protesters opposed to Mr. Trump's agenda embraced symbols of patriotism, waving flags and wearing heart-shaped earrings and beanies adorned with the U.S. flag. The members of an a cappella group sang the national anthem by the Capitol Reflecting Pool. The audience burst into applause after the final line: "And the home of the brave." "It's our anthem. It's our flag. It belongs to us," said Shawn Morris, the president of the Gay Men's Chorus of Washington, D.C. "We wanted to take it back." Mr. Morris said he was deeply troubled by Mr. Trump's moves to push transgender people out of the military and to erase any mention of them from federal government websites. He expressed concerns that protections for same-sex marriages could be threatened next. "There's nothing more patriotic than fighting against tyranny," said Kat Duesterhaus, who traveled from Miami to join the Washington protest. "We're out here because we are patriots." The protests came as Democrats have struggled to counter Mr. Trump's moves, with Republicans holding majorities in both the House and the Senate and Democratic leaders and operatives worried about alienating voters in reacting hastily without reflecting first on why they lost in 2024. Many activists, however, have voiced frustration at the lack of a more aggressive stance.

Reported similarly:
Yahoo! News [2/17/2025 5:00 PM, Dana DiFilippo, 57114K]

FOX News: [NY] Trump DOJ brings down 'Sovereign' District of New York
FOX News [2/16/2025 7:03 PM, Mike Davis, 49889K] reports that Acting Deputy Attorney General Emil Bove just delivered a civics lesson to a now-former top New York prosecutor who was apparently confused about who she worked for. It all began when Bove, as authorized by Attorney General Pam Bondi, directed Acting United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York Danielle Sassoon to dismiss the federal indictment against New York City Mayor Eric Adams. The Biden Justice Department had indicted Adams on a somewhat questionable bribery charge after he had voiced public criticism of President Biden's policies on illegal immigration. When he assumed office, President Donald Trump issued an order to de-weaponize the Justice Department, which had engaged in lawfare against him for years. In the spirit of this order, Bove—while not addressing the merits of Adams' prosecution or impugning the integrity of the prosecutors—ordered the dismissal without prejudice, meaning charges can be brought in the future. Bove provided two

rationales for the decision. First, the indictment reasonably could be viewed as interfering with the November 2025 mayoral election in which Adams is a candidate. Second, the indictment would hinder Adams' ability to assist the Trump administration in its illegal immigration enforcement activities.

Newsweek: [NY] Donald Trump's Border Czar Confronted on Alleged Deal With Eric Adams

Newsweek [2/16/2025 12:24 PM, Peter Aitken, 6595K] reports that President Donald Trump's border czar Tom Homan denied that there was any "deal" with New York City Mayor Eric Adams that had led to the Department of Justice (DOJ) ordering the Southern District of New York to drop its case against the embattled mayor. Newsweek reached out to the New York City mayor's office by email for comment on Sunday morning. The Southern District of New York in September brought charges of conspiracy, wire fraud and bribery against Adams. The charges were in connection with an alleged $100,000 in luxury gifts and illegal campaign contributions from Turkish officials and businesspeople for opening a consulate in New York without proper fire inspections. Adams has denied all allegations against him. However, the DOJ last week ordered the charges against Adams dropped, prompting more than half a dozen federal prosecutors to quit rather than enforce the order. Adams and Homan appeared on Fox & Friends on Friday, when Homan said he would be holding Adams to account, and that if he did not deliver on their agreement in the coming weeks and months, he would walk into the mayor's office and demand to know why.

Reported similarly:
NBC News [2/16/2025 3:29 PM, Raquel Coronell Uribe, 50804K]

CBS New York: [NY] 4 NYC deputy mayors announce resignations after DOJ moves to drop Adams charges

CBS New York [2/17/2025 4:01 PM, Marcia Kramer, Jesse Zanger, Christina Fan, 52225K] reports four New York City deputy mayors announced their resignations Monday as the controversy continued to grow over the allegation that Mayor Eric Adams agreed to a quid pro quo to get his criminal case dropped. Maria Torres-Springer, the city's First Deputy Mayor, Anne Williams-Isom, deputy mayor for Health and Human Services, Meera Joshi, the deputy mayor for Operations, and Chauncey Parker, deputy mayor for Public Safety, announced Monday they were resigning. They cited recent "extraordinary events" in the Adams administration and the need "to stay faithful to the oaths we swore to New Yorkers and our families." "Serving as deputy mayors has been the greatest honor and privilege of our lives. We have worked each day with the singular mission of improving the lives of New Yorkers and strengthening the physical foundation of the city we love. Due to the extraordinary events of the last few weeks and to stay faithful to the oaths we swore to New Yorkers and our families, we have come to the difficult decision to step down from our roles. While our time in this administration will come to a close, our support for the incredible public servants across the administration with whom we have stood shoulder to shoulder and our championing of this great city and all it stands for will never cease. We sincerely thank the mayor for giving us the opportunity to serve New Yorkers in these roles, stand ready to ensure a smooth transition of our duties, and wish Mayor Adams and all of our colleagues much strength and courage in the work ahead," Torres-Springer, Williams-Isom and Joshi said in a joint statement. "Serving as deputy mayor for public safety under Mayor Adams has been an honor of a lifetime. Together, we have made our streets safer, more just, and have improved quality of life for all New Yorkers. I am confident that the

administration will continue on our mission to deliver for the people of this city," Parker said in a statement. Adams has remained defiant in the face of calls for him to step down, and held a campaign rally in Brooklyn Monday. He called the four "extraordinary public servants who have been vital to our work reshaping New York City." ""New Yorkers owe them an enormous debt of gratitude for their service to our city," Adams said in a statement. "I am disappointed to see them go, but given the current challenges, I understand their decision and wish them nothing but success in the future."

Reported similarly:
New York Times [2/17/2025 12:45 PM, William K. Rashbaum, Dana Rubinstein and Emma G. Fitzsimmons, 161405K]

New York Times: [NY] Wave of Resignations Plunges Adams Administration Into Crisis Again

New York Times [2/18/2025 3:00 AM, Emma G. Fitzsimmons, 161405K] reports four months ago, the administration of Mayor Eric Adams seemed to be in an irreversible state of crisis. Two of his deputy mayors and his police commissioner had resigned. His five-count federal indictment was still very much in play. Mr. Adams soldiered on. He hired well-regarded replacements, eschewing his often-tapped pool of loyalists. He hired a fiery criminal defense lawyer and began to openly court President Trump as an ally. The moves seemed to pay off. Mr. Adams's new team, led by the first deputy mayor, Maria Torres-Springer, won admiration for keeping New York City running; the mayor seemed to score an even bigger victory when the Justice Department moved to drop the case against him. But Mr. Adams's seeming legal triumph has brought him into a deeper political crisis. The prosecutor overseeing the mayor's case accused Mr. Adams late last week of agreeing to a quid pro quo with Trump administration officials. In exchange for leniency in the criminal case, she said, the mayor would help the president with immigration enforcement. The suggestion that Mr. Adams would do Mr. Trump's bidding, which the mayor has denied, brought widespread condemnation and calls for him to step down or for Gov. Kathy Hochul to remove him. Ms. Hochul, a Democrat who has been an ally to the mayor, released a statement late Monday saying that she would meet with elected officials on Tuesday to discuss the mayor's future and that the allegations against him were "troubling and cannot be ignored." The latest blows came on Monday, when Ms. Torres-Springer and three other deputy mayors said they would be resigning. They did not directly cite the mayor's cooperation with the Trump administration but alluded to "the extraordinary events of the last few weeks." The officials were respected government veterans who served as the backbone of the administration, leading a vast bureaucracy of roughly 300,000 city workers and key initiatives to build urgently needed housing and to improve public safety. "This is an unmitigated disaster," said Mark Levine, the Manhattan borough president. "Each one of these leaders is a seasoned, talented professional. Their loss will leave New York City government in a truly precarious position."

New York Times: [NY] Hochul to Meet With City Leaders to Discuss the 'Path Forward' for Mayor

New York Times [2/18/2025 3:08 AM, Andy Newman, 161405K] reports Gov. Kathy Hochul raised the prospect of removing Mayor Eric Adams from office and announced plans to meet on Tuesday with "key leaders" in Manhattan to discuss "the path forward, with the goal of ensuring stability for the City of New York." "Overturning the will of the voters is a serious step that should not be taken lightly," Ms. Hochul said in a statement late Monday. "That

said, the alleged conduct at City Hall that has been reported over the past two weeks is troubling and cannot be ignored." The governor was referring to comments from the federal prosecutor in Mr. Adams's criminal case that the mayor's lawyers had offered the White House a "quid pro quo" — helping President Trump's immigration crackdown in return for dropping the charges. Her comments followed the resignations of four of Mr. Adams's deputy mayors, including his second-in-command, amid criticism that the mayor has put his own interests above those of New Yorkers. Last week, after months of overtures by Mr. Adams to Mr. Trump, the Justice Department moved to drop the corruption case against the mayor, arguing that it was hindering his ability to cooperate with the president's crackdown on illegal immigration. (The prosecutor who alleged a quid pro quo resigned rather than withdraw the charges.) On Monday night, Ms. Hochul, a fellow Democrat who has the power to remove the mayor under the state Constitution, said that the resignations in his cabinet prompted "serious questions about the long-term future of this mayoral administration." Calls for the mayor to resign are growing louder and more numerous, with the City Council speaker, Adrienne Adams, who is no relation to the mayor, writing on Monday that the mayor has "lost the confidence and trust of his own staff, his colleagues in government, and New Yorkers."

The Dispatch: [NY] Trump Administration Halts Funds to NYC for Migrant Services
The Dispatch [2/17/2025 2:42 AM, Grayson Logue] reports in what has emerged as a playbook of sorts for Elon Musk's government efficiency campaign, the tech billionaire's team discovers a government spending program it deems objectionable, and the recently appointed leaders of the agency behind the program respond by immediately halting the funding. Such was the case last week with a funding program administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to support municipalities and local nonprofits in managing the effects of the migrant crisis as hundreds of thousands of people have flooded across the U.S. border with Mexico and into cities across the country in recent years. The Trump administration has now halted the Shelter and Services Program's (SSP) payments to the New York City government, even clawing back some $80 million in already disbursed funds, and the future of the program remains uncertain.

USA Today/AP: [MD] Police arrest apparent leader of cultlike 'Zizian' group linked to multiple killings in the US
USA Today [2/17/2025 5:24 PM, Trevor Hughes, 89965K] reports Maryland State police have arrested two people in connection with a string of homicides nationally, including several deaths in California, two deaths in Pennsylvania and the shooting of a U.S. border patrol agent in Vermont earlier this year. Taken into custody were Jack "Ziz" Lasota, 34, and Michelle Zajko, 32. Authorities believe Zajko supplied the guns that were used during the January shooting of Border Patrol agent David Maland near the Canadian border on Jan. 20. Maryland State Police confirmed the arrests on Monday but declined to comment further. A third person, Daniel Blank, 26 was arrested alongside Zajko and Lasota; his connection was not immediately clear. Maryland authorities did not immediately disclose the circumstances under which the three were arrested. "The Maryland State Police is working in coordination with our federal law enforcement partners and the Office of the State's Attorney in Allegany County as this investigation continues," a spokesperson for the Maryland State Police said in a statement. The FBI confirmed agents are working with Maryland State police but declined to comment further. The linked cases have drawn worldwide attention, in part because some of the people involved were transgender, and many were vegan, an unusual combination of circumstances, experts said. The AP

[2/17/2025 4:07 PM, Michael Casey, 11K] report the apparent leader of a cultlike group known as the Zizians has been arrested in Maryland along with another member of the group, Maryland State Police said Monday. Jack Lasota, 34, was arrested Sunday along with Michelle Zajko, 33, of Media, Pennsylvania. They face multiple charges including trespassing, obstructing and hindering and possession of a handgun in the vehicle. A bail hearing for the two is scheduled for 11 a.m. Tuesday at Allegany District Court. The Zizians have been tied to the killing of U.S. Border Patrol Agent David Maland near the Canadian border in January and five other homicides in Vermont, Pennsylvania and California. Maland, 44, was killed in a Jan. 20 shootout following a traffic stop in Coventry, Vermont, a small town about 20 miles (32 kilometers) from the Canadian border. Officials have offered few details of the cross-country investigation, which broke open after the Jan. 20 shooting death of Maland. Associated Press interviews and a review of court records and online postings tell the story of how a group of young, highly intelligent computer scientists, most of them in their 20s and 30s, met online, shared anarchist beliefs, and became increasingly violent. Their goals aren't clear, but online writings span topics from radical veganism and gender identity to artificial intelligence. At the middle of it all is "Ziz," who appears to be the leader of the strange group members who called themselves "Zizians." She has been seen near multiple crime scenes and has connections to various suspects. LaSota published a dark and sometimes violent blog under the name Ziz and, in one section, described her theory that the two hemispheres of the brain could hold separate values and genders and "often desire to kill each other."

NPR: [DC] Thousands of people protest in Washington, D.C., and across the U.S. on Presidents Day

NPR [2/17/2025 10:10 PM, Chandelis Duster, Juliana Kim, 35747K] Video: HERE reports that, on Presidents Day, demonstrators across the U.S. descended upon state capitol buildings and other locations to protest actions by President Donald Trump and billionaire Elon Musk, who is implementing significant changes to the federal government. In Washington, D.C., the nation's capital, thousands of people gathered at the Capitol Reflecting Pool chanting "Where is Congress?" and urging members of Congress to "do your job!" despite nearly 40-degree temperatures and 20-mile-per-hour wind gusts. Potus Black, an organizer of the D.C. chapter of the 50501 Movement, which spearheaded the rallies, called on the sea of protesters to stand united to "uphold the Constitution." "To oppose tyranny is to stand behind democracy and remind our elected officials that we, the people, are who they're elected to serve, not themselves," Black said. "The events over the past month have been built to exhaust us, to break our wills. But we are the American people. We will not break." The nationwide protests were part of the 50501 Movement, which stands for "50 protests. 50 states. 1 movement." These protests were a response to what organizers describe as "the anti-democratic and illegal actions of the Trump administration." Monday's demonstrations marked the group's second nationwide campaign, following a series of executive orders signed by Trump. Both Musk and Trump have faced criticism for mass firings across several federal agencies. Several attendees spoke with NPR, expressing their anger over Musk and Trump's actions and their fears about future executive orders. Their concerns ranged from Musk's team at the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), gaining access to Americans' personal data through the IRS and other federal agency records, to the firing of national park rangers. Suzanne, a resident of Maryland, who requested that her last name be withheld because she fears retaliation against her family. She told NPR she attended the rally in support of her husband, a federal employee with a financial regulatory agency. She mentioned their worries about him potentially being laid off among thousands of others. "It's put us in a

pretty tenuous financial situation. Currently, his paychecks are going through, but we're looking to Plan B as an alternative on how to support our family, our children," she said. "But it has really motivated him and his co-workers to stand united, to stand as a solid, solidified workers force."

CBS Miami: [FL] Facing South Florida: The battle over immigration

CBS Miami [2/16/2025 7:45 AM, Staff, 52225K] Video: HERE reports CBS News Miami's Jim DeFede devotes the entire half-hour to the immigration bill that Florida Governor Ron DeSantis signed, and the tumultuous events leading up to it. This past week, for the third time in less than three weeks, the Florida legislature held a special session to supposedly crackdown on illegal immigration. The bill the Governor signed was a compromise between him and legislative leaders. But DeSantis clearly did not get what he wanted. Jim talks to Republican Representative Juan Carlos Porras, from Miami-Dade County, who is a close ally of House Speaker Danny Perez, and Senate Minority Leader Jason Pizzo, a Democrat who represents folks in Miami-Dade and Broward counties, about what they think the bill will accomplish, and where things go from here, including the likelihood that the existing rift between the governor and legislator will only widen when the regular session opens next month. Guests: State Rep. Juan Carlos Porrras/R-Miami Dade County State Sen. Jason Pizzo/D-Minority Leader Catch Facing South Florida With Jim DeFede on Sundays at 11:30AM ET.

Yahoo! News: [FL] Florida begins immigration crackdown, names migrant flights official to lead enforcement

Yahoo! News [2/17/2025 6:53 PM, Ana Goñi-Lessan, 57114K] reports Florida's GOP leaders named Larry Keefe as the executive director for the new State Board of Immigration Enforcement at an emergency Cabinet meeting on Monday in Niceville. Keefe, who used to be north Florida's top federal prosecutor and the state's public safety czar, was heavily involved in the 2022 publicity move of arranging flights of migrants from the U.S.-Mexico border to blue states. "Last time it was Martha's Vineyard, this time, maybe Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. I don't know how it's going to shake out, I just know we're going to be there," Gov. Ron DeSantis said at the meeting. After a few weeks of bickering between the governor and the Republican-led legislature and three special sessions, the two branches of government came up with a compromise that they touted as the "toughest" legislation on immigration in the country. This included establishing a board of immigration enforcement to work closely with the federal government on President Donald Trump's immigration overhaul and with mass deportations. Keefe, who has been the subject of lawsuits and investigations that have stemmed from the migrant flights, said this executive director position is the "perfect thing for me." "It blends federal, state and local, getting people to work together with a great sense of urgency, tearing down barriers. And I tell each one of you as I look each one of you in the eye, I will make you proud," Keefe said. The legislation (SB 2C) that established the new board also increased criminal penalties for immigrants who enter the country illegally, required enrollment in what's known as the 287(g) program (a collaboration with federal immigration enforcement) and repealed in-state tuition for undocumented students. But it also served as a blow to the unauthorized alien transport program that DeSantis and the Legislature established for the migrant flights. Now the state will only be allowed to transport migrants under the direction of the federal government. DeSantis originally had asked for $350 million for his program, according to reports. SB 2C in total cost about $300 million.

CBS Austin: [TX] Protesters rally at Texas Capitol against Trump administration
CBS Austin [2/17/2025 6:18 PM, Jahmal Kennedy and Tara Brolley, 581K] reports protesters gathered at the Texas State Capitol on Monday, demonstrating against the Trump administration as part of a nationwide "Not My President" rally. Demonstrators carried signs with messages including "Not My President," "Resist," and "Make Racists Afraid Again" outside the Capitol building. "If not me, who? If not now, what hell am I going to die on? This is it," said protest speaker Kristin Jenn. Jenn was one of the many speakers who took over the megaphone on Monday. Jenn has recently been affected by the current administration's policies and goals. "I'm an American citizen, I'm a National Park Ranger, and I'm a disabled veteran," she said. "And Donald Trump stole my job." Tesla CEO Elon Musk heads the Department of Government Efficiency, the agency in charge of looking into what it calls "waste management." Protester Michael Diatlevi believes it's doing more harm than good. "They're not trimming the fat. They're hacking off body parts, and they're killing the body that is the American people," he said. Today's protest didn't just take aim at the president. Lindsay Eck lives in Caldwell County and condemned Texas Gov. Greg Abbott's goal of passing private school vouchers. "Whether you're liberal or conservative, people in the rural counties don't want to have to go a 90-minute round trip to the nearest private school," said Eck.

CBS San Francisco: [CA] Bay Area immigration activists march 21 miles to stand up against Trump's policies
CBS San Francisco [2/16/2025 9:12 PM, Staff, 52225K] Video: HERE reports a large group is standing up against President Trump's immigration policies and mass deportations.

Opinion – Op-Eds

Dallas Morning News: Suspending refugee program doesn't fix illegal immigration problem
Dallas Morning News [2/17/2025 3:00 AM, Editorial Board, 3419K] reports that in 2023, Texas added 473,453 residents through births and migration. Of those, 5,050 were refugees. Background checks and health screenings weren't required for the Californians and Arkansans who moved to the Lone Star State, but they were for the refugees. Having fled their home countries out of fear of persecution, refugees often languish for months or years in a nearby nation while their personal histories are reviewed and investigated. It's a grueling process. "No one wakes up one day and says, this is a beautiful day to be a refugee," said Dr. Samira Izadi Page, who fled Iran and eventually founded Gateway of Grace, a faith-based nonprofit in Dallas that serves refugees. Nevertheless, President Donald Trump issued an executive order last month to suspend all refugee admissions, ostensibly out of security concerns. The administration also froze funding for resettlement agencies, forcing some local nonprofits, such as Catholic Charities of Dallas, to lay off employees who helped refugees assimilate. In a television interview last month, Vice President J. D. Vance defended the order, arguing that refugees were not being properly vetted before they arrived. The only specific example he offered was an Afghan national living in Oklahoma City who was arrested on charges of planning an Election Day terrorist attack last year. That suspect, Nasir Ahmad Tawhedi, was not a refugee.

FOX News: Trump's designation of cartels as terrorists ends the fiction that Mexico is a trustworthy ally

FOX News [2/17/2025 5:00 AM, Chuck DeVore, 49889K] reports that on President Donald J. Trump's first day in office, he issued an executive order designating human and drug trafficking cartels as Foreign Terrorist Organizations (FTOs). This week, the other shoe is expected to drop, as the State Department under Secretary Marco Rubio names names, designating six Mexican cartels as FTOs. Official Washington has long peddled the comfortable fiction that Mexico is an honest partner in the fight against drugs and human trafficking. This myth persists, despite decades of overwhelming evidence that the Mexican government is at best willfully negligent, and at worst, in active collusion with the criminal networks destroying lives on both sides of the border – cartels that Trump just called out by name. Trump has put a forceful end to this lie. Trump's action exposes the inconvenient truth: Mexico, first under former President Andrés Manuel López Obrador (AMLO) and his Morena Party and now with President Claudia Sheinbaum, is no peer ally. It is a state deeply compromised by cartel corruption and control. While Washington elites fret over diplomacy and stability, tens of thousands of Americans are dying from fentanyl poisoning every year. This crisis is directly fueled by cartels operating with impunity in Mexico and with material, financial and intelligence support from China.

New York Times: [Afghanistan] The U.S. Can No Longer Ignore the Threat Arising in Afghanistan

New York Times [2/17/2025 1:14 AM, Javid Ahmad, 161405K] reports President Trump has promised a bold new American approach to the world. Nowhere is that more urgently needed than in Afghanistan. Not only have its Taliban rulers crushed dissent and stripped away the rights of the country's women and girls; they have also taken Americans hostage and are allowing Afghanistan to serve as a nerve center of violent jihadist networks such as Al Qaeda. We all know what happened on Sept. 11, 2001, the last time this state of affairs existed. The Trump administration faces a stark choice: Let Afghanistan spiral further into jihadism or engage pragmatically with the Taliban. Engagement is, of course, a tough case to make, given the regime's brutal nature and America's painful history in Afghanistan. But dealing directly with the Taliban may be the only way to gain enough leverage to minimize serious potential threats to U.S. national security and interests. The Biden administration's approach — neither toppling the regime nor normalizing relations — has allowed the Taliban to entrench its rule without hope of the United States exerting any positive influence over it. Afghanistan requires realpolitik — putting results over ideals. The hard-nosed deal-making aspects of Mr. Trump's "America first" outlook may offer the right framework. The Trump administration should establish at least a limited diplomatic presence in Afghanistan or even reopen America's embassy in Kabul to facilitate regular contact with Taliban leaders toward the ultimate goal of deploying specialized intelligence teams in the country to track and respond to potential threats.

Top News (Sunday Talk Shows)

CNN's State of the Union With Jake Tapper and Dana Bash: Border Czar, Tom Homan comments on Adams DOJ case and the opening of Rikers Island | Part One

CNN's State of the Union With Jake Tapper and Dana Bash [2/16/2025 9:29 AM, Staff] reports President Trump's Border Czar, Tom Homan met on Thursday with the New York mayor, and he announced then that he would give ICE agents access to the prison on Rikers Island. Homan called that a game changer. A few days before Adams made that announcement, the Justice Department instructed prosecutors to drop federal corruption charges against him. It sounds like the DOJ dropped the case against Adams and, in

exchange, Border Czar Homan was let into Rikers. Is that what happened? "No, I think that's ridiculous. Me and Mayor Adams met a couple months ago. I think it was probably eight, nine weeks ago we met. And we had the same discussion. And we talked about getting a presence in Rikers Island. We talked about how we can collaborate on public safety threats and finding the missing children that were -- that can be found after they release the sponsors. We had that a couple months ago, long before this other discussion. So I don't think it had anything to do with it. Matter of fact, the meeting went very well. It was the same meeting we had a few weeks ago. The reason we had the follow-up meeting because there was no action being done. So we followed up on how we can get some of this stuff in place, and that's what the meeting Thursday was about." Border Czar Homan states. Homan says that him and Adams met back in December. He says that they had to reschedule a meeting and that meeting took place Thursday when the access of Rikers Island was announced.

CNN's State of the Union With Jake Tapper and Dana Bash: Border Czar, Tom Homan: It's Not About Raiding Schools, Its About Arresting The Bad Guy | Part Two
CNN's State of the Union With Jake Tapper and Dana Bash [2/16/2025 9:29 AM, Staff] reports New York City Mayor Eric Adams says that Border Czar, Tom Homan isn't looking into New York schools or churches as they hunt for undocumented immigrants. Did Homan make that commitment to him? "What me and Mr. Adams talked about is telling the truth that the leftist has tried to scare the American people. We ended the sensitive location policy for one reason, because we're the only federal law enforcement agency that had those type of requirements. What I made clear to Governor -- to Mayor Adams is that we're not raiding schools, we're not raiding churches, we're not raiding college campuses, but if we have a significant public safety threat, significant public safety threat or national security, let's say, for instance, an MS-13 member who's a senior in the high school who's wanted for drug distribution or strong-arm robberies, we will go to that school and arrest that MS-13 member with the help of the local authorities. It's not about raiding the schools. It's about arresting one bad guy where we know he is and not let him escape back into the community. That's what discussion we had, " Border Czar Homan comments.

CBS' Face The Nation: Secretary Marco Rubio: "We Want Every Hostage Out As Soon As Possible." | Part One
CBS' Face The Nation [2/16/2025 11:47 AM, Staff, 4201K] reports Secretary of State Marco Rubio joins from Israel, as the negotiations with Hamas to end that conflict enter a crucial stage. Secretary Rubio me with Prime Minister Netanyahu. He said he's lockstep with the Trump administration, but he can't share details on – quote – "when the gates of hell will be open if all our hostages are not released." Does President Trump want to keep talks going to get to phase two of this hostage deal? "I think we share a common goal. We want to see every hostage released. Frankly, I think – and the president has said this – we want to see them out as soon as we possibly can. And – and, certainly, you know, the world has watched these images of people – and it's just heartbreaking to remember that some of them have been now almost two years there. It's a horrifying situation. So we coordinate and work very close with them. We share the goal that every hostage needs to come home, every single one, without delay. Obviously, the – there are details of how we're pursuing that and coordinating that we're not going to share publicly because we don't want to endanger the hostages and we don't want to endanger this process. But suffice it to say that, if it was up to us, every one of these hostages would be home right now, and we want it to happen as soon as possible, " Secretary Rubio comments.

CBS' Face The Nation: Secretary Marco Rubio: Speak With Russia's Top Diplomat | Part Two

CBS' Face The Nation [2/16/2025 11:47 AM, Staff, 4201K] reports Secretary Rubio had phone call with Russia's top diplomat, Sergey Lavrov. The Russian side claimed that trade restoration was discussed, which seemed to be a nod to sanctions, easing restrictions on diplomats, and other gestures like a high-level leaders meeting. Is the Trump administration considering lifting sanctions on Russia? " The phone call was to establish communications that are consistent with the call the president made last week with Vladimir Putin, because if we are – if there is going to be the possibility of – of progress here towards peace, we are going to need to talk to the Russians. I mean, that is going to have to happen, and we're going to have to be able to be able to do it across our channels." Secretary Rubio comments. When asked about the sanctions he had this to say: "I also raised in that conversation concerns that – well, we didn't go into any details. I mean, what we just discussed is basically the ability to begin communicating. I had never spoken to Mr. Lavrov in my life, so it was an opportunity for us to begin to open that channel of communication, which, again, if there's the potential for peace here, that's a channel that has to exist. But let me add one more thing. I also raised the issue of our embassy in Moscow, which operates under very difficult conditions. I raised that because it's important. It's going to be very difficult to engage in communication with Russia about anything if our embassy is not functioning. And he raised concerns about his diplomatic mission in the United States. So, at a very basic level, if, in fact, there is going to be an opportunity here to pursue peace by engaging with the Russians, we're going to need to have functional embassies in Moscow and in Washington, D.C., and that's certainly something foreign ministers would talk about as a matter of normal course."

NBC's Meet the Press: President Volodymyr Zelensky Speaks About NATO Membership | Part One

NBC's Meet the Press [2/16/2025 11:15 AM, Staff, 5130K] reports President Trump said, he does not think Ukrainian membership in NATO is, quote, practical. President Volodymyr Zelensky is asked "In your view, is NATO membership something that should be determined as a part of this deal?" "Well, I want to be very clear with NATO for us and for everybody. It's the cheapest security guarantees, the cheapest for us, the cheapest for Europe, the cheapest for United States and the cheapest really for Russia. And if we are not in NATO, it means that we will build NATO in Ukraine. Otherwise, we will not recognize the security guarantees." Zelensky comments. President Trump said on Wednesday that restoring all of the territory seized by Russia since 2014 is unlikely. Zelensky is asked "Are you willing to say here that you are prepared to formally cede some of the sovereign territory of Ukraine to Russia in order to stop the killing?" "Judicially, we will not recognize everybody and standards, it's out of constitution to recognize our occupied territory like territory of Russia. We will never do it. It's not about – it's not about any negotiations. We will never speak about it.' Zelensky comments.

NBC's Meet the Press: President Volodymyr Zelensky: No Good Faith In Putin | Part Two

NBC's Meet the Press [2/16/2025 11:15 AM, Staff, 5130K] reports President Volodymyr Zelensky is asked is he thinks President Trump is negotiating in good faith. Zelensky says he hopes and counts on it very much, but when asked if he believes Putin is Putin capable of negotiating in good faith Zelensky said no. "He conducted military training exercises, he said that these are exercises that are always ongoing on Belarus territories, that they are a

allied state with Belarus and that they do regular business. But he started the invasion, and the missiles, and the first night flew from the Belarus, and the invasion came from Belarus. We know for sure that he is preparing that from the territory of Belarus this year. It can happen in summer, maybe in the beginning, maybe in the end of summer. I do not know when he prepares it. But it will happen. And at that moment, knowing that he did not succeed in occupying us, we do not know where he will go. There are risks that this can be Poland and Lithuania because we believe – we believe that Putin will wage war against NATO. That is why I told you that, "What is he waiting for?" For a weakening of NATO by, for instance, policy of the United States of America, for example, that the United States of America will think to take its military from Europe. Yes, Putin thinks of that. But I will believe that the United States will not take its forces, its contingents from Europe because that will severely weaken NATO and the European continent. Putin definitely counts on that. And the fact that we receive information that he will think of the invasion against former Soviet republics. And forgive me, but today these are NATO countries." Zelensky states.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement

CNN/VOA News: US 'border czar' unhappy with pace of migrant arrests

CNN [2/16/2025 11:53 AM, Dana Bash, 22417K] reports White House border czar Tom Homan tells CNN's Dana Bash "we have got to do more" to increase the number of immigration arrests. [Editorial note: consult video at source link] VOA News [2/16/2025 1:16 PM, Ken Bredemeier, 2717K] reports Tom Homan told CNN's "State of the Union" show that 14,000 migrants had been arrested since Trump was inaugurated January 20, but said, "We've got to do a lot more." Many of those arrested have been flown back to their native lands or sent to the prison on the U.S. naval base at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba, while some have been released to live in the United States pending court proceedings. The U.S. estimates that 11 million undocumented migrants are living in the U.S., with Trump pledging during his 2024 run for the presidency to find and deport "millions" of them. Officials say that the first arrests have targeted migrants convicted of crimes in the U.S. but that anyone living in the country without proper immigration documentation could be targeted. Homan said the number being deported is "a lot higher" than under the former administration of President Joe Biden, but added, "We've got to get the targeting and production up. It's hard work."

Washington Examiner: Homan focuses on making illegal drug cartels in US 'eradicated'

Washington Examiner [2/17/2025 7:00 AM, Asher Notheis, 2365K] reports that Border czar Tom Homan underscored how the United States is determined to target the "foothold" that drug cartels have within the country, thanking President Donald Trump for aiding him in fighting gangs, such as Tren de Aragua. Homan detailed how some drug cartels are operating in almost four dozen different countries, and have drastically increased their businesses to having a hold of "every major city" within the U.S. As such, he and the U.S. Immigration Customs and Enforcement are "concentrating" on drug cartels and the Venezuelan gang Tren de Aragua. "They have a strong foothold here, and that's why we're concentrating on drug cartels, concentrating on TDA, Tren de Aragua, I'm not going to be happy till every single one of Tren de Aragua is out of this country," Homan stated on Fox News's Sunday Morning Futures with Maria Bartiromo. "They need to be eradicated, along with MS-13." Homan added that Trump has proven to be pivotal in combating illegal immigration, specifically how the president deemed Tren de Aragua a "terrorist"

organization. He also forewarned that the U.S. will bring "the weight of the world" on this gang, and that Trump will "wipe them off the face of the earth" before he leaves office.

The Hill: Homan says he's asked DOJ whether Ocasio-Cortez is impeding ICE
The Hill [2/17/2025 4:48 PM, Ailia Zehra, 16346K] reports President Trump's "border czar" Tom Homan said Monday he asked the Department of Justice (DOJ) whether Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez's (D-N.Y.) efforts to educate people about their rights while facing Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is impeding the agency's operations. Speaking on Fox News, Homan said he finds it disturbing that "any member of Congress wants to educate people how they evade law enforcement." "You can claim you [are] educating [them about] constitutional rights," he said, adding, "But what she [Ocasio-Cortez] is, in fact, doing is telling people 'don't open the door, hide in your home, don't talk to ICE.'". "We are talking about people who are in the country illegally [and have] committed a crime. They are public safety threats," he continued, saying that federal judges have ordered the removal of many such individuals. "It's like AOC and others don't want ICE to enforce the law that they enacted," Homan said, referencing the congress member. When the Fox News host asked him if he thought Ocasio-Cortez was breaking the law, Homan said he would leave that question to the DOJ. This is not the first time Homan has suggested the possibility of action against Ocasio-Cortez for her attempts to educate people about their rights during ICE raids.

Reported similarly:
Washington Examiner [2/16/2025 12:36 PM, Jenny Goldsberry, 2365K]

FOX News: [MA] Boston police commissioner doubles down on ICE resistance: 'We don't enforce' detainers
FOX News [2/17/2025 5:26 PM, Peter Pinedo, 49889K] reports Democrat-appointed Boston Police Commissioner Michael Cox is echoing Mayor Michelle Wu's pledged resistance to the Trump administration's deportations, saying on a local news station on Sunday that "we don't enforce" civil immigration detainers filed by ICE. While speaking on a segment of WCVB's "On the Record" show, Cox, who was appointed as police commissioner by Wu in 2022, said that in line with state and city laws, Boston police officers "don't have authority to enforce federal immigration law." Pressed on whether this policy conflicts with federal immigration law, Cox said that "the Boston Police Department has pretty defined rules and we abide by the law here in the state." "We just don't do that," he said. "We don't enforce civil detainers regarding federal immigration law. It's defined here in the state, and that's just how it works." Both the Boston "Trust Act," passed in 2014, and a 2017 Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court ruling known as Lunn vs. Commonwealth both limit law enforcement entities in the city and state from cooperating with ICE "detainer" requests to hold illegal immigrants for potential deportation. Speaking on the same show shortly after the presidential election, Wu said: "Elections have consequences, and the federal government is responsible for a certain set of actions, and cities, no individual city, can reverse or override some parts of that. But what we can do is make sure that we are doing our part to protect our residents in every possible way, that we are not cooperating with those efforts that actually threaten the safety of everyone by causing widespread fear and having large scale economic impact." ICE has said that such policies endanger local communities by forcing the agency to track down illegals and to make often high-risk arrests in public spaces.

WHTM: [PA] Man wanted for murder in Philadelphia arrested in Lancaster County
WHTM [2/16/2025 12:39 PM, Hayden Sherry] reports a man wanted in Philadelphia for murder was arrested by Lancaster County police and detained by the Department of Homeland Security. According to the Columbia Borough Police Department, authorities were alerted that 36-year-old Wascar Del Rosario-Ernestor was wanted out of Philadelphia for homicide (murder) and received information about his whereabouts. Columbia Police say they conducted a warrant service in the 200 block of Locust Street and located Del Rosario-Ernestor on a rooftop. He was taken into custody without incident yesterday. Del Rosario-Ernestor has been confirmed not to be a U.S. Citizen and was issued a detainer by The Department of Homeland Security (DOHS) (ICE), per police. Del Rosario-Ernestor was committed to Lancaster County Prison on charges of arrest before requisition, the Philadelphia murder charges, and the DOHS ICE detainer.

FOX News: [FL] Florida sheriff says ICE partnership only the beginning in illegal migrant crackdown
FOX News [2/17/2025 4:00 AM, Sarah Rumpf-Whitten] reports a Florida sheriff said leveraging relationships with federal immigration enforcement officials is the "tip of the spear" to fight criminal migrants. St. Johns County is part of the 287(g) program that allows U.S. Immigration and Customs Protection (ICE) to delegate to state and local law enforcement officers certain immigration functions, including identifying and detaining suspected illegal immigrants. St. Johns County Sheriff Rob Hardwick shared how his department is working with federal immigration authorities.

WCMH: [OH] Mexican national with prior drug trafficking conviction arrested in Fayette County
WCMH [2/16/2025 8:00 AM, Adam Conn] reports a Mexican national citizen, previously convicted of felony drug charges in the United States, was arrested Thursday by federal agents in Fayette County. According to the United States Attorney for the Southern District of Ohio, federal agents arrested 34-year-old Pedro Marquez, of Bloomingburg, which is north of Washington Court House. Marquez, who was initially deported from the United States in 2009, is charged with illegally reentering the country after being convicted of an aggravated felony. Two years later, Marquez was convicted of participating in a drug trafficking conspiracy and illegally reentering the United States. Convicted of possession with intent to distribute 500 grams or more of methamphetamine in 2011, Marquez was sentenced to federal prison. Five years later, he was again removed from the country. On Thursday, investigators observed Marquez exit a home in Bloomingburg and was arrested for violating U.S. immigration laws. He told Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers his true name is Alex Ravis Vasquez but has previously used Pedro Marquez and Peter Marquez during prior immigration and criminal encounters.

Newsweek: [MI] Michigan Police Defy Donald Trump's Mass Deportation Plan
Newsweek [2/17/2025 12:41 PM, Billal Rahman, 56005K] reports Michigan law enforcement agencies are pushing back against President Donald Trump's mass deportation plans, citing a lack of resources to carry out large-scale immigration enforcement. President Donald Trump was elected after a campaign heavily focused on immigration and the promise of deporting millions of people who have no legal status in the U.S. A New York Times/Ipsos survey (January 2-10) found that 55 percent of voters back Trump's mass deportation plan, while 88 percent support deporting immigrants with criminal records who have no legal permission to live in the U.S. Most Democrats and Republicans agree that the

immigration system is broken. Multiple police departments told the Detroit Free Press that they lack the time, funding, or interest to enact Trump's mass deportation policies. State agencies and education institutions could risk losing federal funding if they do not cooperate with the Trump administration, and the Department of Justice (DOJ) has directed prosecutors to investigate state officials who impede President Trump's crackdown on immigration. The Michigan House of Representatives adopted a resolution that requires local governments and universities to ensure their policies, "do not include language that requires, encourages or supports subverting immigration enforcement in any way or refusing to comply with federal immigration enforcement measures." Grand Rapids Police Chief Eric Winstrom has been one of Michigan's most vocal opponents of assisting ICE, refusing to support the Trump administration's immigration efforts. When asked by the Detroit Free Press about a potential federal investigation, he appeared unconcerned. "I am confident GRPD's policy of declining to participate in immigration enforcement with the federal government is on sound legal footing. As our policy makes clear, they have their responsibilities and we have ours," he said.

Border Report: [TX] 36 migrants found in tractor-trailer at remote Border Patrol checkpoint

Border Report [2/17/2025 6:06 PM, Sandra Sanchez, 153K] reports a South Texas man has pleaded guilty to smuggling 36 immigrants in the back of a tractor-trailer, according to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Eusebio Cavazos, 33, of Alamo, pleaded guilty in federal court to transporting aliens into or within the United States, ICE says. Prosecutors say Cavazos was stopped by immigration officials on Dec. 13, 2024, after he drove a tractor-trailer into the primary inspection lane at the Border Patrol checkpoint in Sarita in Kenedy County, Texas. A canine unit flagged the truck and it was sent to secondary inspection where officials say they discovered 36 undocumented immigrants inside the trailer, which was not carrying anything else. This included 15 Guatemalans, 10 Hondurans, eight Mexican nationals and three from El Salvador, ICE says. "The days of transnational criminal organizations raking in billions in illicit profits each year by trampling on our nation's sovereignty and flooding our country with millions of unvetted aliens who could present a threat to public safety or national security are over," ICE Homeland Security Investigations Houston Special Agent in Charge Chad Plantz said. "The law enforcement community in Southeast Texas is united in our effort to restore law and order along the southern border by aggressively pursuing and dismantling human smuggling organizations and other criminal organizations who are bold enough to test our collective resolve."

FOX News: [TX] ICE arrests 'predator' migrant convicted of secretly recording others in bathroom

FOX News [2/17/2025 2:22 PM, Peter Pinedo, 49889K] reports ICE officials in Houston arrested an immigrant "predator" previously convicted of secretly recording others in a bathroom in one of the latest developments in President Donald Trump's immigration crackdown. The immigrant, Mexican national Daniel Alejandro Tristan-Guerra, was arrested by Houston Homeland Security Investigations officials "when his guard was down" on Feb. 11, according to an ICE statement released on Friday. Tristan-Guerra, 28, was arrested in a small town called Hallettsville in Lavaca County, Texas. After his arrest, he was taken to the Victoria County Jail pending his removal from the U.S. While several law enforcement entities in Democrat-controlled cities and states are refusing to cooperate with the Trump administration's immigration enforcement operations, this arrest was made following a joint investigation by ICE and the Victoria County Sheriff's Office. Tristan-Guerra was convicted

on two counts of invasive visual recording in a bathroom in August 2021 after an investigation by ICE HSI Houston and the Victoria County Sheriff's Office. ICE and federal agents in Houston have been very active in recent weeks, making several arrests in addition to Tristan-Guerra, including the arrest of several suspected members of the international criminal migrant group Tren de Aragua.

Yahoo! News: [KS] Kansas AG Kris Kobach says KBI agents will work with ICE on illegal immigration

Yahoo! News [2/17/2025 5:15 PM, Jason Alatidd, 57114K] reports Kansas state law enforcement officers will assist federal officials with Immigrations and Customs Enforcement on illegal immigration cases, Attorney General Kris Kobach announced Monday. Kobach said the attorney general's office and the Kansas Bureau of Investigation have signed an agreement with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security allowing KBI agents to work with ICE on removing "criminal illegal aliens" from Kansas. "All across Kansas, illegal aliens who are dangerous criminals or gang members are released back to the streets on a regular basis," Kobach said in a statement. "That will end. This agreement will ensure that those criminals are deported." Kansas Attorney General Kris Kobach speaks with the media outside of the Kansas Statehouse on Monday, Feb. 17, 2025. Kansas is among the first states to enter such an agreement, Kobach's office said, which is under Section 287(g) of the Immigration and Nationality Act. "Under the terms of the agreement," the attorney general's office said in a news release, "a limited number of KBI agents will receive ICE training that authorizes the agents to arrest illegal aliens, to serve and execute warrants for some immigration violations, and to issue immigration detainers." "The KBI is pleased to have another tool at our disposal to get known criminal offenders out of our communities," KBI director Tony Mattivi said in a statement. "This agreement will not shift KBI investigative priorities but will allow us to more swiftly achieve justice in cases in which the KBI currently focuses — major violent crimes, crimes committed against children, and targeting drug trafficking organizations."

Yahoo! News: [WA] Push for inspections at Tacoma immigration detention center reemerges in WA Legislature

Yahoo! News [2/17/2025 7:21 PM, Jacquelyn Jimenez Romero, 57114K] reports mist shrouds the state Capitol dome in Olympia, Wash. on Jan. 27, 2025. (Bill Lucia/Washington State Standard) Following multiple lawsuits involving the Northwest ICE Processing Center in Tacoma, state lawmakers are pushing again for greater transparency at the for-profit immigrant detention center. House Bill 1232, sponsored by Rep. Lillian Ortiz-Self, D-Mukilteo, would expand the definition of private detention facilities to include those run by nonprofit organizations. In fighting the state's attempts at oversight in court, The GEO Group, which runs the Tacoma facility, claimed they were singled out by previous legislation. "If they really had nothing to hide, they would have opened their doors," Ortiz-Self said. The Northwest ICE Processing Center is the only privately run adult detention facility in the state. GEO operates the center under a contract with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. The Martin Hall Juvenile Detention Facility, near Spokane, is not-for-profit and would be covered by this year's bill. Through this legislation, Ortiz-Self hopes to demonstrate the state is not targeting a single facility. "It's really very simple, you do business in the state of Washington, you should uphold some basic human standards," Ortiz-Self said. "We would go after any other private detention facility," she added, "but we don't have any others." The bill also includes some changes to the standards the state is seeking to enforce at the facilities, sets out new civil penalties for violations, and would

make inspection findings available to the public. GEO did not return a request for comment. Debate over the legislation comes as President Donald Trump has pursued a set of hardline immigration policies since taking office last month. The Northwest ICE Processing Center is the largest immigration detention site in the region, with the capacity to hold about 1,575 people. For years, it has been the subject of complaints over human rights violations.

FOX 11: [CA] ICE raids: Latest arrests made in Southern California
FOX 11 [2/17/2025 10:08 AM, Staff] reports nearly a month into President Donald Trump's second term and his efforts to crack down on illegal immigration, federal officers continue to make arrests across the U.S., including in Southern California. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents began targeting major sanctuary cities immediately after Trump's inauguration Monday, including Los Angeles, Chicago, and Atlanta. The following day, Trump lifted longtime guidelines that restricted ICE from operating at "sensitive locations" such as schools, churches or hospitals.

Newsweek: [CA] California Beach Town Wants Cameras To Stop Migrants
Newsweek [2/17/2025 7:45 AM, Billal Rahman, 56005K] reports that a California beach town southeast of Los Angeles in Orange County is stepping up efforts to monitor its coastline amid a rise in migrant-smuggling by boat. San Clemente officials want federal authorities to install cameras along the shore, aiming to enhance security and deter illegal crossings. Illegal border crossings have fallen under President Donald Trump as Republicans look to "secure the border." Trump has implemented hard-line immigration reforms, including limiting asylum opportunities and lifting restrictions on Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers making arrests at sensitive locations such as schools, churches and hospitals. In response, many Democrat-led cities and states have reinforced their sanctuary policies, which restrict local law enforcement from cooperating with federal immigration authorities. However, some cities in sanctuary states have begun to break away from protecting undocumented migrants. "In the last month or so, we've had a large increase in the number of pangas [fishing boats] that have come up on our beach," San Clemente Mayor Steve Knoblock told Fox News Digital. "It happens, and nobody seems to notice. No one seems to capture it. There's no interdiction, and we've been having them with much greater frequency," he said.

Citizenship and Immigration Services

VOA News: [CA] Deportations bring uncertainty for California farm workers and local growers
VOA News [2/17/2025 5:25 AM, Genia Dulot, 2717K] reports that in central California, it is harvesting season for strawberries and citrus fruits. But some farm workers who aren't legal U.S. residents are staying away from work, following migrant roundups that are part of President Donald Trump's crackdown on illegal immigration. [Editorial note: consult video at source link]

Customs and Border Protection

Newsweek: Border Patrol Ditching Body Cameras: Report

Newsweek [2/17/2025 6:32 AM, Billal Rahman, 56005K] reports that Border Patrol agents will immediately cease using body cameras in the field, multiple sources have confirmed to NewsNation. Newsweek contacted Customs and Border Protection for comment via email outside normal office hours. President Donald Trump, who made border security and strict immigration measures key elements of his 2024 campaign, has pledged to carry out the largest mass deportation program in U.S. history. With increased immigration enforcement actions expected under his administration, body-worn cameras are arguably essential for Border Patrol agents as they enhance transparency, accountability and public trust by providing an objective record of interactions. Removing body cameras could reduce oversight and transparency, potentially undermining public confidence in border enforcement operations. According to sources cited by NewsNation, the policy change applies to all operational activities and has been driven by social media posts that discuss ways of identifying Border Patrol or Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents. "All U.S. Border Patrol Agents will cease the use of body-worn cameras (BWC) in all operational environments," a statement to Border Patrol agents said, according to the outlet.

Reported similarly:
FOX News [2/16/2025 12:41 PM, Michael Lee, 49889K]

Border Report: New Border Patrol chief discusses changes, support for agents
Border Report [2/17/2025 11:31 AM, Staff, 153K] reports the highest-ranking U.S. Border Patrol Chief visited the Rio Grande Valley Friday to speak with agents on the line and commission 300 National Guardsmen with the authority to detain and arrest people who are illegally entering the country. Chief Mike Banks is no stranger to the U.S. Border Patrol. Banks has merit and the experience to get the job done. The U.S. Navy Veteran has over 23 years of experience in border security operations, even holding high-ranking official titles here in the Rio Grande Valley. “This is my forever home, the valley has a special place in my heart, I got married and fell in love here and I’m very excited to come back to the U.S. Border Patrol,” said Banks, “My number one priority is to empower the agents to do the job. They can expect a level of accountability and someone that is going to have their back, without fear of appraisal even when they haven’t done anything wrong.” Banks says he plans on doing that by updating and reviewing policies.

FOX News: House Democrat’s smear of Border Patrol bill backfires after dozens of Dems support it: ‘Fearmongering’
FOX News [2/17/2025 1:18 PM, Cameron Arcand, 49889K] reports a House Democrat’s strategy to demonize legislation aimed at making it a federal crime to try to evade law enforcement within 100 miles of the border backfired last week after dozens of House Democrats voted in favor of the bill. "I urge my colleagues to oppose H.R. 35. Let’s call this bill what it is: fearmongering dressed up as officer safety," Rep. Janelle Bynum, D-Ore., said last week about the bill named after late Border Patrol Agent Raul Gonzalez, who died in a pursuit in 2022. House Resolution 35 would make individuals convicted of "intentionally fleeing" law enforcement in a vehicle subject to up to two years in prison and fines. If the police chase results in a death, the individual could face up to life imprisonment under the legislation, and potentially face deportation if the person involved is in the country illegally. "This bill echoes one of the darkest chapters in our nation’s history, ‘The Fugitive Slave Act of 1850.’ Just like that shameful law, H.R. 35 forces local authorities and encourages the deputizing of randos to do the federal government’s work, punishing them if they refuse. Back then, it was hunting people down who dared to seek freedom. Today, it’s forcing local

police to become federal enforcers," she continued in her House floor speech. Regardless, the bill passed 264-155, with 50 Democrats voting in favor, including a handful in border states. The legislation is now in the hands of the Senate, where Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, is leading the charge on the proposal. "This bill delivers a clear message to anyone who endangers our community that they will be held accountable to the fullest extent of the law," Rep. Juan Ciscomani, R-Ariz., said about the legislation he is sponsoring.

Yahoo! News: Recent drug seizures at ports of entry in 3 states top $32M
Yahoo! News [2/17/2025 2:25 PM, Noi Mahoney, 57114K] reports more than $32.6 million worth of cocaine, fentanyl and methamphetamine has been seized over the past month from commercial shipments at ports of entry in Texas, Michigan and Washington. U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers at Pharr-Reynosa International Bridge found $19.8 million in methamphetamine and $144,500 worth of heroin concealed in a shipment of cucumbers and jalapenos. CBP officers were checking a tractor-trailer arriving from Mexico at the bridge in Pharr, Texas, on Feb. 4 when they found 26 packages of suspected heroin weighing 7 pounds and 8,206 packages of suspected methamphetamine weighing 2,218 pounds. CBP seized the narcotics and the tractor-trailer, and the case was turned over to the Department of Homeland Security. The seizure occurred Jan. 24 when officers were searching a commercial truck arriving from Mexico. CBP officers found nearly 890 pounds of suspected methamphetamine hidden in the shipment. CBP seized the narcotics, and Homeland Security Investigations is investigating the case. Truck driver Muhammad Shaikh was charged with possession with intent to distribute 240 pounds of cocaine as the result of an investigation and vehicle inspection Tuesday at the Ambassador Bridge, according to the Detroit Free Press.

WSBTV: [GA] Border patrol officers save the life of woman having medical emergency at Atlanta airport
WSBTV [2/16/2025 11:52 PM, Staff] reports the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers in Atlanta saved the life of a woman they say experiencing a medical emergency at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport in January. On January 5 just after 8 a.m., officials with border protection noticed a traveler collapse near the inspection area. Mary Mellette, 74, from Charleston, S.C. arrived at the airport after a 15-hour flight from Johannesburg, South Africa. Officers began to provide life support to Mellette after she went unconscious, was unresponsive and had no pulse. At the request of the family, responding CBP officers met Mellette and her sister at the Atlanta area hospital where she received medical treatment. Later, she was released to her home to receive further medical care and continue her recovery. Even though she experienced a medical emergency, Mellette still received her passport stamp while officer Graham visited her in the hospital.

FOX News: [IL] CBP finds 161K fake US stamps in shipment from China
FOX News [2/16/2025 8:00 AM, Stephen Sorace] reports more than 161,000 counterfeit U.S. Forever stamps from China were recently seized in Chicago, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) said Thursday. Anti-Terrorism Contraband Enforcement officers at the Chicago International Mail Branch stopped eight shipments containing a total of 161,860 fake stamps that violated trademark laws last weekend, CBP said. All the parcels were arriving from China, according to authorities, and would be valued at over $118,000 if real.

Newsweek: [TX] US Border Guard Allegedly in Violent Mexican Drug Cartel

Newsweek [2/17/2025 11:44 AM, Billal Rahman, 56005K] reports that a U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officer smuggled migrants and has ties to a violent Mexican drug cartel, prosecutors have told a federal court. Newsweek has contacted CBP for further comment. The case raises concerns about corruption within border enforcement agencies. President Donald Trump has vowed to crack down on drug cartels after he signed executive orders declaring them as foreign terrorist organizations. A federal magistrate judge ordered CBP Officer Manuel Perez Jr., 32, of El Paso, to be held without bond following a detention hearing on Thursday, Feb. 13, in federal court in Downtown El Paso. Perez Jr is affiliated with La Línea, also known as the Juárez drug cartel, investigators alleged at his arraignment. Perez's employment was terminated on February 8 following his arrest by the FBI El Paso West Texas Border Corruption Task Force on federal charges of drug and human smuggling. He faces between 10 years to life in prison if he is convicted. A special agent testified that Perez admitted to receiving $2,500 for each undocumented person he allowed to pass through his inspection lane at the Paso Del Norte International Bridge in Downtown El Paso. Prosecutors said that Perez may have received up to $400,000 as part of a border migrant smuggling operation that began in December 2023, according to the El Paso Times. Perez remains in federal custody as the case moves forward.

Yahoo! News: [TX] U.S. Marshals visit southern border

Yahoo! News [2/17/2025 8:30 PM, Kerry Charles, 57114K] reports the U.S. Marshal's Service is playing a key role in a coordinated effort with the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to address illegal entries into the country. Marshal Michael Black with the Southern District of Ohio recently visited the border and shared his insights. Black's team is prioritizing local cases involving fugitives who are in the country illegally. The marshal and several of his counterparts from throughout the country recently met with federal judges, Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), and border patrol agents to see firsthand how they are enforcing the Trump administration's new policies. Del Rio, Texas, sits along the U.S. Southern border with Mexico, more than 1,400 miles from Columbus. "HSI and ICE immigration and the DOJ direction for us to get involved in and assist in immigration in the Immigration Enforcement Initiative," Black said. "I wanted to get a better handle and a better understanding of how that's going to impact us in the interior states." According to Black, this particular border crossing has seen a significant decrease in illegal crossings, averaging 50 per day, down from 1,500 per day in 2022. "While we're down there, we actually saw standing on the border, looking across into Mexico, standing at the fence, we saw no activity at all. Zero activity," Black said. On Feb. 5, the group visited Robb Elementary School in Uvalde and learned about the tactics used by marshal's teams in response to a mass shooting nearly three years ago in which 19 children and two adults lost their lives.

Newsweek: [NM] War on Drug Cartels Ramps Up at America's Blue Border

Newsweek [2/17/2025 5:20 AM, Billal Rahman and Sophie Clark, 6595K] reports that Fentanyl overdoses have been at crisis levels in New Mexico for the past three years. State leaders are calling for a mix of punitive and community-based strategies to combat the fatal drug amid a White House push to seal off the Southern border. While President Donald Trump has sent troops to the U.S.-Mexico border to curb immigration and the flow of fentanyl, a move backed by New Mexico Republicans, many Democrats in the blue border state of New Mexico have said his policy will do little to help residents who are suffering from addiction or are at risk from the cartels. The most recent data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) shows that in 2022 the state recorded one of the

highest overdose rates in the country from the synthetic opioid, with fentanyl-related deaths making up 63 percent of fatalities. This rose in 2023, with fentanyl use making up 66.7 percent of drug-related deaths in the state. Fentanyl remains a killer, even as New Mexico has seen a fall in total overdose deaths across the state, per New Mexico Health. Ash Soular, a spokeswoman for the Republican Party of New Mexico, told Newsweek that state Republicans back Trump's plans to use the military to curb the flow of drugs entering the country.

Border Report: [NM] Sunland Park Fire, Border Patrol rescue female from Mount Cristo Rey

Border Report [2/17/2025 3:50 PM, Dave Burge, 153K] reports Sunland Park Fire assisted Border Patrol with rescuing an unconscious female patient who was found Sunday evening, Feb. 16 on Mount Cristo Rey in Sunland Park, New Mexico. The female, no age given, was found at about 7:30 p.m. Sunday near the railroad tracks on Mount Cristo Rey and was transported to Fire Station No. 1, Sunland Park Fire said. Sunland Park Fire crews and Border Patrol provided patient care until an ambulance arrived. She regained consciousness before transport and was taken in for further evaluation, Sunland Park Fire said.

FOX News: [CA] San Diego migrant shelter closes after no new arrivals since Trump took office; over 100 employees laid off

FOX News [2/16/2025 8:11 PM, Stepheny Price and Bill Melugin, 49889K] reports that a San Diego migrant shelter is closing its doors and laying off more than 100 employees because of funding and policy changes under the Trump administration. The Jewish Family Service of San Diego, which has operated a regional migrant shelter for over six years, announced it will close its facility and lay off 115 employees due to "changes in federal funding and policy." "Jewish Family Service of San Diego (JFS) is working to meet the evolving needs of the community in response to recent and anticipated federal policy changes," the organization previously said. The non-governmental organization (NGO) said they have not received new asylum-seeking families or individuals since the CBP One phone app went down on Jan. 20. The app, which ultimately allowed immigrants to be paroled into the U.S., was created during the first Trump administration to assist with scheduling cargo inspections. As of the end of December, more than 936,500 individuals had made appointments to be paroled through the app, according to Customs and Border Protection.

FOX News: [CA] Wealthy California beach town skirts state's sanctuary law in planned migrant boat crackdown

FOX News [2/17/2025 4:00 AM, Louis Casiano, 49889K] reports as other California cities double down on sanctuary policies to protect illegal immigrants, one coastal enclave is looking to work directly with border authorities to monitor its beaches 24 hours a day in an effort to thwart boats carrying illegal migrants. San Clemente city leaders told City Manager Andy Hall earlier this month to coordinate with U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to discuss installing and using existing cameras to watch over the city's 7 miles of coastline. Mayor Steve Knoblock told Fox News Digital the cameras are intended to deter illegal immigration and other criminal activity. He noted that small fishing boats called pangas often come ashore to drop off illegal migrants who disappear inland. A woman walks along the beach north of the San Clemente Pier as waves crash against the rocks just below the railroad tracks in San Clemente, Calif. "In the last month or so, we've had a large increase

in the number of pangas that have come up on our beach," he said. "It happens, and nobody seems to notice. No one seems to capture it. There's no interdiction, and we've been having them with much greater frequency." The city has cameras on its pier to monitor the beach for marine safety issues but none that monitor the ocean, said Knoblock. He suggested turning the cameras toward the water and adding technological upgrades. At a Feb. 4 meeting, the City Council agreed to contact the U.S. Border Patrol to inquire about working together to surveil the waters off the city, the mayor said.

FOX News: [Canada] Illegal-smuggling coyotes now advertising at Canada border amid Trump migrant crackdown: report
FOX News [2/17/2025 12:20 PM, Michael Ruiz, 49889K] reports Canadian traffickers are advertising an alleged human smuggling operation for illegals looking to enter the U.S. across the northern border openly on TikTok, according to a new report. "cad to usa," reads a screenshot of a message from user @helper4731. 'dm me.' The account and several others like it were no longer accessible Monday. The legitimacy of the advertisements could not immediately be confirmed, but TikTok told Fox News Digital the videos had been removed because they violate the platform's community standards, which prohibit content that promotes any form of human smuggling. "The danger is they're gonna go where we're not," Rep. Ryan Zinke, a Montana Republican and chairman of the Northern Border Security Caucus, told Fox News. "The northern border has had hundreds of crossings from people on the terrorist watch list." Driving east to west along the border in Montana alone takes 10 hours, he said, and most of the territory is unprotected. "[There's] a lot of border and a lot of distance between officers," he said. The New York Post uncovered at least a half-dozen northern coyote advertisers, primarily targeting illegals from India, who are often wealthier than South American migrants. The accounts allegedly advertise "safe," same-day crossings for $4,000 or more. Of nearly 1.8 million single adults from India encountered by Border Patrol agents last year, just over 150,000 of them came into the U.S. from Canada, according to government data.

Transportation Security Administration

New York Times: String of Air Crashes in 2025 Has Rattled Travelers
New York Times [2/17/2025 11:34 PM, Qasim Nauman, 161405K] reports the Delta Air Lines crash at Toronto Pearson International Airport on Monday is the latest in a series of accidents this year that has spread anxiety among air travelers and prompted sharp criticism of American aviation regulators. On the night of Jan. 29, an American Airlines plane was approaching Washington's Reagan National Airport when it collided with an Army helicopter that was on a training mission. The collision set off a fireball and sent both aircraft and 67 people — 64 on the Bombardier CRJ700 and three on the UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter — crashing into the Potomac River. There were no survivors. It was the deadliest air crash in the United States in 20 years. In the aftermath, questions emerged about the flight paths of the helicopter and the plane, and whether staffing at Reagan National's air traffic control contributed to the collision. An investigation is ongoing. A small medical plane slammed into the ground in northeast Philadelphia a minute after taking off on Jan. 31, bursting into fire and engulfing homes and vehicles in flames. All six people on board, and one person on the ground, were killed, the authorities said. The Learjet 55 was transporting a child who had completed treatment in Philadelphia to her home in Mexico. She was accompanied by her mother, and there were also two pilots, a doctor and a paramedic on board, according to Jet Rescue Air Ambulance, which operated the plane. A small

passenger plane carrying 10 people vanished on Feb. 6 as it was flying to Nome, Alaska. Its disappearance set off a massive search operation, with Coast Guard and Air Force planes scanning a remote area along the western coast of Alaska. The Cessna 208 Caravan was operated by Bering Air, a regional airline. Its wreckage, with the bodies of the pilot and nine passengers, was found the next day. Before it crashed, its pilot had told air traffic control that he intended to enter a holding pattern while waiting for the runway in Nome to be cleared, according to the Nome fire department. But Alaska's Transportation Department said the runway that the plane had been approaching had remained open throughout that day.

WPXI: [PA] Ohio woman accused of trying to bring gun through Pittsburgh International Airport without license

WPXI [2/16/2025 10:32 PM, Staff] reports an Ohio woman is accused of trying to bring a gun she did not have a license for through a checkpoint at the Pittsburgh International Airport. Allegheny County Police said they were called to the airport at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday. TSA workers told them Rachel Scott-Roth, 44, of Belmont, Ohio, had a gun in her carry-on bag at the main security checkpoint. Police said she did not have a valid concealed carry permit. The FBI was brought in to help investigate.

KDVR: [CO] More than 400 flights delayed, 12 canceled at DIA Sunday after snowy weekend

KDVR [2/16/2025 4:45 PM, Jacob Factor] reports more than 400 flights at Denver International Airport are delayed Sunday afternoon after a snowy weekend that already caused more than 1,000 delays. Nearly 1,100 flights were delayed in total Saturday as a snowstorm hit Denver, and as of 2:45 p.m. Sunday, 424 flights are delayed in and out of the airport. An additional 12 flights were canceled. United and Southwest airlines have the most delays, 156 and 126, respectively. Southwest and SkyWest airlines have four canceled flights each; United and Air Canace have two cancellations each as well. The delays are evenly divided between arrivals and departures, and most of the canceled flights were arriving flights into Denver.

Federal Emergency Management Agency

NPR: Deadly storms sweep through the South, leaving at least 12 dead

NPR [2/17/2025 12:43 PM, Joe Hernandez, 35747K] reports a major storm system with a deadly mix of heavy rains, winds and flash flooding swept through a large swath of the Southeast overnight, causing at least 11 fatalities in Kentucky and one in Georgia. The storms rendered some roads impassable, damaged buildings and knocked out power to hundreds of thousands of homes and businesses. The National Weather Service reported at least one tornado overnight in Alabama, and tornado warnings were issued in multiple states. Bob Oravec, lead forecaster with the National Weather Service in College Park, Md., said the slow-moving storm system dropped significant rainfall across parts of Kentucky, Arkansas and Tennessee during the day Saturday. Later, a line of thunderstorms that formed overnight moved more quickly through the area, dropping less rain but mixing with windy conditions. "The high winds across the South caused several reports of damage to trees, to homes, so a very impactful event," he said. Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear said at a Monday morning press conference that at least 11 people had been killed in the state during the storm, including a woman and child who died in floodwaters. He said the number

of fatalities could still rise. Another person died in Atlanta after a tree fell on their home, WANF reported. Beshear said all of Kentucky's 120 counties were impacted by the weekend storm. "The biggest challenge of this event is it's everywhere," he said. Parts of Kentucky received more than 6 inches of rain. Beshear said early Sunday afternoon that emergency response crews had already conducted more than 1,000 rescues in Kentucky. He urged Kentuckians to avoid driving if possible as floodwaters remained and search-and-rescue efforts were active. Some 142 people were being housed at state parks. President Trump approved Beshear's request for an emergency disaster declaration for Kentucky, which frees up federal funding for impacted areas. The governor said he had also spoken with Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem and that FEMA personnel had been deployed to the state.

Reported similarly:
AP [2/17/2025 9:17 AM, Jack Dura and Matthew Brown, 12036K]
CNN [2/16/2025 9:53 PM, Mary Gilbert, Dalia Faheid, Emma Tucker, Karina Tsui, Chris Boyette and Lauren Mascarenhas, 987K]

Yahoo! News: FEMA's flood insurance program to borrow billions to pay 2024 post-Hurricane claims
Yahoo! News [2/17/2025 5:33 PM, Chris Benson, 57114K] reports the Federal Emergency Management Agency says its National Flood Insurance Program was forced to borrow $2 billion to help pay claims following Hurricanes Milton and Helene to help cover many more billions of dollars in losses. "The widespread, devastating flooding following hurricanes Helene and Milton re-emphasizes the financial effects flooding can have not just to survivors, but also the National Flood Insurance Program," Elizabeth Asche, senior executive of the program, said in a statement. FEMA, which will borrow extra money from the U.S. Treasury, said that as of Feb. 6, the two hurricanes brought more than 78,000 claims, with an estimated $10 billion in possible losses. According to the Congressional Research Service, as of Jan. 25 the flood insurance program, which is administered by FEMA, had $615 million on hand to pay claims. "We are strategically utilizing short-term borrowings in 60-day increments, demonstrating our careful and responsible management of the borrowing authority," Asche said. The flood insurance program could face losses that total from $6 billion to $7.4 billion, officials say. As of last week, according to FEMA, more than 57,400 claims just for flood insurance that totaled more than $4 billion. That number was not broken down by state. "This borrowing action follows payouts in 2024 from several large-scale and back-to-back flooding events," FEMA officials said this week.

WAVY: [VA] Gov. Youngkin requests "Expedited Major Disaster Declaration" for winter storm relief
WAVY [2/16/2025 8:20 PM, Chrysnel Banzouzi] reports Virginia Governor Glenn Youngkin announced Sunday that he submitted an Expedited Major Disaster Declaration to President Trump to support the ongoing response and recovery efforts of communities impacted by the recent February winter storms. As the winter storms and flooding moved in, over seven inches of rain fell in some areas of Southwest Virginia with significant life-threatening flash flooding across Virginia's most vulnerable and least resourced areas, the Governor's Office said in a release. The release also added that throughout the regions, over 150 swift water rescues, including evacuations, were made on Sunday. Support efforts continue as high water is blocking access to critical facilities, and access to the hardest hit areas is not yet available due to receding water and debris.

Yahoo! News: [WV] One dead, several missing after 'devastating' floods hit WV's southern coalfields over the weekend

Yahoo! News [2/17/2025 7:32 PM, Caity Coyne, 57114K] reports Gov. Patrick Morrisey traveled to Southern West Virginia on Monday, Feb. 17, 2025, to meet with local officials and survey damage from the flooding that occurred over the weekend. (@wvgovernor X account). At least one person is dead following severe flooding in West Virginia's southern coalfields over the weekend. In a news briefing Monday, Gov. Patrick Morrisey said officials were working to contact the family of the deceased before sharing any information on their identity or the circumstances of the fatality with the public. Rainfall started in the southern part of the state early Saturday and culminated over hours. Leading into Sunday, there were multiple instances of flash flooding and high water in many of the region's waterways. The damage from the storms is unlike any seen in the coalfields region in the last 20 years, local officials said. "The Tug Fork River and the Bluestone River and some of their tributaries, they've been swollen, and they've experienced major flooding levels, which is something we haven't seen before in a very long time," Morrisey said on Monday. "That means that there's damage to significant numbers of structures and roads and significant evacuations [of] people to higher elevations." On Monday evening — after spending the afternoon surveying damage across the region — Morrisey announced that he would be issuing a formal request to President Donald Trump for a Major Disaster Declaration in West Virginia. "This will help unlock federal resources to support West Virginians hardest hit by the major flooding events of the past few days," Morrisey said in a statement.

AP: [NC] Some in Hurricane Helene-ravaged North Carolina embrace Trump's push to abolish FEMA

AP [2/16/2025 9:29 AM, Makiya Seminera, 33392K] Video: HERE reports Emily Russell remembers feeling hopeful after she managed to get an appointment with the Federal Emergency Management Agency not long after Hurricane Helene ripped though her home in Swannanoa, North Carolina. But after several assistance requests were denied or left pending, Russell says the agency has been of "no help" to her family after the late September storm. Still reeling in a world turned upside-down by the most damaging storm in state history, she finds herself open to President Donald Trump's suggestion about "getting rid of" FEMA. That is a common sentiment in the mountains of western North Carolina, where living in a trailer with limited supplies for months can try anyone's patience. Russell, who like many others did not have flood insurance, endured those stresses as she prepared for the birth of her son, but then volunteers stepped up to rebuild her home. Back there now, she can cradle her tiny infant in her arms on her newly constructed front porch — overlooking a heaping pile of rotting debris and two Trump-Vance signs posted to a pole in her yard. Frustration with stopgap relief efforts has been exacerbated by confusion over where long-term help should come from. FEMA is meant to be a first line, providing temporary housing and funding for repairs while insurance foots most of the bill. It is not the message residents heard initially, when politicians, including then-President Joe Biden, who toured the damaged area, promised residents they would have whatever they needed. As more time passes, the reality of long-term recovery has gotten complicated. To Russell and many others, Trump saying he would consider eliminating FEMA made sense. To some experts and officials, however, that could cause more problems than it would solve. Days after Trump took office on Jan. 20, he surveyed the fallout from wildfires in California and the hurricane in North Carolina and suggested that states primarily manage the response to natural disasters. As a candidate, he had disparaged FEMA's work in the southern states hit by Helene. That criticism, which began almost as soon as the wind stopped blowing, has not stopped. More recently, FEMA was criticized by Trump adviser Elon Musk over

payments to reimburse New York City for hotel costs for migrants. Four FEMA employees were fired, accused of circumventing leadership to make the transactions, which have been standard for years through a program that helps with costs to care for a surge in migration.

Reuters/AP/Miami Herald: [KY] Kentucky flooding death toll rises to 11 as snowstorm arrives

Reuters [2/17/2025 12:55 PM, Daniel Trotta, 48128K] reports the death toll from flooding in Kentucky rose to 11 on Monday with the potential to increase further as the state was due to get pummeled by a snowstorm that could jeopardize relief efforts, Governor Andy Beshear said. Search teams conducted more than 1,000 rescue missions in the wake of flash flooding that affected nearly all of Kentucky and several surrounding states on Saturday. Hundreds of people were displaced, more than 14,000 homes and businesses remained without power and another 17,000 had no water, Beshear said. The Kentucky National Guard was deployed with assistance from aviation crews from Indiana and Tennessee. Federal urban search and rescue teams from Ohio, Indiana and Tennessee also responded. Some parts of the state received more than 8 inches (200 mm) of rain while forecasts project up to 6 inches (150 mm) of snow on the way. "We are still in the search and rescue phase of this emergency. We still have multiple different missions that are underway. There are still people that are in harm's way," Beshear told a news conference. The AP [2/16/2025 8:43 PM, Dylan Lovan, 581K] reports Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear said Sunday that hundreds of people stranded by flooding had to be rescued. President Donald Trump approved the state's request for a disaster declaration, authorizing the Federal Emergency Management Agency to coordinate relief efforts throughout the state. Beshear said most of the deaths, including a mother and 7-year-old child, were caused by cars getting stuck in high water. "So folks, stay off the roads right now and stay alive," he said. "This is the search and rescue phase, and I am very proud of all the Kentuckians that are out there responding, putting their lives on the line." Beshear said there have been 1,000 rescues across the state since the storms began Saturday. The storms knocked out power to about 39,000 homes, but Beshear warned that harsh winds in some areas could increase outages. Parts of Kentucky and Tennessee received up to 6 inches (15 centimeters) of rain, said Bob Oravec, a senior forecaster with the National Weather Service. "The effects will continue for awhile, a lot of swollen streams and a lot of flooding going on," Oravec said Sunday. In Alabama, the weather service in Birmingham said it had confirmed an EF-1 tornado touched down overnight in Hale County. Storms there and elsewhere in the state destroyed or damaged a handful of mobile homes, downed trees and toppled power lines, but no injuries were immediately reported. Extensive damage to downtown roofs and buildings was reported in the northern city of Tuscumbia, with authorities asking people to avoid the area, according to WAFF-TV and other local media. A state of emergency was declared for parts of Obion County, Tennessee, after a levee failed on Saturday, flooding the small community of Rives, home to around 300 people in the western part of the state. "There will be mandatory evacuations in effect for the residents in Rives due to the rising water, no electricity, and freezing temperatures creating a life-threatening situation," Mayor Steve Carr said in a statement Sunday. In Atlanta, a person was killed when a large tree fell on a home early Sunday, according to Atlanta Fire Rescue Capt. Scott Powell. Dangerously cold wind chill temperatures as low as 50 degrees below zero (minus 45.6) were expected in most of North Dakota, which remained under an "extreme cold warning" along with parts of Montana and large swaths of South Dakota and Minnesota, according to the National Weather Service. The Miami Herald [2/16/2025 4:50 PM, Mark Moran and Allen Cone, 6595K] reports that around 400,000 customers are without power in the Southeast, according to Poweroutage.us, including more than 22,000

in Kentucky. Strong winds and heavy rain have pummeled Kentucky, West Virginia, Virginia, Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana. Much of the region remained under a flash flood warning on Sunday. At least one person is reported dead in Georgia.

Reported similarly:
CBS News [2/17/2025 1:03 PM, Staff, 52225K]
NBC News [2/17/2025 11:02 AM, Marlene Lenthang and Kathryn Prociv, 50804K]
Newsweek [2/16/2025 5:32 PM, Peter Aitken, 6595K]

CBS News/Newsweek: [KY] Beshear on FEMA, Trump administration's response as deadly flooding slams Kentucky
CBS News [2/17/2025 2:15 PM, Staff, 57114K] Video: HERE reports Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear weighed in on FEMA's role during natural disasters as his state deals with flooding that has claimed the lives of several people. CBS News' Karen Hua reports, and meteorologist Jessica Burch has the latest weather forecast. Newsweek [2/16/2025 5:32 PM, Peter Aitken, 6595K] reports that ahead of his Sunday press conference, Beshear said: "Kentucky, we are seeing dangerous and life-threatening conditions across the state, and things are only going to get tougher due to widespread flooding and incoming weather. Please stay alert and check on your neighbors. We will get through this together." President Donald Trump declared a state of emergency in Kentucky and ordered federal assistance to bolster rescue efforts. Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem has also been in contact with Beshear to coordinate Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) assistance and efforts. Around 14,000 Kentuckians, primarily in the southeast of the state, experienced power outages ahead of the storm. [Editorial note: consult video at source link]

NPR: [KY] Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear updates with latest on disastrous flooding in the state
NPR [2/18/2025 4:12 AM, A Martínez, 35747K] reports Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear joins NPR's A Martinez with the latest from Kentucky following a weekend of floods and severe weather systems. [Editorial note: consult video at source link]

NPR: [KY] Recovery efforts underway in Kentucky where flooding has killed at least 11
NPR [2/18/2025 4:12 AM, Stanley Ingold, 35747K] reports recovery efforts are underway in Kentucky where widespread flooding has killed at least 11 people and displaced hundreds. The state is also preparing for even more severe weather in coming days. [Editorial note: consult video at source link]

New York Times: [KY] 'Here We Go Again': Kentucky Residents Face More Destruction and Anxiety From Storms
New York Times [2/17/2025 7:35 PM, Juliet Macur, David W. Chen, and Tricia Fulks Kelley,161405K] reports that as unrelenting rain pelted Kentucky, and as the river nearby continued to rise, the two sisters — and business partners — did what they could to protect the quilt shop they own in Hazard, a town of about 5,000 people in the eastern part of the state. They cleared the drains in their parking lot, and cleared the floors of their store, Appalachian Quilt, before moving bolts of material from the lower shelves, to ones at least three feet up. They were sure that they had done enough. But it was not nearly enough. "I've never seen anything like it because it came in so fast and the water just kept rising and

rising," Sheridan Sparkman said on Monday, explaining that she and her sister, Sandy Hurt, had positioned themselves on a nearby overpass after the roads to the store became impassable. With their hearts beating fast, they watched the floodwaters travel closer and closer to their store — and then rise along its exterior. Similar scenes of hope and anxiety played out across the region over the past few days, as residents braced themselves for damage from yet more severe weather in a part of the country that has been pummeled by it. [Editorial note: consult video at source link]

CBS Los Angeles: [CA] Residents concerned over FEMA's decision not to test soil Palisades Fire burn scar

CBS Los Angeles [2/16/2025 11:17 PM, Nicole Comstock, 52225K] Video: HERE reports Nicole Comstock reports from the Pacific Palisades, where some residents have begun to express concerns over how FEMA is conducting the debris cleanup process from the devastating Palisades Fire.

NPR: [CA] Radio traffic reveals power problems continued for days after L.A. fire first began

NPR [2/17/2025 12:02 PM, Chiara Eisner, Nick McMillan, Graham Smith, 35747K] reports that days after the Eaton fire in Los Angeles first ignited, firefighters warned that downed power lines owned and operated by Southern California Edison were live and starting new fires, first responder radio traffic obtained by NPR reveals. The radio communications also indicate the utility company failed to respond quickly to multiple requests from firefighters to shut power off and sent confusing and sometimes incorrect information to first responders working on the Eaton fire, which ultimately claimed 17 lives and caused billions of dollars in damages. The new audio evidence comes after video and voltage data have already linked transmission towers operated by Edison to the fire's initial start on Jan. 7 and multiple lawsuits have been filed that claim the company is liable for fire damages. The Eaton fire took more than three weeks to fully contain, burning 14,000 acres and more than 10,000 structures. NPR downloaded and analyzed almost 100 hours of radio traffic between firefighters responding to the Eaton fire from broadcastify.com, a live audio streaming platform. The audio suggests Edison's work in affected areas during the fire played a role in slowing down firefighting efforts. By the end of the day on Jan. 8, firefighters were asking Edison to shut power off to a second neighborhood — Altadena. Most of the 17 people who died in the Eaton fire died there.

NBC News: [CA] For some L.A. wildfire survivors, rebuilding will not be an option

NBC News [2/17/2025 10:03 AM, Alicia Victoria Lozano, 50804K] reports that as work crews race to clear debris from thousands of homes and businesses destroyed in last month's wildfires, residents are grappling with whether they can afford to stay in a region where real estate prices were already out of reach for many people. Displaced homeowners and renters are facing an economic landscape rife with long-standing affordability and equity concerns, illuminating the gulf between those who can afford to start over from scratch and those who cannot. "It's intimidating," said Kaitlyn Little, who grew up in Pacific Palisades, one of hundreds of distinct neighborhoods that make up the city of Los Angeles. "It just reinforces the feelings of uncertainty and uneasiness about what the future of that town really does look like." Little lost the Palisades condominium she shared with her husband and their 2-year-old child in the Jan. 7 fires that razed entire communities. At least 29 people were killed in the multiday siege, and more than 16,000 structures, the majority residences, were destroyed. Now, Little finds herself in a market where the average home

price in Los Angeles County is just shy of $1 million and the average rent is nearly $3,000, according to Zillow. State and local leaders have warned against price gouging, but displaced families said they are already feeling the pinch. At this point, Little said, she cannot afford to rebuild, much less buy a home.

Secret Service

Palm Beach Post: [FL] Secret Service arrests man who jumped over wall at Mar-a-Lago one day before Trump's return

Palm Beach Post [2/17/2025 12:47 PM, Hannah Phillips] reports authorities arrested a man who jumped over a wall and onto the lawn of Donald Trump's Mar-a-Lago Club one day before the president was scheduled to return to the Palm Beach estate. Investigators say Jeffrey Daniel Olson ignored "restricted access" signs posted around Mar-a-Lago's northern gate on South Ocean Boulevard when he trespassed Thursday. Secret Service agents detained and searched him as he made his way toward the property's east lawn. His arrest report does not indicate what, if anything, the agents' search yielded. Charged with knowingly entering a restricted building, Olson faces up to one year in federal prison, five years of probation and a fine of $100,000.

Coast Guard

Yahoo! News: Data Breach Prompts Coast Guard to Take Personnel and Pay System Offline

Yahoo! News [2/17/2025 4:32 PM, Patricia Kime, 57114K] reports the Coast Guard's personnel and pay system was taken offline Friday and will remain down until at least Feb. 19 while officials investigate a data breach that affected more than 1,100 members. Coast Guard officials said Friday that the service's Direct Access system, which manages pay and personnel matters, including orders, was hacked Friday, exposing sensitive information such as bank routing numbers and direct deposit account information. According to the service, a junior petty officer noticed odd activity in their pay account and reported it to Coast Guard Cyber Command, which took the system offline to safeguard all accounts. The breach, which occurred on a day that active-duty personnel received their paychecks, delayed payments to 1,135 members, according to a Coast Guard statement to Military.com. The Coast Guard did not provide the name of the official who issued the statement by publication. "The Coast Guard Personnel Service Center and Pay and Personnel Center are expediting pay to any impacted members and have begun processing offline payments," the statement said. The service said the Coast Guard Investigative Service and Coast Guard Cyber Command are leading "an exhaustive investigation" to determine the source of the breach and safeguard the systems.

CBS Los Angeles: [CA] Boater, dog rescued by Coast Guard 18 miles off coast of Catalina Island

CBS Los Angeles [2/16/2025 7:11 PM, Dean Fioresi, 52225K] reports a boater and his dog were rescued hours after going missing off the coast Avalon on Catalina Island on Saturday evening. The U.S. Coast Guard received a call from a man at around 8 p.m. who told them that his friend and dog were missing from the 34-foot sailing vessel he was on, according to a release from USCG. "The missing individual was last seen four to five hours earlier before reportedly falling asleep," they said. With the help of a USCG helicopter crew, the boater

was found in a dinghy nearly 1,400 yards, just under .08 of a mile, away from the sailing vessel. The missing boater, who they say was suffering from mild hypothermia, was transported to shore near Cabrillo where he was tended to by awaiting paramedics. A Coast Guard cutter towed the dinghy back to the sailing vessel, which was then towed back to Newport Beach, officials said. No further information was provided.

Reported similarly:
Los Angeles Times [2/16/2025 5:43 PM, Jack Dolan]
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San Diego Union Tribune: [CA] Lifeguards, Coast Guard search Mission Bay for lost man after canoe found
San Diego Union Tribune [2/17/2025 3:27 PM, Phil Diehl, 2212K] reports that a search continued Sunday afternoon for a missing man after an outrigger canoe was found floating near the mouth of Mission Bay Friday, a U.S. Coast Guard spokesman said. "The official report is it was an outrigger," said Coast Guard spokesperson Adam Stanton. "It looked brand new, perfectly fine." San Diego lifeguards found the boat about 2:30 p.m. Friday with no sign of an occupant. Lifeguard officials could not be reached to provide an update on the incident Sunday. Stanton said a lot of questions remained after two days of searching, but the search soon could turn into a recovery effort. He declined to release the name of the missing person, but said that family members are on their way to the area.

Yahoo! News: [CA] Man still missing after falling into San Francisco Bay
Yahoo! News [2/17/2025 9:58 PM, Staff, 57114K] reports a man who fell into the San Francisco Bay over the weekend is still missing. Authorities said the man and a woman fell into the water near Pier 32 just south of the Bay Bridge on Saturday night. The woman was pulled from the water and taken to a hospital with non-life-threatening injuries. Firefighters and the Coast Guard continued searching for the man using boats, thermal imaging and drones, but suspended the search Sunday afternoon. It remains unclear how the two fell into the water.

KIRO 7: [CA] USCG Cutter returns after assisting in law enforcement patrols in California
KIRO 7 [2/16/2025 10:22 PM, Steve Aguilar] reports on Feb. 14, the United States Coast Guard Cutter Active (WMEC 618) returned to Port Angeles after completing 65 days patrolling the Southern California coast. During their time, crews patrolled over 5,500 miles of coastal California supporting USCG District 11 with border security operations. The Cutter Active participated in countering transnational crime organizations and "alien interdiction operations." According to the USCG, Active's crew prevented three boats carrying a total of 46 illegal aliens and assisted in the apprehension of 40 others. The Active also assisted in four search-and-rescue operations. Several training events were also held with other units as part of their responsibility for protecting U.S. maritime borders, territorial integrity and sovereignty.

Yahoo! News: [CA] Coast Guard seizes 37K lbs. of cocaine worth $275M
Yahoo! News [2/17/2025 11:09 AM, Jorge Ventura, 57114K] reports the U.S. Coast Guard says it is increasing its interdiction operations to intercept immigrants entering the U.S. illegally and drug smugglers before they reach the U.S. As has been the case for some time, the U.S. Coast Guard is intercepting panga-style boats carrying immigrants wishing to

illegally enter the country off California's coast. This issue has caught the attention of the mayor of San Clemente, who is seeking to install Border Patrol cameras on the city's beaches. On Thursday in San Diego, the Coast Guard offloaded over 37,000 pounds of cocaine worth $275 million. This comes from 11 separate drug interdictions. The incident follows the deployment of additional equipment and personnel, including cutters, aircraft, boats and deployable specialized forces, increasing its presence along maritime borders. Intercepting drugs is one facet of the Coast Guard's focus as human smugglers increasingly look to the seas as a vehicle for their trade. This past week in Florida, the Coast Guard intercepted a boat carrying immigrants of mixed nationalities trying to enter the country and returned it to the Bahamas. Another group carrying 16 Cuban nationals was also intercepted and returned to Cuba. In a statement, the Coast Guard said, "Through these ongoing operations, the Coast Guard is detecting, deterring and interdicting aliens, drug smugglers and individuals intent on terrorism or other hostile activity before they reach our border.

CISA/Cybersecurity

CBS Austin: Cyber attacks using AI bypass traditional security advice
CBS Austin [2/17/2025 9:48 AM, Cassy Arsenault, 581K] reports cyber attacks leveraging artificial intelligence are challenging conventional security measures, as demonstrated by a recent sophisticated Gmail scam. Victims receive a call from a number displaying a Google caller ID, with an American support technician warning that their Gmail account has been compromised. Upon checking, users find their email temporarily blocked. When victims suggest calling back using the official Gmail phone number, the scammers agree but warn of long hold times, prompting users to stay on the line. The scammers even send a code to the victim's phone to reset the account, mimicking secure authentication processes. This is just an AI-driven attack that has become more sophisticated to overcome the caution people are taking, "I say this to people all the time try to call Google and see if you can get a human being on the phone alright or fill in the blank Microsoft. The story is about Google but I want people to understand any large technology company is not going to call you. I can almost guarantee they are not going to call you. In fact, if you have an account takeover or something, try to email them, try to fill out the help form", said cyber security expert Dave Hatter. To protect against such scams, users are advised to hang up if someone calls claiming to be from Google or Microsoft. They should regularly check their Google account activity in privacy settings to ensure it aligns with their actions. Users should never respond to requests for sensitive information over the phone or email, and avoid entering passwords after clicking unsolicited links. Messages that appear urgent should be treated with skepticism. [Editorial note: consult video at source link]

Terrorism Investigations

Yahoo! News: [IN] Washington County Sheriff's Office helps thwart school shooting plot in Indiana, authorities say
Yahoo! News [2/17/2025 8:08 PM, Claudia Levens, 57114K] reports Wisconsin authorities helped avert catastrophe on Valentine's Day by assisting with an investigation that thwarted a teenager's school shooting plot in Indiana. Earlier that week, the Washington County Sheriff's Office investigated a 19-year-old woman from the Town of Addison who ultimately was not behind the plot but helped lead authorities to the main suspect, according to a Feb.

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14 news release from the sheriff's office. The Addison woman had been part of Discord group about school shooters with the main suspect, who had possessed weapons and photographs of previous mass shooters, according to an anonymous tipster. On Feb. 12, Trinity Shockley, 18, was arrested in Mooresville, Indiana, and confessed to both the school shooting plot and a desire to murder her friend, according to the sheriff's office. Shockley, who goes by the name Jamie, was charged with one felony count of conspiracy to commit murder that does not result in death, according to Indiana court records. She also faces two felony counts for threats to commit terrorism. She is being held without bond, although a contested bond hearing is scheduled for Feb. 18. According to the Washington County Sheriff's Office: An anonymous tip about threats to commit a school shooting on Valentine's Day was received on Monday, Feb. 10, by the Sandy Hook Promise Violence Hotline, an anonymous tip line launched by parents who lost children in the 2012 shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut. Hotline operators forwarded the tip — which attributed the shooting threats to two social media accounts on Discord and Snapchat — to the FBI. The FBI had a difficult time tracking the Discord account, but was able to trace the Snapchat account to the 19-year-old woman from the Town of Addison, Washington County Sheriff's Lt. Tim Kemps told the Journal Sentinel on Monday. The agency passed the tip to the Wisconsin Department of Justice and the Washington County Sheriff's Office Dispatch Center, the release said. The 911 dispatcher working at the time recognized the seriousness of the threat and immediately contacted the shift supervisor to place the Addison suspect's house under surveillance.

National Security News

Washington Post: Under Trump, CIA plots bigger role in drug cartel fight
Washington Post [2/17/2025 6:00 AM, Warren P. Strobel and Isaac Stanley-Becker, 40736K] reports the Central Intelligence Agency is poised to take a larger, more aggressive role under President Donald Trump in the battle against Mexican-based drug cartels, devising and evaluating plans to share more intelligence with regional governments, train local counternarcotics units and possibly conduct other covert actions, according to people familiar with the matter. The expanded focus on cartels, which smuggle fentanyl and other narcotics into the United States, represents a new and potentially risky priority for the spy agency, which in recent years has made espionage against China, counterterrorism operations in the Middle East and Africa, and support for Ukraine after Russia's 2022 invasion its main concerns. CIA Director John Ratcliffe intends to shift agency resources to its counternarcotics mission and apply insights from its two decades of tracking, infiltrating and disrupting terrorist networks to fighting the cartels, said a person familiar with his plans who, like others, spoke on the condition of anonymity because of the subject's sensitivity and because the approach isn't finalized yet. "Lessons learned in the counterterrorism realm are applicable to the counternarcotics mission and the counter-cartel mission," this person said. "The full weight of those has not been brought to bear on this problem." A CIA spokesperson said in a statement that "countering drug cartels in Mexico and regionally is a priority for CIA as a part of the Trump Administration's broader efforts to end the grave threat from narco-trafficking. Director Ratcliffe is determined to put CIA's unique expertise to work against this multifaceted challenge." The emphasis will be on increased U.S. support to antidrug forces within Mexico and elsewhere in the hemisphere, people familiar with the emerging plan said. Less clear is whether armed U.S. personnel, either from the military's Special Operations forces or the CIA, could be tasked with taking direct action against cartel leaders on Mexican soil, something former intelligence and military officials warn would

spark a ferocious backlash and harm U.S.-Mexican relations, including counternarcotics cooperation.

CBS San Francisco: Trump administration fires and then tries to rehire nuclear weapons workers in DOGE reversal

CBS San Francisco [2/17/2025 9:33 AM, Staff, 52225K] reports the Trump administration has paused the firings of hundreds of federal employees working on the nation's nuclear weapons programs, in a reversal that has left workers confused and experts cautioning that DOGE's blind cost cutting will put communities at risk. Late Thursday afternoon, a number probationary employees of the National Nuclear Security Administration were fired, a source in the Energy Department confirmed. This is the entity within the department that manages the nation's nuclear weapons stockpile, among other responsibilities. Three U.S. officials told The Associated Press up to 350 employees at the NNSA were abruptly laid off, with some losing access to email even before they'd learned they were fired, only to try to enter their offices on Friday morning to find they had been locked out. The officials spoke on the condition of anonymity for fear of retaliation. One of the hardest hit offices was the Pantex Plant near Amarillo, Texas, which saw about 30% of the cuts. Those employees work on reassembling warheads, one of the most sensitive jobs across the nuclear weapons enterprise, with the highest levels of clearance. The hundreds let go at NNSA were part of a DOGE purge across the Department of Energy that targeted about 2,000 employees. "The DOGE people are coming in with absolutely no knowledge of what these departments are responsible for," said Daryl Kimball, executive director of the Arms Control Association, referencing Elon Musk's Department of Government Efficiency team. "They don't seem to realize that it's actually the department of nuclear weapons more than it is the Department of Energy." By late Friday night, the agency's acting director, Teresa Robbins, issued a memo rescinding the firings for all but 28 of those hundreds of fired staff members. "This letter serves as formal notification that the termination decision issued to you on Feb. 13, 2025 has been rescinded, effective immediately," said the memo, which was obtained by the AP. [Editorial note: consult video at source link]

VOA News: US Vice President warns Europe of "threat from within."

VOA News [2/16/2025 10:35 PM, Staff, 2717K] reports that in a stunning speech at the Munich Security Conference, U.S. Vice President JD Vance barely spoke of Russia and Ukraine, and instead admonished European allies, arguing that their governments are censoring far-right speech and failing to control migration. His remarks came amid allies' alarm over President Donald Trump's decision to begin peace talks with Russia. Ukraine eyes its reserves of rare earth minerals and what role they may play in a future security agreement. In the Middle East, Hamas has released hostages and Israel freed prisoners as part of the fragile ceasefire deal. Should the Federal Emergency Management Agency be eliminated? Plus, at least 18 people killed in a stampede at a train station in India. [Editorial note: consult audio at source link]

Washington Examiner: Marco Rubio defends JD Vance's lecture on free speech

Washington Examiner [2/16/2025 4:45 PM, Jenny Goldsberry, 2365K] reports that Secretary of State Marco Rubio came to the defense of Vice President JD Vance regarding his recent plea to Europe that called for a commitment to free speech. Rubio attended the Munich Security Conference with Vance this weekend, which was Vance's first foreign trip since taking office as vice president. In his first international address, Vance assured other leaders that "under Donald Trump's leadership, we may disagree with your views, but we

will fight to defend your right to offer it in the public square, agree, or disagree." During a segment on CBS News's Face the Nation Sunday, Rubio faced questions about the speech. "[Vance] also met with the leader of a far-right party known as the [Alternative for Germany], which, as you know, is under investigation and monitoring by German intelligence because of extremism. What did all of this accomplish other than irritating our allies?" host Margaret Brennan asked. "Why would our allies or anybody be irritated by free speech and by someone giving their opinion?" Rubio posed his own question in response. "He simply expressed in a speech his view of it, which a lot of people frankly share, and I thought he said a lot of things in that speech that needed to be said. And honestly, I don't know why anybody would be upset about it."

Newsweek: [Lithuania] Rubio Praises NATO Member's Defense Spending Increase Amid Trump Threats

Newsweek [2/16/2025 8:01 AM, Ewan Palmer, 6595K] reports that Secretary of State Marco Rubio has praised Lithuania for increasing its defense spending, as President Donald Trump pushes for NATO to more than double its current expenditure requirements. Newsweek has contacted the U.S. embassy in Lithuania for comment via email. Trump has frequently threatened to withdraw the U.S. from NATO over cost concerns, criticizing other member countries for failing to meet defense-spending goals. Rubio issued a statement in recognition of Lithuania's independence celebrations, praising the European country as a "trusted partner and stalwart ally" and highlighting its strong economic relationship with the U.S. Rubio also applauded Lithuania, which shares a border with Russia, for committing to increasing defense spending. Vilnius is set to raise its defense expenditure to between 5 and 6 percent of its gross domestic product (GDP) beginning in 2026, the Baltic nation's president, Gitanas Nausėda, announced in January. The increase to 5 percent would mean Lithuania overtakes Poland as the NATO country spending the most on defense as a percentage of its GDP.

CBS News: [Ukraine] Rubio says "we have a long ways to go" before talks on ending Russia-Ukraine war

CBS News [2/17/2025 6:20 AM, Kaia Hubbard, 52225K] reports Secretary of State Marco Rubio said "we have a long ways to go" before commencing any potential peace talks with Russia aimed at ending the war in Ukraine, adding that "nothing has been finalized" regarding possible upcoming meetings between U.S. and Russian officials in Saudi Arabia. "We stand ready to follow the president's lead on this and begin to explore ways, if those opportunities present itself, to begin a process toward peace," Rubio said on "Face the Nation with Margaret Brennan" on Sunday. On Monday morning, State Department spokesperson Tammy Bruce confirmed that Rubio, along with two other senior Trump administration officials, would meet the following day in Riyadh with a Russian delegation. Mr. Trump said last week that he had a "lengthy and highly productive phone call" with Russian President Vladimir Putin. The president announced that he was directing Rubio and other members of his national security team to "immediately" begin negotiations aimed at ending Russia's war with Ukraine. Mr. Trump also spoke with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. Rubio, speaking from Israel where he met Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Sunday, landed in Saudi Arabia Monday. The top U.S. diplomat noted that his trip had been scheduled before Mr. Trump's calls with Putin and Zelenskyy. He was joined by national security adviser Mike Waltz and Steve Witkoff, Mr. Trump's Middle East envoy. The secretary of state said Putin had "expressed his interest in peace" during his call with Mr. Trump, whom he said had made clear, "his desire to see an end of this conflict in a

way that was enduring and that protected Ukrainian sovereignty." On Sunday, Mr. Trump told reporters that Putin wants to end the war, adding that he was expecting to meet with the Russian leader in Saudi Arabia "very soon." Asked whether he believes Putin is ready to negotiate and make concessions to bring an end to the fighting, Rubio said the call must be followed by action, and that "the next few weeks and days will determine whether it's serious or not." "One phone call does not solve a war as complex as this one," Rubio said. "But I can tell you that Donald Trump is the only leader in the world that could potentially begin that process." [Editorial note: consult video at source link]

Reported similarly:
Reuters [2/16/2025 6:26 PM, Gram Slattery, 30936K]

Bloomberg: [Ukraine] Trump Says Zelenskiy to Take Part in Peace Talks With Russia
Bloomberg [2/17/2025 2:09 AM, Hadriana Lowenkron and Wendy Benjaminson, 21617K] reports President Donald Trump said Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy will be involved in peace talks with Russia, a day after top US advisers suggested the negotiations might go on without him. "He will be involved, yes," Trump said Sunday in response to reporters' questions after attending the Daytona 500 car race in Florida. He didn't specify whether Zelenskiy or his aides would attend preliminary talks this week in Saudi Arabia or during a later summit among the country's leaders. It was the first definitive statement from the White House that Ukraine would be permitted a seat at the table when the US and Russia discuss ending the war, which started with Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022. Trump, who had a "lengthy and highly productive" phone call with Vladimir Putin on Wednesday, said he doesn't believe the Russian president has further territorial ambitions in Ukraine. "No, I think he wants to stop," Trump said. "That was my question to him, because if he was going to go on that would have been a big problem for us." Earlier, National Security Advisor Mike Waltz demurred when asked directly on Fox News Sunday whether Zelenskiy would be involved. Instead, he said the Ukrainian president would be "very wise" to accept Trump's proposed deal for the US to take half of Ukraine's critical mineral resources in return for continued US support. Waltz called the deal "protection in and of itself. I can't think of any better security guarantee than being co-invested with President Trump." "The American people deserve to be recouped, deserve to have some kind of payback for the billions they have invested in this war," he said. "I think that Zelenskiy would be very wise to enter into this agreement with the United States." Asked about the cost of the three-year war to Ukrainians, Waltz said, "Look, the Ukrainian people have fought valiantly, they have seen entire cities destroyed, the United States and Europe have supported this effort, but the United States has unquestionably borne the brunt of that support."

The Hill: [Ukraine] Trump sidelines allies in Ukraine-Russia negotiations
The Hill [2/17/2025 6:28 PM, Ellen Mitchell, 16346K] reports Secretary of State Marco Rubio said "real talks" will involve Europe and Ukraine, as he prepares to meet his Russian counterpart in Saudi Arabia on Tuesday. But that follows a slew of mixed messages from Trump's top officials and a brow-beating from Vice President Vance at the Munich Security Conference last week. Leaders of eight major European countries met Monday to coordinate a response, after being caught on their back foot by Trump's opening gambit on Russia-Ukraine talks. Even Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said Monday he "knew nothing about" the peace discussions in the Middle East until they were announced publicly. "I think Europe is realizing that they have to come up with a plan, quickly, and on their own

to be ready for whatever comes next," said Sudha David-Wilp, Vice President of External Relations and Senior Fellow with the German Marshall Fund. "The mood was turning from bad to worse," said one European foreign policy expert who attended the Munich conference, granted anonymity to speak candidly. European officials expected to be taken to task over low defense spending, but not to be left out of talks completely. The uncertainty is already spurring talks on loosening the European Union's budgetary deficit requirements to allow more spending on defense, the expert said. "There will probably be a series of announcements by Europeans in the upcoming days to signal to the Americans that they are to be taken seriously – but also to reassure each other," they said.

New York Times: [Ukraine] Ukraine Won't Accept a Deal It Didn't Help Negotiate, Zelensky Says

New York Times [2/16/2025 1:00 PM, Maggie Haberman, 161405K] reports that President Volodymyr Zelensky of Ukraine reiterated in an interview that aired on Sunday that his country would "never" accept a peace deal struck by the United States and Russia if Ukraine did not have a seat at the negotiating table. In an interview on NBC's "Meet the Press," Mr. Zelensky sought to avoid criticisms of President Trump and instead praised his strength. He said he had told Mr. Trump during a phone call, shortly after Mr. Trump and President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia spoke for 90 minutes last week, that Mr. Putin is untrustworthy and feared Mr. Trump. Mr. Zelensky said he believed that Mr. Putin was "scared" of Mr. Trump, playing toward Mr. Trump's desire to be seen as strong and the hope that the U.S. president could push Mr. Putin toward a deal he might not otherwise favor. "I said that he is a liar," Mr. Zelensky said he told Mr. Trump of Mr. Putin. "And he said, 'I think my feeling is that he's ready for these negotiations.'" Mr. Zelensky added: "But I think he's really a little bit scared about President Trump. And I think the president has this chance, and he's strong. And I think that really he can push Putin to peace negotiations."

Miami Herald: [Ukraine] Trump aide says Americans deserve 'payback' for Ukraine support

Miami Herald [2/16/2025 1:30 PM, Wendy Benjaminson, 6595K] reports that President Donald Trump said Ukrainian President Volodomyr Zelenskyy will be involved in peace talks with Russia, a day after top U.S. advisers suggested the negotiations might go on without him. "He will be involved, yes," Trump said Sunday in response to reporters' questions after attending the Daytona 500 car race in Florida. He didn't specify whether Zelenskyy or his aides would attend preliminary talks this week in Saudi Arabia or during a later summit among the country's leaders. It was the first definitive statement from the White House that Ukraine would be permitted a seat at the table when the U.S. and Russia discuss ending the war, which started with Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022. Trump, who had a "lengthy and highly productive" phone call with Vladimir Putin on Wednesday, said he doesn't believe the Russian president has further territorial ambitions in Ukraine. "No, I think he wants to stop," Trump said. "That was my question to him, because if he was going to go on that would have been a big problem for us." Earlier, national security adviser Mike Waltz demurred when asked directly on Fox News Sunday whether Zelenskyy would be involved. Instead, he said the Ukrainian president would be "very wise" to accept Trump's proposed deal for the U.S. to take half of Ukraine's rare-earth mineral resources in return for continued U.S. support.

Miami Herald: [Russia] Trump May Meet Putin In February In Stunning Setback For Ukraine, Europe

Miami Herald [2/16/2025 4:38 PM, Peter Aitken, 6595K] reports that President Donald Trump may meet with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Saudi Arabia by the end of the month, with officials from each country to meet next week to sort out final details, according to reports. Saudi Arabia initiated the meeting, inviting parties from the U.S., Ukraine and Russia to gather in Riyadh to discuss how to end the conflict, which will enter its fourth year at the end of the month. Both sides want a date for the meeting locked in before March, which is when Ramadan starts. Both sides are working out final details, but Bloomberg reported that most European officials have not been informed about the meeting, citing an official who spoke on condition of anonymity. Officials from Ukraine are expected to attend, along with national security advisors, but it remains unclear if Kyiv is being kept in the planning loop. However, Trump on Thursday indicated that Ukraine would be involved in the summit while plans remained up in the air. The timing of the meeting only came to light on Sunday.

ABC News: [Russia] Russia launches 176 drones into Ukraine as US talks begin
ABC News [2/18/2025 4:52 AM, David Brennan and Patrick Reevell, 33392K] reports Russia launched an unusually large drone attack on Ukraine overnight into Tuesday, shorty before Moscow's representatives opened talks with a U.S. delegation in Saudi Arabia on ending the Kremlin's three-year-old full-scale war on its neighbor. Ukraine's air force said Russia sent 176 drones -- just shy of a 188-drone record set in November -- into the country overnight, launched from six different directions. The air force said on Telegram that it shot down 103 drones with another 67 lost in flight due to jamming and other interference measures. Falling debris and impacts were reported in the Kirovohrad, Kharkiv, Kyiv and Cherkasy regions, the air force said. In Kirovohrad, the regional military administration said it was "a difficult night," reporting a drone strike on a high-rise building in the city of Dolynska. Three people were injured -- a mother and two children -- officials said. In Kyiv, Mayor Vitali Klitschko said a large fire in the west of the city was sparked by falling Russian drone debris. "There is a fire on the territory of an industrial enterprise," Klitschko wrote on Telegram. "Also, cars are burning in the yard of a residential building nearby." Russian long-range drone and missile strikes are a nightly occurrence across Ukraine, with Moscow often targeting key infrastructure facilities -- especially industrial and energy targets. Monday night's barrage -- notable for its scale -- came as Russia negotiators prepared to meet with American counterparts in Saudi Arabia for talks intended to revive peace negotiations. Ukrainian representatives were not invited to attend. The U.S. team is being led by Secretary of State Marco Rubio, Middle East envoy Steve Witkoff and National Security Adviser Michael Waltz. The Russian negotiating delegation includes Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, Kremlin foreign policy adviser Yuri Ushakov and Kirill Dmitriev, the head of Russia's sovereign wealth fund. Ukraine is also continuing its own long-range strike campaign against Russia, which Kyiv's Special Operations Forces (SSO) and Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) have termed "drone sanctions."

CNN: [Russia] Trump and his team are "great problem-solvers," Russian negotiator in Riyadh says ahead of US-Russia talks
CNN [2/17/2025 3:03 AM, Matthew Chance, 22417K] reports President Donald Trump and his negotiating team are "great problem-solvers," Russia's sovereign wealth fund chief Kirill Dmitriev, who is in Saudi Arabia for bilateral talks with the United States, told CNN's Chief Global Affairs Correspondent Matthew Chance on Monday. Talks between the US and Russia over the war in Ukraine are set to begin Tuesday. However, Dmitriev said he has already met with several members of the Trump team in Riyadh. "All I can say is they're

great problem-solvers. And I think President Trump is a great problem-solver," he said. Dmitriev said that the US negotiators have not yet made direct promises with their Russian counterparts. "I think the promise is: let's have dialogue, let's figure out the best solution for our countries, for other countries, for the global community," he said. He also denied that Russia primarily sought to alleviate the sanctions faced by the country and asserted that the US and Russian economies could both benefit from working together. "I think it's very important to build bridges. I think US-Russia relations are very important for the world," he said.

VOA News: [Syria] US says strike in Syria killed Al-Qaeda affiliate official

VOA News [2/16/2025 10:37 PM, Staff, 2717K] reports that the U.S. military said Sunday it killed a member of an Al-Qaeda affiliate organization in a precision airstrike in Syria. U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) said it conducted the strike Saturday "in Northwest Syria targeting and killing a senior finance and logistics official in the terrorist organization Hurras al-Din (HaD), an al-Qaida affiliate," according to a statement on X. CENTCOM did not identify its target. The strike was conducted "to disrupt and degrade efforts by terrorists to plan, organize, and conduct attacks against civilians and military personnel" from the United States and allies, the statement continued. On Jan. 30, CENTCOM killed another senior operative in Hurras al-Din, Muhammad Salah al-Zabir, in an airstrike. The U.S.-based SITE Intelligence Group said Hurras al-Din was founded in February 2018. It did not publicly confirm its allegiance to al-Qaida until its dissolution announcement last month. The United States designated Hurras al-Din as a terrorist organization in 2019 and has offered financial rewards for information on several of its members. "We will continue to relentlessly pursue terrorists in order to defend our homeland, and U.S., allied, and partner personnel in the region," CENTCOM General Michael Erik Kurilla said in a statement.

Miami Herald: [Israel] US says talks about phase two of Gaza ceasefire to continue this week

Miami Herald [2/16/2025 4:56 PM, Sara Lemel, Lars Nicolaysen, and Jan-Uwe Ronneburger, 6595K] reports that talks about the second phase of the Gaza ceasefire agreement and exchange of Israeli hostages for imprisoned Palestinians are set to continue in the coming week, according to U.S. Special Envoy Steve Witkoff on Sunday. The second phase of the negotiations foresees the release of all remaining Israeli hostages who are still alive. The talks are to continue at an undisclosed location, he said, following very "productive and constructive" telephone conversations with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Qatari Prime Minister Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani and Egyptian intelligence chief Hassan Rashad, according to U.S. broadcaster Fox News. The three countries worked as mediators to help bring about the first phase of the ceasefire and hostage deal, which began on January 19 and is due to be completed on March 1. Straight after Witkoff's statement, Netanyahu's office said the Israeli security cabinet would discuss the second phase on Monday. He instructed a delegation of Israeli negotiators to travel to Cairo for talks. After the cabinet meeting, he said they would receive instructions for the second phase, which aims to bring the fighting to a definitive end.

Newsweek: [Israel] Netanyahu Calls Trump's Gaza Plan 'Only Viable' Option

Newsweek [2/16/2025 5:20 PM, Mandy Taheri, 56005K] reports that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Sunday that President Donald Trump's Gaza plan, which includes resettling Palestinians in Gaza elsewhere and the U.S. taking ownership of the enclave, as the "only viable" option. Newsweek has reached out to Israel's Foreign Ministry

for comment via email on Sunday. Soon after taking office last month, Trump suggested that Jordan and Egypt should take in more Palestinian refugees from Gaza in an effort to "clean out" the territory, a move that would strip Palestinians of their homeland, which is a cornerstone of their history, identity, and culture. Days later, he announced that the U.S. would "take over the Gaza strip." Trump's plans have been unanimously rejected by Arab leaders, Palestinians, and international advocacy groups, many of whom liken the plan to ethnic cleansing. Several Israeli officials have previously proposed relocating millions of Palestinians from Gaza to nearby Arab countries. Netanyahu's latest comments indicate the country supports Trump's proposal as negotiations between Israel and Hamas over the second phase of the ceasefire have yet to be finalized. Netanyahu spoke with U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio in Jerusalem on Sunday, which kicked off the Trump official's Middle East tour. He is set to speak with Russian officials in Saudi Arabia next week over Russia and Ukraine peace talks as the two countries continue to be at war.

Reported similarly:
AP [2/16/2025 5:05 PM, Matthew Lee and Natalie Melzer, 12036K]

New York Times: [Saudi Arabia] Rubio Lands in Saudi Arabia for Talks on Gaza and Ukraine

New York Times [2/17/2025 2:57 PM, Patrick Kingsley and Ismaeel Naar, 161405K] reports that the de facto leader of Saudi Arabia, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, met on Monday with three senior members of the Trump administration, including Secretary of State Marco Rubio, who were visiting the kingdom to discuss the future of both Gaza and Ukraine. The visit of Mr. Rubio, National Security Adviser Mike Waltz and Steve Witkoff, Mr. Trump's Mideast envoy, came amid criticism that the Trump administration was acting without consulting relevant foreign partners about the wars in both countries. Mr. Rubio also met earlier in the day with Faisal bin Farhan, the Saudi foreign minister. Little was released about the content of the meetings, except for a video of a brief exchange between the men in which the prince said he was glad to work with the Trump administration. Mr. Rubio, who flew to Riyadh from Israel, and his colleagues were expected to press the Saudi leadership to propose a vision for postwar Gaza. President Trump's idea to depopulate and occupy the territory has spurred widespread opposition in the Arab world, including in Saudi Arabia. That has led Mr. Rubio and other U.S. officials to encourage Arab leaders to suggest an alternative.

Reported similarly:
Reuters [2/16/2025 10:49 AM, Gram Slattery and David Ljunggren, 30936K]

CBS News: [Saudi Arabia] Top U.S., Russian diplomats meet on improving ties, ending Ukraine war — without Ukraine officials at the table

CBS News [2/18/2025 3:45 AM, Staff, 52225K] reports senior officials from Russia and the U.S. met in Saudi Arabia Tuesday to begin talks on improving ties and negotiating an end to the war in Ukraine. Delegations led by U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov met at the Diriyah Palace in Riyadh. The meeting marks another pivotal step by the Trump administration to reverse U.S. policy on isolating Russia and is meant to pave the way for a meeting between President Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin. Mr. Trump earlier this month upended U.S. policy toward Ukraine and Russia by saying he and Putin had agreed to begin negotiations on ending the war. Ukrainian officials aren't taking part in the meeting, and Ukrainian President Volodymyr

Zelenskyy said Monday that his country wouldn't accept the outcome if Kyiv isn't included in negotiations. Rubio was accompanied by U.S. national security adviser Mike Waltz and Special Envoy Steve Witkoff, while Lavrov sat next to the Kremlin's foreign affairs adviser, Yuri Ushakov. Saudi Foreign Minister Faisal bin Farhan and national security adviser Musaed al Alban joined Rubio, Lavrov and others for the start of the meeting but were expected to leave early in the talks. Ushakov said Monday the talks would be "purely bilateral" and wouldn't include Ukrainian officials. The talks mark a significant expansion of U.S.-Russian contacts nearly three years into a war that has seen relations fall to the lowest level in decades. Lavrov and then-U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken talked briefly on the sidelines of a G-20 meeting in India nearly two years ago, and in the fall of 2022, U.S. and Russian spymasters met in Turkey amid Washington's concerns that Moscow could resort to nuclear weapons amid battlefield setbacks. The recent U.S. diplomatic blitz on the war has sent Kyiv and key allies scrambling to ensure a seat at the table amid concerns that Washington and Moscow could press ahead with a deal that won't be favorable to them. France called an emergency meeting of European Union countries and the U.K. on Monday to decide how to respond. French President Emmanuel Macron on Tuesday said he spoke by phone to Mr. Trump and Volodymyr Zelenskyy following the meeting. "We seek a strong and lasting peace in Ukraine," Macron wrote on X. "To achieve this, Russia must end its aggression, and this must be accompanied by strong and credible security guarantees for the Ukrainians," he said as he vowed to "work on this together with all Europeans, Americans, and Ukrainians." [Editorial note: consult video at source link]

Reported similarly:
New York Times [2/18/2025 3:35 AM, Anton Troianovski and Ismaeel Naar, 161405K]
Wall Street Journal [2/17/2025 11:47 AM, James Marson and Ian Lovett, 57114K]
Newsweek [2/18/2025 3:24 AM, Daniel Orton, 56005K]

Newsweek: [China] China Sends Ships Near US Ally in 'Show of Force'
Newsweek [2/17/2025 8:36 AM, Micah McCartney, 56005K] reports that China on Saturday deployed its coast guard in waters within 40 miles of the coast of the Philippines westernmost province, Palawan, in what one analyst said amounted to a "show of force." Newsweek has reached out to the Chinese Foreign Ministry and Philippine coast guard with written requests for comment. The Philippines remains locked in a bitter territorial dispute with Beijing in the South China Sea. Though this was previously focused mostly on a handful of reefs, China's coast guard has for over a month patrolled just dozens of miles from Zambalese Province off populous Luzon island, where the capital, Manila, is located. Beijing's ongoing patrols are viewed by Manila as an unlawful assertion of jurisdiction far from Chinese waters. China claims sovereignty over most of the South China Sea, alleging historical rights, despite a 2016 international arbitral court's decision that dismissed these claims. Shiptracking data shared Sunday by Ray Powell, director of the Stanford University-affiliated maritime analyst group SeaLight, shows the ships of the Chinese coast guard left the Scarborough Shoal—a contested reef China seized from its neighbor after a 2012 standoff—and sailed south to within 35 nautical miles (40 miles) of Palawan, an archipelagic province of 1 million.

The Hill: [China] Paxton launches investigation into DeepSeek
The Hill [2/17/2025 11:19 AM, Julia Shapero, 16346K] reports that Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton (R) has opened an investigation into Chinese artificial intelligence (AI) startup DeepSeek over its privacy practices and claims about its popular new AI model. Paxton

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said Friday that he sent requests for information to Apple and Google, seeking their analysis of DeepSeek's application and the documentation it was required to submit to appear on their respective app stores. "DeepSeek appears to be no more than a proxy for the CCP to undermine American AI dominance and steal the data of our citizens," Paxton said in a statement, referencing the Chinese Communist Party. "That's why I'm announcing a thorough investigation and calling on Google and Apple to cooperate immediately by providing all relevant documents related to the DeepSeek app." "The United States and Texas will continue to be at the forefront of global AI innovation, and any CCP-aligned company that tries to undermine that dominance by violating the rights of Texans and illegally undercutting American technology companies will face the full force of the law," he continued. Paxton also said he notified DeepSeek that its platform violates the Texas Data Privacy and Security Act.

Newsweek: [China] China's DeepSeek AI Hit With New Setback

Newsweek [2/17/2025 6:39 AM, Theo Burman, 56005K] reports that DeepSeek's growth in Southeast Asia has been stunted by a ban in South Korea, following fears that the Chinese chatbot breached the country's data protection regulations. The AI was taken down from the App Store and Google Play, with South Korean authorities saying it would only return if it was made compliant with the law. Newsweek has contacted DeepSeek for comment via email. DeepSeek has sent shock waves through the artificial intelligence industry, and poses a significant threat to U.S. control of this technology. DeepSeek overtook ChatGPT on January 27 to become the top-rated free app on Apple's App Store in the U.S., delivering a trillion-dollar blow to U.S. tech firms on the stock market. South Korea's Personal Information Protection Commission (PIPC) has blocked new downloads of the DeepSeek chatbot due to concerns over data privacy and national security. The government agency said DeepSeek would remain unavailable to new South Korean users until its developers implement "improvements and remedies" that bring the chatbot into compliance with the country's personal data protection laws. The announcement came after DeepSeek skyrocketed to the top of app store rankings in South Korea, amassing over a million weekly users following its surge in global popularity.

Newsweek: [China] Beijing Says History Supports Sweeping Claims in South China Sea

Newsweek [2/18/2025 4:00 AM, Ryan Chan, 56005K] reports China asserted on Friday that its territorial claims in the contested South China Sea are supported by a series of international treaties that date back to as early as the 1890s. Newsweek has reached out to the Philippine Embassy in Beijing for comment by email. China has claimed sovereignty over most of the South China Sea, claims that overlap with those of neighboring nations, including the Philippines, a defense treaty ally of the United States. Maritime forces of Beijing and Manila have frequently faced off and even clashed. Beijing has declared that China was the first to discover the South China Sea and thus has the so-called "historic rights" in the disputed waters within its "nine-dash line." However, this was rejected in 2016 by an international tribunal's ruling as having no legal basis. During a press briefing, the Chinese Defense Ministry spokesperson, Senior Colonel Zhang Xiaogang, said the Nansha Qundao (the Spratly Islands) and Huangyan Dao (Scarborough Shoal) "fall outside" the Philippine territory defined by international treaties. The treaties cited by Zhang were the 1898 Treaty of Peace between the U.S. and Spain, the 1900 Treaty between the U.S. and Spain for Cession of Outlying Islands of the Philippines, and the 1930 Convention between the United Kingdom and the U.S. with regard to the border between North Borneo and the

Philippines. Spain ceded sovereignty over its Philippine colony after its defeat in the Spanish-American War in 1898. The U.S. granted the Philippines independence in 1946 and both countries signed a mutual defense treaty in 1951. The Chinese law-enforcement activities in the Spratly Islands and Scarborough Shoal were "reasonable, lawful, and beyond reproach," Zhang added. Both are within the Philippine 200-nautical-mile exclusive economic zone but outside its 12-nautical-mile territorial sea. The Chinese military's remarks came after Ferdinand Marcos Jr., the Philippine president, demanded China stop its aggression in the South China Sea, in exchange for the removal of the Typhon missile system, currently deployed in the Philippines by the U.S. military. [Editorial note: consult video at source link]

AP: [Philippines] Chinese navy helicopter flies within 10 feet of Philippine patrol plane over disputed shoal

AP [2/18/2025 4:45 AM, Joeal Calupitan, 57114K] reports a Chinese navy helicopter flew within 10 feet (3 meters) of a Philippine patrol plane on Tuesday in a disputed area of the South China Sea, prompting the Filipino pilot to warn by radio: "You are flying too close, you are very dangerous." The Chinese helicopter was attempting to force a Cessna Caravan turboprop plane belonging to the Philippine Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources out of what China claims is its airspace over the hotly disputed Scarborough Shoal off the northwestern Philippines. An Associated Press journalist and other invited foreign media on the plane witnessed the tense 30-minute standoff as the Philippine plane pressed on with its low-altitude patrol around Scarborough with the Chinese navy helicopter hovering close above it or flying to its left in cloudy weather. "You are flying too close, you are very dangerous and endangering the lives of our crew and passengers," the Philippine pilot told the Chinese navy helicopter by radio at one point. "Keep away and distance your aircraft from us, you are violating the safety standard set by FAA and ICAO." The pilot was referring to the standard distance between aircraft required by the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration and the International Civil Aviation Organization to prevent air disasters. There was no sign that the Philippine plane had to alter its planned path and altitude to avoid a collision. The Philippine Coast Guard and the Bureau of Fisheries said in a statement that they remain "committed to asserting our sovereignty, sovereign rights and maritime jurisdiction in the West Philippine Sea, despite the aggressive and escalatory actions of China." They referred to the Philippine name for the stretch of waters in the South China Sea closer to the Philippines' western coast. Chinese officials did not immediately comment on the incident, but in past encounters they have steadfastly asserted China's sovereign rights over the Scarborough and surrounding waters and warned that its forces would protect the country's territorial interests at all costs.

Reuters: [North Korea] North Korea denounces 'absurd' denuclearisation pledge by US and allies

Reuters [2/18/2025 1:37 AM, Joyce Lee and Hyonhee Shin, 30936K] reports North Korea's foreign ministry said on Tuesday that it will keep bolstering its nuclear force, denouncing a recent joint pledge by the United States, South Korea and Japan for its denuclearisation, according to state media KCNA. U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio, South Korean Foreign Minister Cho Tae-yul and Japanese Foreign Minister Iwaya Takeshi held talks on Saturday on the sidelines of a security conference in Munich and issued a statement, opens new tab, reaffirming their commitment to North Korea's complete denuclearisation. Pyongyang's foreign ministry criticised the countries for pursuing an "outdated, absurd" plan, warning against seeking what it called "foolish acts inciting collective hostility and

conflicts." "As long as the U.S. and its vassal forces' hostile threat exists, the DPRK's nukes are means for defending peace and sovereignty and a means for legitimate self-defence entrusted by the constitution of the state," an unnamed ministry spokesperson said in a statement carried by KCNA, vowing to continue strengthening its nuclear force. The spokesperson was referring to North Korea's formal name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. South Korea's foreign ministry urged the North to cease its illicit weapons programmes and return to the path to denuclearisation. "North Korea will never be recognised as a nuclear weapons state," ministry spokesperson Lee Jae-woong told a briefing. "We hope that they will realise that the development of nuclear weapons and missiles will only hinder their own security and economic development." The three-way meeting was their first since the inauguration of U.S. President Donald Trump, who held unprecedented summits with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un during his first term and has touted their personal rapport. South Korean lawmakers, after being briefed by the National Intelligence Service, have said that Pyongyang's recent missile tests were in part intended to "show off its U.S. deterrent assets and drawing Trump's attention."

Newsweek: [Australia] China Clashes With US Ally Over Fighter Jet Intercept

Newsweek [2/18/2025 5:19 AM, Ryan Chan, 56005K] reports China held a defense meeting on Monday with Australia, a major ally of the United States in the contested Western Pacific Ocean, just days after encounters involving their militaries. Australia accused China of an "unsafe and unprofessional" encounter after one of its warplanes intercepted an Australian Defence Force helicopter on May 4, 2024 in international waters. The Chinese have accused the U.S. and its allies of stirring up trouble in the East and South China seas, which Beijing considers to be its doorstep. An Australian P-8A maritime patrol aircraft was intercepted by Chinese J-16 fighter jets on February 11 during a surveillance patrol in international airspace over the South China Sea, which the Australian military described as an "unsafe and unprofessional interaction." The Chinese Foreign Ministry said the military took "legitimate measures" to expel the Australian aircraft as it intruded into China's airspace. Beijing has claimed sovereignty over most of the South China Sea, claims that overlap with those of neighboring nations. The 23rd Australia-China Defense Strategic Dialogue was held in Beijing, the capital city of China. It is a senior-level meeting between the officials from the Australian Department of Defense and the Chinese People's Liberation Army, according to Australia's statement. The bilateral meeting was suspended by China in 2019 after Australia banned Huawei, the Chinese telecommunications giant, from its 5G networks. Tensions between the two trading partners persisted until last year, when their leaders agreed to revive the defense dialogue. The Australian side reiterated that all nations should operate in a "safe and professional" manner to avoid miscalculation or escalation and act in a manner that respects sovereignty and upholds peace, security, and stability, the Australian military said of the meeting. "The two sides exchanged in-depth views on the relations between the two countries and two militaries, regional security, and other issues of common concern," said the Chinese military, adding that both sides agreed to handle their disputes and differences properly.

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DHS MORNING BRIEFING

Prepared for the Office of Public Affairs (OPA)
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

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Editorial Note: The DHS Daily Briefing is a collection of news articles related to Department's mission. The inclusion of particular stories is not intended to reflect their importance, nor is it intended to endorse the political viewpoints or affiliations included in news coverage.

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Washington Times/Washington Examiner/FOX News: DHS sees best border numbers in 15 years

The Washington Times [2/24/2025 9:49 PM, Stephen Dinan, 1814K] reports the Border Patrol saw its best single day in more than 15 years with just 200 illegal immigrants nabbed at the southern border, Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem announced Monday. That daily figure topped 10,000 at some points during the Biden administration. Homeland Security said the drop is a result of the stiff policies of President Trump and Ms. Noem. "President Trump and Secretary Noem have sent a clear message to illegal aliens: do not come to our country. You will not be allowed in. And if you get in, we will hunt you down and deport you," the department said. "That message has been received." Mr. Trump declared a

border emergency, deployed the military to assist with detection and deportation of unauthorized crossers and shut down mass “parole” programs that had allowed migrants to enter as long as they scheduled ahead of time. The result has been migrants who’d been waiting in Mexico deciding to give up and return home. The 200 figure Ms. Noem touted on Monday is the number of arrests made by Border Patrol agents along the U.S.-Mexico boundary. That doesn’t include so-called “gotaways,” whom agents detected entering but were unable to reel in. There, too, the Trump administration has made major strides. White House border czar Tom Homan said this weekend that gotaways, which hit a high of 1,800 in a day under the Biden administration, totaled just 48 on Friday. The stiff Trump changes don’t come without a cost, according to immigrant rights groups, who say candidates for asylum are being turned away without getting a chance to earn protections here. The Washington Examiner [2/24/2025 3:59 PM, Anna Giaritelli, 2296K] reports the number of illegal immigrants caught entering the country has continued to drop since President Donald Trump took office one month ago, plummeting over the weekend to the lowest figure seen in a single day in 15 years. Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem announced Monday afternoon that the number of apprehensions made at the U.S.-Mexico border on Saturday dropped lower than the several hundred arrests made per day to just a couple of hundred people. U.S. Customs and Border Protection has attributed the decline to its "no longer catching and releasing illegal aliens into the U.S." In total, federal Border Patrol agents stationed at the southern border intercepted 29,116 illegal immigrants in January, down from more than 47,000 in December 2024 and upward of 124,000 a year ago in January 2024. FOX News [2/24/2025 10:39 PM, Staff, 46189K] reports DHS Secretary Kristi Noem weighs in on the falling number of border crossings on ‘Hannity.’ [Editorial note: consult video at source link]

FOX News: Noem ends Biden-era use of controversial app to allow migrants to board flights, except to self-deport

FOX News [2/24/2025 5:54 PM, Adam Shaw, 46189K] reports Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem is ending the use of the controversial CBP One app to allow migrants to board domestic flights – unless it is being used for their self-deportation. "Secretary Noem is reversing the horrendous Biden-Era policy that allowed aliens in our country illegally to jet around our country and do so without identification," a DHS spokesperson told Fox News Digital. "Under President Trump, TSA and DHS will no longer tolerate this. Aliens in our country illegally can no longer fly unless it is out of our country to self-deport," they said. The new policy change ends the use of CBP One at screening checkpoints and TSA’s National Transportation Vetting Center, and also bars air travel for migrants who were paroled or released into the U.S. pending their immigration processing, who do not present a TSA-accepted form of ID, and who are not self-deporting.

Washington Post/AP/Politico/New York Times: Federal judge pauses immigration raids in some houses of worship

The Washington Post [2/24/2025 9:27 PM, Anumita Kaur, 31735K] reports a judge on Monday temporarily barred the federal government from conducting immigration enforcement in certain places of worship after faith groups argued that the threat of raids infringed on their religious liberty. Six Quaker congregations, the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and a Sikh temple sued in the U.S. District Court of Maryland last month, challenging the Trump administration’s order overturning a long-standing policy that restricted immigration authorities from making arrests at churches and other “sensitive locations.” The houses of worship argue that the policy change discourages worshipers

from attending services because they fear being arrested. The Department of Homeland Security in January said the move would help officials “enforce our immigration laws and catch criminal aliens.” U.S. District Judge Theodore Chang on Monday levied a temporary injunction blocking the Trump administration’s order from taking effect as the lawsuit proceeds because he said the order could violate religious freedom. “Plaintiffs have provided evidence that the willingness of their congregants to attend worship and participate in ministry services is presently being chilled,” Chang wrote. Chang denied the plaintiffs’ request for a nationwide halt to immigration enforcement in houses of worship. His order applies only to the Quaker groups, the Georgia-based Baptist denomination and the Sacramento-based Sikh temple that sued. The Department of Homeland Security had restricted immigration enforcement at “sensitive locations” for years. With some exceptions, agents had to obtain special approval for enforcement actions in certain places, including schools, hospitals, churches and other places of worship; funerals, weddings and other religious ceremonies. In 2021, that list expanded to include other health-care facilities, playgrounds, social service facilities and emergency response sites. The AP [2/24/2025 1:18 PM, Michael Kunzelman and Linsay Whitehurst, 47097K] reports U.S. District Judge Theodore Chang found that the Trump administration policy could violate their religious freedom and should be blocked while a lawsuit challenging it plays out. The preliminary injunction from the Maryland-based judge only applies to the plaintiffs, which also include a Georgia-based network of Baptist churches and a Sikh temple in California. They sued after the Trump administration threw out Department of Homeland Security policies limiting where migrant arrests could happen as President Donald Trump seeks to make good on campaign promises to carry out mass deportations. The policy change said field agents using "common sense" and "discretion" can conduct immigration enforcement operations at houses of worship without a supervisor’s approval. Plaintiffs’ attorneys argue that the new DHS directive departs from the government’s 30-year-old policy against staging immigration enforcement operations in "protected areas," or "sensitive locations.". Five Quaker congregations from Maryland, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania and Virginia sued DHS and its secretary, Kristi Noem, on Jan. 27, less than a week after the new policy was announced. Politico [2/24/2025 1:47 PM, Josh Gerstein and Kyle Cheney, 57114K] reports that the Trump administration removed limits the Biden administration had imposed on enforcement at "sensitive" sites such as churches, schools and hospitals. Chuang, an appointee of President Barack Obama, said in a 59-page opinion that the removal of those limits threatened the religious freedom of the groups seeking relief from the court. "The substantial burden that the [Trump administration] policy is far from speculative and is already occurring," wrote Chuang, who noted reports that congregations with large immigrant populations have drawn fewer attendees since the Trump directive was issued last month. The groups that sued over the policy include Quaker congregations in Philadelphia; Richmond, Va.; Maryland and New England, as well as a Sikh temple in Sacramento and a coalition of Cooperative Baptist Fellowship churches headquartered in Georgia. The New York Times [2/24/2025 2:59 PM, Eileen Sullivan, 145325K] reports that the lawsuit was brought against the Homeland Security Department by a group of mostly Quaker organizations. However, a Baptist church in Atlanta and a Sikh temple in Sacramento also joined, and officials in those organizations said they had already seen a decline in attendance because of the new policy. A similar case, brought by a coalition of denominational entities, was filed in federal court in the District of Columbia.

Reported similarly:
Los Angeles Times [2/24/2025 2:05 PM, Michael Kunzelman and Lindsay Whitehurst, 13342K]

The Hill [2/24/2025 1:00 PM, Zach Schonfeld, 16346K]
CBS News [2/24/2025 4:08 PM, Melissa Quinn, 52225K]
USA Today [2/24/2025 6:42 PM, Bart Jansen, 75858K]
Washington Examiner [2/24/2025 4:05 PM, Elaine Mallon, 2296K]

NPR: DHS memo lays out plans to detain migrants at Fort Bliss and other U.S. bases
NPR [2/24/2025 2:28 PM, Joel Rose and Tom Bowman, 29983K] reports that the Trump administration is developing plans to build immigration detention facilities on U.S. military bases around the country, according to an internal memo obtained by NPR. The Department of Homeland Security is asking the Department of Defense for help detaining immigrants without legal status, according to the DHS memo, a step that could significantly expand the military's role in immigration enforcement. The memo sent earlier this month from Juliana Blackwell, the acting executive secretary at DHS, lays out a plan to use Fort Bliss, near El Paso, Texas, to "stage detainees for removal from the United States." The request is still in the planning stages, according to a Defense Department official who was not authorized to speak publicly. But if activated, the plan could dramatically expand detention capacity to support President Trump's push for mass deportations. Fort Bliss would initially detain up to 1,000 immigrants during a 60-day evaluation period, the memo states, and could eventually hold as many as 10,000 immigrants while serving as a "central hub for deportation operations." Fort Bliss could then serve as the model for as many as 10 other holding facilities on military bases nationwide, including Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst in New Jersey; Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station near Buffalo, N.Y.; Hill Air Force Base in Utah; and Homestead Air Reserve Base near Miami.

CNN: US halts plan to house migrants in tents at Guantanamo amid concerns over conditions
CNN [2/24/2025 12:53 PM, Haley Britzky and Priscilla Alvarez, 987K] reports that the Trump administration has halted efforts to place migrants in tent structures built at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, amid concerns that the emerging facilities don't meet detention standards because they lack air conditioning or electricity, a US official and a source familiar with the matter told CNN. It comes weeks after officials scrambled to set up additional housing for migrants at the controversial US base on the island — and only days after those on location were deported. While the tent structures are currently not being used, migrants are still being placed in the detention facility on the base, and at the Migrant Operations Center, or MOC. The Trump administration said it would be building out tent structures at Guantanamo Bay to house an anticipated 30,000 people transferred there from the southern border. But the sources said Monday that the tents don't currently meet detention standards set by Immigration and Customs Enforcement. The two sources, and a third US official, also said there haven't been enough people transferred to the base to justify building more. The situation is indicative of the harried efforts undertaken by the Departments of Defense and Homeland Security to house migrants at the naval base, after President Donald Trump ordered the move in January. Sources previously told CNN the mission has been embroiled in confusion and conflicting internal messaging over who is in charge and what will happen to migrants once they arrive. The Pentagon referred questions to US Southern Command.

The Hill: Senate Democrats challenge transfer of migrants to Guantanamo Bay
The Hill [2/24/2025 6:04 PM, Alexander Bolton, 12829K] reports a group of five Senate Democrats led by Sen. Dick Durbin (D-Ill.) sent a letter to President Trump Monday

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challenging his transfer of migrants to detention centers at the U.S. Naval station in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. The senators noted the U.S. government has never before sent anyone directly from within the country's borders to be detained at Guantanamo, though the naval facilities were temporarily used more than 30 years ago to house migrants from Haiti and Cuba interdicted at sea. They argued that noncitizens within the United States are "entitled to numerous protections" such as the opportunity under U.S. immigration law to seek protection from removal to countries where they face persecution. It was shared with Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa), Attorney General Pam Bondi, Secretary of Homeland Security Kristi Noem and Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth. The senators asked Trump to provide his administration's "claimed legal authority" for transporting noncitizens to Guantanamo and the criteria for determining which noncitizens would be sent to the detention camps. They asked the president to "definitively state" that families and children will not be sent to the prison camp. And they asked him to say whether any individuals sent so far have been convicted of crimes and whether they were provided with legal representation during criminal proceedings.

NBC News: 'Traumatized': Venezuelan speaks on conditions inside Guantanamo Bay
NBC News [2/24/2025 10:20 PM, Staff, 44742K] reports a Venezuelan migrant, Kevin Rodriguez, speaks on the conditions inside the military base Guantanamo Bay. NBC News' Marissa Parra shares the details as the Trump administration halts the temporary protected status for Venezuelans in the United States. [Editorial note: consult video at source link]

Bloomberg: Hegseth Will Visit Guantanamo, Where Migrants Have Been Held
Bloomberg [2/24/2025 8:53 PM, John Harney, 16228K] reports Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth plans to visit the US military base at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba, where some undocumented migrants have been held as part of President Donald Trump's crackdown on illegal immigration. Hegseth, according to a Defense Department statement, will travel to the base on Tuesday and tour the "Migrant Operations Center and the Guantanamo Bay Detention Facility." He will also receive "briefings on all mission operations" at Guantanamo Bay, where suspected terrorists and enemy combatants were held after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks and during the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. About 180 Venezuelans have been shipped to the base since the Trump administration decided to use it as a migrant detention center. They were then flown to Venezuela last week. In January, Trump vowed to send "the worst criminal aliens" to the island base. His administration has previously declined to provide any details of who was jailed at Guantanamo, including what, if any, criminal history they had. The Pentagon said in the statement on Monday night that the Defense Secretary's trip "also facilitates temporary detention of illegal aliens who are pending return to their country of origin or other appropriate destination." Hegseth served at Guantanamo, which has been in American hands since 1903, after joining the Army National Guard.

Roll Call: Trump administration seeks to boost awareness of immigration approach
Roll Call [2/24/2025 1:58 PM, Chris Johnson, 503K] reports the Trump administration has paired a public relations blitz with its policy actions on immigration, with key officials appearing on television news and social media, in an advertising campaign and at a high-profile press conference announcing a lawsuit. Some parts of the push go above and beyond the more traditional tone of promotion of government policy. They reflect a typical style of projecting strength and accomplishment, and the primary audience consuming and sharing the content are supporters of Trump's tough-on-immigration policies. Secretary of Homeland Security Kristi Noem has appeared in ads that urge migrants illegally in the

United States to self-deport, and she told an audience Friday that Trump told her the push would be important because "we're not going to let the media tell this story, because the media will never tell the truth.". During an appearance at the Conservative Political Action Conference, Noem said Trump himself instructed her to take part in the ad after seeing other videos she did in her former role as South Dakota governor - but gave her explicit instructions on giving him credit. "He said, 'I want you in the ads, and I want your face in the ads … but I want the first ad, I want you to thank me, so I want you to thank me for closing the border,'" Noem said. "And I said, 'Yes, sir, I will thank you for closing the border.'". The approach is consistent with Trump's reputation for seeking to grab attention with social media posts, highly visible initiatives and policy actions that favor moving with decisiveness opposed to circumspection - such as the use of a military flourish in deportation efforts and the designation of Guantanamo Bay as a new detention facility for migrants with criminal records. The ads are set to run "in various dialects" across different media markets aimed to "reach illegal immigrants in the interior of the United States, as well as internationally," a statement from the Homeland Security Department says.

CBS News: Trump may revive Title 42 policy to expel migrants citing tuberculosis, documents show

CBS News [2/24/2025 11:33 AM, Staff, 52225K] reports that President Trump's administration is preparing plans to bring back the Title 42 policy used in 2020 to authorize summary expulsions of migrants, government documents show. CBS News' Camilo Montoya-Galvez reports on tuberculosis concerns being the basis for the immigration move. [Editorial note: consult video at source link]

Washington Post: Democratic AGs score early wins against Trump's birthright citizenship ban

Washington Post [2/24/2025 6:00 AM, David Nakamura, 40736K] reports Connecticut Attorney General William Tong, the son of Chinese immigrants, laid down a marker when asked in December about Donald Trump's pledge to end birthright citizenship: "I would be the first to sue." Three weeks later, he was the first — but he was not standing alone. Behind the scenes, Tong and fellow Democratic attorneys general from 21 states and D.C. had signed a confidential "common interest agreement" to share information, collaborate on legal briefs and join forces on litigation to fight Trump on a potential U.S. citizenship ban. Their arrangement took effect Nov. 14, just nine days after the presidential election, according to a copy of the document obtained by Washington Post. That early partnership and planning has paid off. At a time when congressional Democrats have appeared politically flat-footed in response to the shock-and-awe tactics of Trump's first month in the White House, this group of attorneys general has responded with a legal fire wall on a case that has become one of the first clear examples of a coordinated resistance to the administration's extraordinary efforts to expand presidential power and challenge constitutional limits. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit recently upheld a Seattle judge's nationwide injunction on Trump's birthright citizenship order in one of the two cases brought by the Democratic states. Judges in both of those cases, and two others brought by civil rights groups, have issued injunctions. Legal experts said the issue could ultimately be decided by the Supreme Court. "We did not wake up the day after the election and say, 'Oh, no, what are we going to do now?'" Tong said in a recent interview. "Nobody was taking any chances, so, sure, we were talking about the possibility that Trump would win, and he telegraphed all the things he wanted to do during the campaign. What I said to people after

he was elected is that, as a minimum response, we should take him at his word that he will do everything that he said he was going to do. And so he has."

New York Times: What Trump's Deportation Plans Mean for Central America

New York Times [2/24/2025 5:01 AM, Annie Correal, 161405K] reports Central American countries have long taken back their own citizens deported from the United States. But now the Trump administration has called on them to take in people from other countries around the world as well. The extraordinary measures involved in these deportations — hundreds of migrants whisked away by plane without knowing their destinations and bused to isolated shelters — have shifted attention to Panama and Costa Rica and to how Trump's immigration crackdown is playing out far beyond U.S. borders. So far, the number of migrants from elsewhere deported to Central America is still small, and it remains unclear if it will grow. Regional leaders largely say they are actively cooperating with the United States or have downplayed the significance of the deportations. However, analysts warn that these leaders have been backed into a corner with the threat of tariffs and that any increase in deportation flights could eventually push Central America to its limits. "They're powerless to do anything," said Christopher Sabatini, a senior research fellow for Latin America at Chatham House, a research institute in London. "And we saw with President Petro of Colombia the consequences if you resist: sanctions against diplomatic personnel, loss of visa rights, as well as tariffs." This month, the Trump administration sent three military planes carrying roughly 300 migrants — mostly from Asia and the Middle East — to Panama. Days later, a flight carrying 135 people, nearly half of them children and including dozens of people from China, Central Asia and Eastern Europe, landed in Costa Rica. The migrants, who the American authorities say illegally crossed the southern border, are to remain in the custody of the local authorities until they can be returned to their countries or secure asylum somewhere else. Sending them to other countries removes many of the hurdles that Mr. Trump faced during his first term in trying to curb illegal immigration, according to analysts. It helps alleviate overcrowding in U.S. detention facilities by removing people from countries like China, Afghanistan and Iran, where a lack of diplomatic relations with the United States makes deportations particularly challenging.

Reuters: Trump says Canada, Mexico tariffs on schedule despite border, fentanyl efforts

Reuters [2/24/2025 6:28 PM, David Lawder and Andrea Shalal, 2913K] reports President Donald Trump said on Monday that tariffs on Canadian and Mexican imports are "on time and on schedule" despite efforts by the countries to beef up border security and halt the flow of fentanyl into the U.S. ahead of a March 4 deadline. "The tariffs are going forward on time, on schedule," Trump told a joint news conference with French President Emmanuel Macron. He had been asked whether Canada and Mexico had done enough to avoid the punishing 25% U.S. duties. Many had hoped the top two U.S. trading partners could persuade Trump's administration to further delay tariffs that would apply to over $918 billion worth of U.S. imports from the two countries, from autos to energy. This could wreak havoc on the integrated North American economy, with the automotive sector hit particularly hard. Trump did not specifically mention the March 4 deadline. He later referred to his desire for "reciprocal" tariffs to match the duty rates and offset the trade barriers of all countries, including France. Trump and Macron did not publicly discuss another sticking point -- digital services taxes imposed by France, Canada and other countries aimed at dominant U.S. tech giants including Google, Facebook and Amazon. On Friday, Trump ordered his administration to revive tariff investigations into countries that levy digital service taxes on

U.S. firms. Canada and Mexico have taken steps to beef up border security, which bought them about a month's reprieve from Trump's earlier Feb. 1 deadline to impose the tariffs, based on a national emergency declaration. Any further delay negotiated ahead of the deadline will keep the tariff threat in place at least until clear evidence emerges that Canadian and Mexican measures are working, said Dan Ujczo, a lawyer specializing in U.S.-Canada trade matters. "There's progress being made on the security front," said Ujczo, senior counsel with Thompson Hine in Columbus, Ohio. "But it's overly optimistic to think that those tariffs would be fully rescinded.".

CNN: Podcaster and ex-Secret Service agent Dan Bongino will be FBI deputy director, Trump says

CNN [2/24/2025 6:16 AM, Alejandra Jaramillo, Piper Hudspeth Blackburn and Brian Stelter, 987K] reports that, Dan Bongino, a former Secret Service agent turned right-wing podcaster, has been named the next deputy director of the FBI, President Donald Trump announced Sunday, the latest outsider media personality the president has chosen to be in a significant position of power overseeing large branches of complex government organizations. The FBI deputy director traditionally is a position held by a career FBI agent. The choice of Bongino is a sign of the blowback toward the interim FBI leadership over its weeklong standoff with Emil Bove, the acting deputy attorney general, over his demand for names of FBI agents involved in the January 6, 2021, and Trump-related investigations. Newly confirmed FBI Director Kash Patel had told allies initially that Robert Kissane, the acting deputy director, was the likely pick to keep the job until Kissane and Brian Driscoll, the then-FBI acting director before Patel was sworn in, resisted Bove's demands, according to people briefed on the matter. In a post on Truth Social on Sunday night, Trump touted Bongino as a patriot with "incredible love and passion for our Country" and highlighted his extensive background in law enforcement. He also noted that Bongino "is willing and prepared to give up" his popular daily radio show and podcast, "The Dan Bongino Show," "in order to serve." "Working with our great new United States Attorney General, Pam Bondi, and Director Patel, Fairness, Justice, Law and Order will be brought back to America, and quickly. Congratulations Dan!" Trump added. On Friday's episode of his show, titled "The Golden Age Of Republican Politics, Bongino celebrated the confirmation of his new boss, Patel, saying, "We got Kash through, so now you are going to see what real change is like." At nearly the same time Trump posted on social media Sunday, the FBI Agents Association — an organization representing thousands of current and former federal agents — sent a mass email to members welcoming Patel as the new director and outlining the planned collaborative path ahead.

Reported similarly:
USA Today [2/24/2025 1:36 PM, Julia Gomez and Maria Francis, 89965K]

The Hill: Democrats blast Trump for putting Bongino at FBI

The Hill [2/24/2025 2:34 PM, Rebecca Beitsch, 12829K] reports that President Trump's selection of Dan Bongino as deputy FBI director adds another conservative firebrand to the top of the agency, fueling concerns from Democrats the bureau will be politicized. A former Secret Service agent and New York City police officer turned right-wing pundit, Bongino has bragged of "owning the libs," recently suggested Trump should defy a court order and has called the agency he will soon help lead "irredeemably corrupt." In hiring Bongino, Trump tapped a second figure, after FBI Director Kash Patel, who has a lengthy history of controversial statements and little experience with the FBI. The Trump administration also

broke with the tradition of choosing among the department's career ranks for the deputy director — the practice for more than 100 years and one Patel had recently committed to maintaining. "I am proud to welcome Dan Bongino as the next Deputy Director of the FBI—a warrior and lifelong public servant. Dan has dedicated his career to protecting this country," Patel wrote on the social platform X. "His leadership, integrity, and deep commitment to justice make him the ideal choice to help lead the FBI at this critical time. He's a cops cop.". The role does not require Senate confirmation, but several Democrats nonetheless voiced their alarm.

The Hill: Trump defends Musk's 'genius' email to federal workers

The Hill [2/24/2025 2:06 PM, Alex Gangitano, 12829K] reports that President Trump on Monday defended tech billionaire Elon Musk after pushback over his email demanding federal workers list five accomplishments from the past week and in doing so, raising the of risk losing their jobs. "There was a lot of genius in sending it. We're trying to find out if people are working and so we're sending a letter to people, please tell us what you did last week. If people don't respond, it's very possible that there is no such person or they're not working," Trump told reporters in the Oval Office. The email instructed federal workers to respond to the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) by 11:59 p.m. EST Monday with five bullet points of accomplishments. When asked if the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) could benefit from streamlined communication, Trump blamed the Biden administration and then suggested that some people listed as federal government workers don't exist, without providing any proof of that actually being the case. A growing list of agencies, including the Pentagon, FBI, State Department and intelligence community, have told their employees to hold off and not respond to the email, with some citing national security concerns. Trump said he's not concerned about the disconnect between Musk and the agency heads, saying they're request was not doing in a combative manner.

New York Times: Trump Administration, Breaking With Musk's Directive, Says Replying to His Email Is Voluntary

New York Times [2/25/2025 3:26 AM, Michael D. Shear and Kate Conger, 330K] reports Elon Musk's monthlong rampage through the federal bureaucracy appears to have met its first real test, as some of President Trump's top loyalists flatly reject the billionaire's demand that their employees justify their jobs or be summarily fired. By Monday, just 48 hours after an email from Mr. Musk with the subject line "What did you do last week?" landed in the email boxes of millions of federal workers, personnel officials proclaimed the "request" to be voluntary even as Mr. Musk renewed his demand. For the first time since the beginning of Mr. Trump's return to power, government employees appeared to be fending off, at least for now, an ambush in their war with the world's richest man. Even if the head-spinning series of events — contradictory tweets from Mr. Musk, comments from the president and emails from agency heads — left many of them confused. After Mr. Musk's email, several agencies quickly sent out emails telling their employees they did not need to provide the five bullet points about their activity that he wanted. "There is no H.H.S. expectation that H.H.S. employees respond to O.P.M., and there is no impact to your employment with the agency if you choose not to respond," said an email sent to employees at the Department of Health and Human Services, referring to the agency that sent Mr. Musk's request, the Office of Personnel Management. The Department of Health and Human Services added that anyone who wanted to respond should "assume that what you write will be read by malign foreign actors and tailor your response accordingly." At virtually the same time that employees were told a response was no longer necessary, Mr. Trump weighed in during a

visit with President Emmanuel Macron of France, praising Mr. Musk's demand as "genius" and saying that employees who did not respond would be "semi-fired" or "fired."

Reported similarly:
Washington Post [2/24/2025 1:03 PM, Emily Davies, Hannah Natanson, Jeff Stein, and Lisa Rein, 40736K]

MeriTalk: Musk's 'Five Bullets' Directive Draws DoD, DHS, State, Hill Pushback
MeriTalk [2/24/2025 11:07 AM, John Curran, 31K] reports that Elon Musk's social media notice on Saturday that Federal government employees need to state five things they "got done" during the previous week or face the loss of their jobs drew swift push-back over the weekend from several Federal agencies including departments of Defense, Homeland Security, and State, along with fierce criticism from a Democratic leader in the House. The three agencies employ over one million Federal civilian employees, or about 41 percent of the 2.4 million civilian worker total. It was followed up by an email late Saturday afternoon from the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) stating: "What did you do last week? Please reply to this email with approx. 5 bullets of what you accomplished last week and cc your manager. Please do not send any classified information, links or attachments. Deadline is this Monday at 1159pmEST." Notably, the OPM email did not threaten job loss for Federal employees who did not respond. Likewise, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) told employees in an email on Sunday that "DHS management will respond on behalf of the Department and all of its component offices," according to reputable media reports. "No reporting action from you is needed at this time," DHS said, adding, "For now, please pause any responses outside of your DHS chain of command." DHS employs upwards of 250,000 Federal workers.

Reported similarly:
New York Times [2/24/2025 5:53 AM, Chris Cameron and Maggie Haberman, 740K]
The Hill [2/24/2025 12:19 PM, Lauren Irwin, 16346K]

NBC News: DOGE will use AI to assess the responses of federal workers who were told to justify their jobs via email
NBC News [2/24/2025 12:32 PM, Courtney Kube, Julie Tsirkin, Yamiche Alcindor, Laura Strickler, and Dareh Gregorian, 50804K] reports that Responses to the Elon Musk-directed email to government employees about what work they had accomplished in the last week are expected to be fed into an artificial intelligence system to determine whether those jobs are necessary, according to three sources with knowledge of the system. The information will go into an LLM (Large Language Model), an advanced AI system that looks at huge amounts of text data to understand, generate and process human language, the sources said. The AI system will determine whether someone's work is mission-critical or not. The U.S. Office of Personnel Management emails were sent to federal workers on Saturday, shortly after Musk wrote in a post on X that "all federal employees will shortly receive an email requesting to understand what they got done last week. Failure to respond will be taken as a resignation." The OPM email did not mention the resignation threat, but said: "Please reply to this email with approx. 5 bullets of what you accomplished last week and cc your manager. Please do not send any classified information, links, or attachments. Deadline is this Monday at 11:59pm EST."

FOX News: Trump tax cut plan hits turbulence ahead of House vote as Republicans split

FOX News [2/24/2025 10:39 AM, Elizabeth Elkind and Julia Johnson, 49889K] reports that a massive piece of legislation that House Republicans hope will advance a broad swath of President Donald Trump's agenda is facing its final hurdle on Monday before a chamber-wide vote. The House Rules Committee, the final gatekeepers for most bills before a House floor vote, is meeting to debate a measure that GOP leaders want to have on Trump's desk by sometime in May. The bill aims to increase spending on border security, the judiciary and defense by roughly $300 billion, while seeking at least $1.5 trillion to $2 trillion in spending cuts elsewhere. As written, the bill also provides $4.5 trillion to extend Trump's 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA) provisions, which expire at the end of this year. It comes after the Senate held an all-night session to advance its own version of the Trump plan last week. In the Senate Republicans' budget plan, the first reconciliation bill includes Trump's priorities for border security, energy and national defense, while the second bill, to be drawn up later in the year, would focus on extending Trump's tax policies from TCJA.

CBS Austin: [MA] Boston the latest target for White House Border Czar

CBS Austin [2/24/2025 4:50 PM, Kristine Frazao, 602K] reports surveillance video of a shooting at a college party last year was just one of dozens of acts of violence in the Boston area, which federal authorities said were committed by the Trinitarios, a violent transnational gang they say they have now dismantled. Court documents detail the 22 members under federal indictment, a group led by Naturalized citizen Emmanuel Paula Cabral. Some members of the gang are believed to be undocumented migrants living in and around a city that's voted to provide sanctuary to them, which includes a policy that prevents state and local officials from enforcing federal ICE detainers. On Monday, the cities of Chelsea and Somerville —filed a federal lawsuit Monday challenging the Trump Administration's efforts to coerce them into participating in mass deportation efforts.

CBS Boston: [MA] Chelsea, Somerville sue Trump administration for "politicized attack" on sanctuary cities

CBS Boston [2/24/2025 5:15 PM, Louisa Moller, 51661K] reports the cities of Chelsea and Somerville filed suit on Monday, asking a federal judge to block the Trump administration's efforts to withhold funding from so-called "sanctuary jurisdictions." The cities stand to lose tens of millions of dollars if the Trump administration follows through on threats to withhold funding from sanctuary cities. Regardless of rhetoric, Massachusetts law prevents local police officers from arresting or detaining people based solely on their immigration status. Former Special Agent in Charge of Homeland Security Investigations for ICE Boston, Bruce Foucart, says that law has undoubtedly made arrests more difficult and less safe for federal immigration officers.

New York Times/Bloomberg/CBS Austin/Newsweek: [NY] Shelter at Roosevelt Hotel Will Close as N.Y.C. Migrant Crisis Eases

The New York Times [2/24/2025 6:13 PM, Luis Ferré-Sadurní, 161405K] reports that the Roosevelt Hotel, a century-old building in the heart of Midtown Manhattan, became the improbable symbol of New York City's migrant crisis, nicknamed "the new Ellis Island" for its role as an arrival center for migrants seeking shelter in the city. Images of immigrants languishing on the surrounding sidewalks as they waited for beds two summers ago emerged as a cultural and political flashpoint. But in a sign of how the crisis has subsided, the hotel will cease operating as a shelter by June, Mayor Eric Adams announced on

Monday. The decision was a watershed moment as the number of migrants arriving in the city continues to slow and officials dismantle the emergency shelter system they established nearly three years ago. The storied hotel, which closed to guests in 2020 during the coronavirus pandemic but got a second life as a migrant shelter, drew national attention at the height of the crisis. As thousands of migrants cycled through its faded lobby, the Roosevelt turned into a lightning rod in the country's immigration debate: both as a reminder of the depth of the crisis and as shorthand for critics opposed to the expenditure of taxpayer money on migrants. Bloomberg [2/24/2025 11:53 AM, Max Rivera, 21617K] reports that the hotel sits in a prime midtown Manhattan location, steps from Grand Central Terminal and some of the highest-priced office buildings on Park Avenue. "While we are not done caring for those who came into our care, today marks another milestone in demonstrating the immense progress we have achieved in turning the corner on the unprecedented international humanitarian effort," Adams said in a video release. The number of arrivals in New York has fallen to 350 a week, down from a peak of about 4,000, with the midtown intake center processing the bulk of the city's migrants. CBS Austin [2/24/2025 12:27 PM, Jessica A. Botelho, 581K] reports "Thanks to the successful strategies we implemented in our city and policies we advocated for nationally, we'll be closing this site that served new arrivals since the height of this crisis in 2023," he wrote on X. "Our city was receiving 4,000 migrants each week during the height of the crisis, and now we're down to approximately 350 new arrivals each week," he added. "Our administration has skillfully managed this crisis, with over 232,000 migrants coming to our city seeking shelter in the last three years. The Roosevelt Hotel was where we processed 75% of those who came into our care, and it was critical to our effective operation." In recent weeks, the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), which is led by billionaire Elon Musk, discovered the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) gave more than $59 million to house illegal immigrants in NYC hotels. Newsweek [2/24/2025 11:50 AM, Dan Gooding, 56005K] reports Secretary of Homeland Security Kristi Noem said the $80 million, distributed by FEMA, were illegally sent to the city and clawed the cash back. The city announced it was suing the Trump administration over the move on Friday.

Reported similarly:
New York Times [2/25/2025 3:26 AM, Luis Ferré-Sadurní, 330K]
Wall Street Journal [2/24/2025 3:26 PM, Joseph De Avila and Alyssa Lukpat]
NBC News [2/24/2025 11:13 AM, Kyla Guilfoil, 50804K]
FOX News [2/24/2025 7:17 AM, Greg Norman, 57114K]
Washington Examiner [2/24/2025 12:12 PM, Elaine Mallon, 2365K]

Border Report: [TX] DOJ sues New York over immigration policies
Border Report [2/24/2025 11:29 AM, Staff, 153K] reports that the Department of Justice recently announced it is suing New York Gov. Kathy Hochul and other top state officials over alleged resistance to the Trump administration's crackdown on illegal immigration. Many Republican lawmakers say the president is delivering on his promise to secure the border. "We will not be intimidated. At all. Ever!" said House Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries (D-N.Y.). Jeffries condemned the Justice Department's lawsuit against New York and Hochul. "I expect that there will be a forceful response to this overreach by the Department of Justice," he said. Attorney General Pam Bondi announced the lawsuit on Feb. 12, arguing that Hochul and other officials actively resisted the administration's immigration enforcement efforts. "New York has chosen to prioritize illegal aliens over American citizens," Bondi said. The 16-page lawsuit challenges New York's Green Light law, which allows undocumented immigrants to obtain drive-only licenses. A provision in the

law requires the Department of Motor Vehicles to notify undocumented immigrants if U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement requests their information. Bondi called that provision unconstitutional. [Editorial note: consult video at source link]

NorthJersey.com: [NJ] Owner, employee at Oasis Spa in Denville arrested on prostitution charges

NorthJersey.com [2/24/2025 4:55 PM, Lucas Frau] reports police made two arrests relating to involvement in running an alleged illicit massage business in Denville, officials said. Soon Y. Bang, 63, of Fairview, is the owner of Oasis Spa, located at 3108 Route 10 West. He is accused of promoting prostitution at his business, according to the press release sent by the Morris County Prosecutor's Office. Yushun Li, 67, of Flushing, New York, is accused of engaging in sexual activity for money at the establishment, officials said. On Feb. 15, the Denville Police Department executed a search warrant at the Oasis Spa and at Bang's Fairview residence. A large quantity of U.S. currency was found and police say it is "indicative of prostitution." Agencies such as U.S. Homeland Security Investigations Human Trafficking Task Force, United States Secret Service, Bergen County Prosecutor's Office, Edison Police Department, Morris County Sheriff's Office, and Morris County Prosecutor's Office also participated in the investigation. The investigation into the alleged illegal business is still active and ongoing.

NBC News: [TX] Texas Gov. Abbott wages immigration operation in community targeted by conservatives

NBC News [2/24/2025 3:57 PM, Suzanne Gamboa, 44742K] reports Texas state police and local law enforcement converged on a predominantly Latino community near Houston on Monday for what Gov. Gregg Abbott said was an immigration enforcement operation. The operation was focused on Colony Ridge, a group of unincorporated subdivisions northeast of Houston that has been targeted by GOP media and right-wing activists who have pushed unsubstantiated claims that the overwhelmingly Republican area has become a magnet for immigrants and that it is under the control of cartels. NBC News' request to Texas DPS for information on how many people were detained or arrested and whether the apprehensions were immigration related was referred to Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Yahoo! News: [TX] 2 alleged members of Barrio Azteca extradited in Consulate murders

Yahoo! News [2/24/2025 4:57 PM, Dave Burge, 52868K] reports two alleged members of Barrio Azteca, a transnational criminal organization allied with the Juarez Cartel, were extradited from Mexico to the United States to face charges related to the 2010 murders of U.S. Consulate employees in Juarez. That's according to the U.S. Justice Department, which sent out a news release on Monday, Feb. 24 about the extraditions. Eduardo Ravelo, also known as Tablas, Tablero, and T-Blas, and Enrique Guajardo Lopez, also known as Kiki, arrived in the United States on Thursday, Feb. 20, and made their initial appearances Monday in the Western District of Texas. Ravelo, a former FBI Top 10 Most Wanted Fugitive, and Guajardo were charged in a 12-count third superseding indictment unsealed in March 2011, the Justice Department said. "The defendants allegedly participated in the murder of three U.S. Consulate employees in Mexico in March 2010, along with many other acts of senseless violence," Supervisory Official Antoinette T. Bacon of the Justice Department's Criminal Division. "No U.S. citizen, on either side of our border with Mexico, should have to live in fear of Barrio Azteca, any other violent border gang, or any drug cartel. The defendants' extradition to the United States is an example of the Department's

unwavering commitment to eliminating transnational criminal organizations and the pursuit of justice for the victims of those tragic murders in Juarez, Mexico.". Acting U.S. Attorney for West Texas Margaret Leachman said: "The extradition and U.S. custody of these two defendants, who are both alleged to be members of Barrio Azteca operating along the border, is essential to our mission of disrupting and dismantling these dangerous criminal organizations. With the help of our federal, state and local law enforcement partners, this U.S. Attorney's Office will aggressively prosecute Ravelo and Guajardo throughout this case for their alleged participation in the 2010 Consulate murders and other gang related activity.". A total of 35 Barrio Azteca members and associates based in the United States and Mexico were charged in the third superseding indictment for allegedly committing various criminal acts, including racketeering, narcotics distribution and importation, retaliation against persons providing information to U.S. law enforcement, extortion, money laundering, obstruction of justice and murder, the U.S. Justice Department said.

FOX News: [TX] DEA official in Texas sounds alarm on fentanyl after linking teen deaths to Mexican cartel

FOX News [2/24/2025 12:00 PM, Staff, 49889K] reports that Fox News' Brooke Taylor reports the latest after speaking with Eduardo Chavez, the DEA special agent in charge in Dallas, Texas, about the cartel-linked crisis. Fox News political analyst Gianno Caldwell also joins 'The Faulkner Focus' to discuss. [Editorial note: consult video at source link]

Washington Examiner: [IL] Immigration group received over $63 million in Illinois taxpayer funds in 7 months

Washington Examiner [2/24/2025 2:20 PM, Catrina Barker, 2296K] reports that from July 2024 to February 2025, Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights has received over $63 million in Illinois taxpayer funds, according to the Illinois Comptroller vendor payment system. ICIRR received nearly $4 million of taxpayer money this month for Illinois Welcoming Centers. According to the Illinois Department of Human Services, the centers "eliminate systemic barriers that immigrants may have in approaching state services.". State Rep. Adam Niemerg, R-Dieterich, suggested the federal Department of Government Efficiency come to the state of Illinois and uncover this "ridiculousness" and see how tax dollars are really being spent. "The governor is going to do the Springfield two-step. He's going to do this parlor trick today to say, 'hey, I came up with some revenues to try to balance his budget,' but we have … COVID monies [that] are gone, he spent over $3-6 billion on illegal immigration, has a $3.2 billion deficit, and I guarantee you, at 3 a.m. the last night of session, they're going to be raising your taxes," said Niemerg.

CNN: [OK] Oklahoma governor rejects plan to ask students about immigration status and slams 'political drama' at Board of Education

CNN [2/24/2025 9:00 AM, Eric Levenson, 987K] reports Oklahoma Gov. Kevin Stitt rejected a controversial state Board of Education proposal to ask students' families about their immigration status and criticized the board's "needless political drama" in a challenge to the state's increasingly Trumpian educational direction. The proposal, which requires parents to report their immigration or citizenship status when enrolling their children in school, came as President Donald Trump and Republican leaders pledged to crack down on undocumented immigrants and carry out a mass deportation plan. In just over a month in power, the Trump administration has sent troops to the US-Mexico border, deported migrants to Guantanamo Bay and moved to strip temporary protections for certain migrants. Education and immigration advocates questioned whether the proposal was constitutional and said they

believed it will make immigrant families feel afraid and unwelcome at public schools. "After months of headlines followed by disappointing (National Assessment of Educational Progress) scores this month, it's clear that our education infrastructure has fallen prey to needless political drama," Stitt, a Republican who endorsed Trump's presidential bid, said in a statement earlier this month. The results of the National Assessment of Educational Progress, a national exam known as the "Nation's Report Card," showed Oklahoma students scored below average on math and reading assessments. "If we want to be the best state for business, we need to make sure our kids have a path to success. It's time for some fresh eyes and a renewed focus on our top ten goals," Stitt said. Stitt, who is term limited, also announced the replacement of three members of the five-member Board of Education. These new members must be approved by the state Senate. The announcement came a few weeks after the Oklahoma Board of Education under Superintendent of Public Instruction Ryan Walters approved the proposal, which needed to be approved by the legislature and governor to take effect, per state administrative rules. "When I see our NAEP scores not improving, when I see things that are messed up or wrong, or kids being used as political pawns for some political stunt, it's just frustrating," Stitt said at a February 12 news conference.

Yahoo! News: [CO] Homeland Security argues immigration policy shift did no harm to Denver Public Schools

Yahoo! News [2/24/2025 7:51 PM, Heather Willard, 52868K] reports the U.S. Department of Homeland Security told a judge Friday that there was no legal basis for a temporary restraining order to be granted to Denver Public Schools against the federal agency. The district sought such an order to prevent immigration enforcement actions from impacting its school community, with officials saying that the request was filed after "several ICE arrests took place in neighborhoods surrounding some DPS schools earlier this morning, negatively impacting families and students," according to the district's motion. The request for a temporary restraining order was filed on Feb. 12. After President Donald Trump was inaugurated, policies limiting federal immigration officers from sensitive areas, which included schools and churches, were reversed. DPS said this decision created "uncertainty" in its district. Superintendent Alex Marrero told FOX31 earlier this month that students, parents and teachers have been living in fear after recent community raids. He argued that children and families in the district deserve the peace of mind that comes from legal protections so that they can focus on learning. "By all accounts, the new DHS policy gives federal agents virtually unchecked authority to enforce immigration laws in formerly protected areas, including schools," the school district said in its filing against DHS. "As reported to the public, the sole restraint on agents is that they use their own subjective 'common sense' to determine whether to carry out enforcement activities at formally safeguarded locations such as schools." In the response filed on Friday, DHS said that the Denver district has not shown any "legally cognizable" injury inflicted by a change in internal immigration enforcement. It also said DPS had a misunderstanding of the internal policy. "But the declarations from school officials appear to reflect an understanding — an incorrect one— that the 2021 Guidance had categorically prohibited immigration enforcement at schools, and the 2025 Guidance thus now permits enforcement that was previously prohibited," DHS argued in its response to the temporary restraining order.

Reuters: [AZ] Arizona latest state to consider bounties to aid Trump deportations

Reuters [2/24/2025 8:03 PM, Andrew Hay, 41523K] reports Arizona's legislature is set to vote on legislation to pay police $2,500 for every illegal immigrant they help deport, marking

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it the latest U.S. state to consider bounties to support President Donald Trump's hardline immigration policies. Arizona's so-called bounty bill, would be paid for by taxing international money transfers and has a good chance of passing the state's Republican-controlled house and senate. Civil rights and migrant advocates warned that bounties would drive racial profiling and draw police away from law enforcement duties that generally fall to local jurisdictions, unlike federally enforced immigration laws. Arizona's Democratic Governor Katie Hobbs vowed to veto the bill should it pass. "This is a critical mission that Arizona voters overwhelmingly support, and we want to reward the efforts of our hardworking officers," the bill's Republican sponsor Senator Jake Hoffman said in a statement. Trump's state-level allies are looking for ways to mobilize local law enforcement and civilians in the president's push to deport illegal immigrants. Missouri and Mississippi recently considered bills to pay civilian bounty hunters $1,000 for each illegal immigrant they caught. The legislation was shot down in Mississippi and looks set to fail in Missouri, with state Republicans reluctant to pay for immigration enforcement. Arizona has a history of using local police for immigration roles, notably under former Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio who enforced a strict "show me your papers" law. State voters in November approved a proposition to make it a state crime to cross the U.S.-Mexico border illegally. The measure is on hold pending an appeals court ruling. Arizona Senate Democrats said the bounty bill was a throwback to the Wild West. "But it's Wild West with a twist, it's a racist bill," said Senator Lauren Kuby before the legislation passed at committee level last week. It now goes for house and senate votes.

Reuters: [Mexico] Trump aid freeze disrupts anti-narcotics program at Mexican ports
Reuters [2/24/2025 6:04 AM, Stephen Eisenhammer and Laura Gottesdiener, 48128K] reports U.S. President Donald Trump's sweeping foreign aid freeze has stalled a United Nations program in Mexico aimed at stopping imported fentanyl chemicals from reaching the country's drug cartels, according to eight people familiar with the situation. It's one of several U.S. counternarcotics efforts in Mexico derailed in recent weeks by the stop-work order. The initiative provided Mexico's Navy with training and equipment to improve screening of cargo entering and exiting the Port of Manzanillo, the nation's busiest container port. Two additional Mexican seaports — Lázaro Cárdenas and Veracruz — were to be added this month, a rollout that's now on hold due to the funding cutoff, six of the people said. The effort was part of the Container Control Programme, a joint initiative of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the World Customs Organization, which helps local authorities better screen cargo in efforts to stop cross-border contraband smuggling. The U.S. provided some $800,000 in funding to launch the project at the Port of Manzanillo in 2023, two of the people said. The Port of Manzanillo has long been a magnet for narcos looking to sneak Chinese chemical precursors into Mexico to supply illicit labs that manufacture synthetic opioids and methamphetamine. Traffickers have likewise stashed finished street drugs aboard outbound cargo ships, particularly meth headed for Europe. The U.S. funding freeze has also shelved, for now, future training and equipment donations at Manzanillo, four of the sources said. The port was slated to receive additional cargo scanners and drug-testing equipment, two sources said. White House Deputy Press Secretary Anna Kelly did not answer emailed questions from Reuters about the administration's decision to halt funding for the Mexican port program. She did say that Trump is acting to secure the border and cut federal spending. The stalling of the U.N. cargo program in Mexico is part of a broader pause on U.S.-funded anti-narcotics efforts in Mexico as a result of the global freeze of foreign aid that Trump ordered on January 20. Other activities halted by the stop-work order include U.S. training of Mexican authorities to find and dismantle clandestine fentanyl labs and U.S. donations of drug-sniffing canines to

Mexico, Reuters previously reported . The Trump administration has since issued waivers to resume funding for some security programs worldwide. In Mexico, that includes $7.8 million in projects funded by the State Department's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) that aim "to counter production and trafficking of fentanyl and to dismantle terrorist criminal organizations," according to a State Department official.

Bloomberg: [Mexico] Deportation Fears Slow US Travel From Mexico, Volaris CEO Says

Bloomberg [2/24/2025 2:00 PM, Valentine Hilaire and Andrea Navarro, 16228K] reports that a temporary slowdown in travelers visiting the US due to uncertainty surrounding US immigration policies is expected to weigh on Mexican airline Volaris' first-quarter financial results, the company said on Monday. "While our passengers are legal travelers between Mexico and the US, heightened concerns and noise surrounding border policies and enforcement have made them more cautious in their travel decisions," Volaris Chief Executive Officer Enrique Beltranena said during a conference with analysts. "We have navigated similar challenges in the past and we believe that this is an adjustment period that will likely stabilize in the near-term," he said. The comments highlight how President Donald Trump's immigration policies are creating ripple effects beyond the US. Trump has promised to carry out the largest mas deportation effort in US history, enlisting the military to help at the border by declaring a national emergency shortly after taking office. Seattle, Chicago and Los Angeles are among the US cities serviced by low-cost airline Controladora Vuela Cia de Aviacion, known as Volaris. The carrier also connects to other locations in Central and South America. A reduction of traffic and willingness to travel has been seen both in Mexico and the US, Holger Blankenstein, the company's executive vice president of operations said on the call to discuss fourth-quarter results.

New York Times: [Panama] Exporting America's Immigration Problem

New York Times [2/24/2025 6:17 AM, Rachel Abrams, 161405K] reports that, since President Trump took office, his plan to deport millions of undocumented people has kept running into barriers. That has forced the White House to come up with ever more creative, and controversial, tactics. The Times journalists Julie Turkewitz and Hamed Aleaziz explain why some migrants are being held in a hotel in Panama. [Editorial note: consult audio at source link]

Reuters: [Venezuela] Reverse migration: Venezuelans head back toward South America after US dreams dashed

Reuters [2/24/2025 4:23 PM, Enea Lebrun, 41523K] reports dozens of Venezuelan migrants boarded small boats on an island off the Caribbean coast of Panama on Monday, setting off towards Colombia by sea as part of a reverse migration of families who have given up trying to reach the United States. At least six boats, each with more than a dozen people aboard, departed the island of Gardi Sugdub in the San Blas Archipelago off the coast of Panama, aiming to reach Playa Miel near the Colombian border. From there, the migrants explained that they planned to continue their southbound journey until arriving home in their native Venezuela. The reverse migration follows U.S. President Donald Trump's crackdown on unlawful migration, including a broad ban on asylum in addition to the elimination of his predecessor's humanitarian parole programs, which had offered some migrants legal pathways to enter the United States.

Opinion – Op-Eds

Los Angeles Times: Refugee program, halted by Trump, had 40 years of bipartisan success

Los Angeles Times [2/24/2025 6:00 AM, Sophia Balakian, 57114K] reports one of Donald Trump's first actions after assuming office in January was to halt the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program, declaring it "detrimental to the interests of the United States." This misguided sentiment contrasts dramatically with the bipartisan support for U.S. refugee admissions that ushered in the program under the 1980 Refugee Act. Co-sponsored by Democratic and Republican senators, the measure was advanced by a Senate committee with Strom Thurmond (of segregationist fame) as its ranking Republican member. It passed the Senate 85-0 and transformed U.S. refugee policy. In the five years that preceded the law, 400,000 Vietnamese and other Southeast Asian refugees came to the U.S. through ad hoc programs under both Republican and Democratic presidents, Ford and Carter. The 1980 law systematized refugee resettlement, requiring an annual presidential determination, in consultation with Congress, on how many refugees to admit and from where. It regularized assessment of humanitarian priorities and created the Office of Refugee Resettlement under Health and Human Services to administer the program. Over the following decades, the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program opened the door to some of the most persecuted people across the planet. It has been pointed out many times since the first Trump administration deemed the program a security threat that refugees accepted by the United States may be the most well-vetted immigrants to enter the United States. Those seeking resettlement to the U.S. undergo years, sometimes decades, of interviews and background checks. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees interviews them multiple times to assess their fit with humanitarian priorities and admissibility under U.S. law. Then they are interviewed by a Resettlement Support Center operated under the State Department, and finally by Homeland Security officers. Over years, their narratives and biographies are cross-checked with detailed information about their home countries, and with everything they've reported in previous statements. Their names are run through the databases of numerous U.S. government agencies. Many who start the process do not finish it. After all, less than 1% of refugees ultimately resettle through humanitarian programs. Another claim is that refugees who come to the U.S. are a drain on the economy. Those who make it through the admissions gauntlet take loans from the U.S. government to pay for their flights. Upon arrival, they receive less than a year of financial support before they are expected to be financially independent. They work in warehouses, factories and meatpacking plants. They clean hotel rooms, drive trucks and work as home health aids. A study by the Wilson Center found that between 2005 and 2019 refugees and asylees contributed almost $124 billion more to the U.S. economy than they received.

The Hill: Trump's dangerous theory on birthright citizenship contradicts the Founders' goals

The Hill [2/24/2025 11:30 AM, Steven Lubet, 16346K] reports that in well over a century, nobody has seriously challenged the Supreme Court's 1898 ruling that all persons born in the U.S. are citizens under the 14th Amendment, without regard to their parents' immigration status. Then came President Trump's attempt to end birthright citizenship for the children of undocumented migrants. Two prominent law professors have taken Trump's side, contending in a New York Times opinion essay that the president actually has a good case. They are wrong. Trump's executive order grievously misconstrues the 14th

Amendment, and the professors' support for it is badly misguided. Trump's effort has fared poorly in court. Four federal judges have issued preliminary orders against its implementation; none has upheld it. One Republican-appointed judge called Trump's executive order "blatantly unconstitutional" under the 14th Amendment, which provides that "All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States." Grandly titled "Protecting the Meaning and Value of American Citizenship," Trump's order declares that an individual born in the United States is not "subject" to American jurisdiction, and thus not a citizen, "when that person's mother was unlawfully present in the United States and the father was not a United States citizen or lawful permanent resident at the time of said person's birth." This interpretation contradicts settled constitutional law, which makes no distinctions based on the immigration status of a child's parents.

Washington Post: Your face could be in this database. Police should use it carefully. Washington Post [2/24/2025 6:45 AM, Thaddeus L. Johnson and Natasha N. Johnson, 40736K] reports imagine strolling down a crowded sidewalk when police officers stop a man. In seconds, their body cameras, connected to facial recognition software, scan his face. A match appears: He's wanted for robbery, and officers promptly arrest him. For understaffed police departments, this scenario showcases the promise of facial recognition technology (FRT). But critics worry it could turn cities into surveillance zones, invading privacy and unfairly targeting communities of color. The real problem, though, isn't the technology, but how it's used. Our research shows that when applied responsibly, facial recognition saves lives. Facing staff shortages and low clearance rates, many law enforcement agencies are turning to FRT to help solve crimes faster. Cities such as New York and Los Angeles pair it with street cameras and license plate readers. In Chicago, police use smart-video analytics to link body cameras with the technology for real-time monitoring. Police credit this high-tech system with helping to catch dangerous criminals, including violent gang members in Maryland and rioters who stormed the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021. FRT is a tool powered by artificial intelligence that matches faces to images stored in a database, using machine-learning algorithms to recognize patterns. By 2016, one in four local state or local police departments had access to the technology. Today, that number is probably much higher. Clearview AI, a major facial recognition provider, reported in June that police searches on its system had doubled from 1 million to 2 million in the previous year. Clearview's database now contains 50 billion images. Does it work? As criminal justice scholars — one of us a former cop — we wanted to find out. We examined 268 U.S. cities from 1997 to 2020. Only about 9 percent used the technology. But after adopting it, violent crime decreased over time in those cities, even after accounting for factors such as local economic and population changes. The biggest impact was on homicide rates, which fell by an average of 14 percent across all cities from their initial adoption of facial recognition to 2020. The longer cities used the technology, the more crime fell. Police application of facial recognition curbs crime in several ways. First, the technology speeds up arrests, getting offenders off the streets sooner. It also discourages crime by making lawbreakers think twice before acting. Even if criminals aren't aware the technology is being used, it quietly makes it harder for them to hide. And when facial recognition lands big arrests, it sends a clear message that escaping justice has gotten tougher. Visible cameras in high-crime areas add to that fear. Additionally, by quickly finding witnesses, victims and accomplices, FRT helps police intervene before violence escalates.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement

Yahoo! News: ICE directed to find and remove unaccounted for migrant minors
Yahoo! News [2/24/2025 4:11 PM, Ali Bradley, 52868K] reports federal immigration agents are being tasked by the White House to track down and remove about 600,000 children who entered the United States illegally and without their parents or other adults since 2019. But the targets of the Immigration and Customs Enforcement search are, in many cases, teenagers who now may be scattered across several states. Roughly 61% of those being sought by federal agents are young men between the ages of 14 and 17, data shows, the majority of whom are from Guatemala (32%), Honduras (20%), Mexico (20%) and El Salvador (8%). "Now, the pressure is on to identify these individuals and not to take it for granted that just because of their age, they're good to go," Victor Avila, a former special agent with Homeland Security Investigations, told NewsNation. In many cases, Avila said that some of the unaccompanied minors who entered the U.S. lied about their age because assistant U.S. attorneys would decline to prosecute them because of their age in the past. The White House directive to ICE is part of the Trump administration's mass deportation mission. A memo sent to ICE agents outlines an unprecedented push to target migrant children, which will be carried out in four phases, the memo said.

Yahoo! News: [NH] Reports: Berlin federal prison being eyed to house ICE detainees
Yahoo! News [2/24/2025 6:50 PM, Paul Feely, 52868K] reports the ACLU of New Hampshire is asking for information on possible plans to house hundreds of immigrants facing deportation at the federal prison in Berlin. A recent report by the Los Angeles Times suggested that the Federal Correctional Institution (FCI) Berlin, a medium-security prison for men, may soon house immigrants in custody of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, commonly known as ICE. The possible plans sparked outrage and concern from the New Hampshire Immigrants' Rights Network. The ACLU of New Hampshire filed a Freedom of Information Act request Monday seeking information on the use of the facility to hold people in ICE custody, including asking for policy memoranda, detention standards, contracts and other documents. "This proposal means that immigrants facing civil — not criminal — charges would be sent to a medium-security federal prison in one of the northernmost cities in the entire state, isolated from their family, advocates, and potential legal services," Amanda Azad, policy director at the ACLU of New Hampshire, said in a statement. "We have strong concerns about the conditions that would exist for hundreds of these immigrants, how they would be treated in this prison, and we refuse to stand by and allow this cruelty in our state.". According to the LA Times, more than 500 detainees could be held at the prison. In addition to it being just one of five facilities in the country being considered, immigration advocates say FCI Berlin's remote location — 119 miles north of Concord and 187 miles north of Boston — would create "clear logistical concerns," including housing immigrants who face civil charges with inmates accused of crimes and the difficulty of families to visit their loved ones. According to a memo included in the Times story, the Bureau of Prisons states FCI Berlin would take a "substantial amount of preparation and resources ... including but not limited to additional funding for staffing, food, utilities, clothing, training and other necessary items.".

Reported similarly:
Vermont Public [2/24/2025 8:36 AM, Lau Guzmán, 148K]

FOX News: [MA] Brazilian illegal alien charged with rape caught in Massachusetts, handed over to ICE in rare case

FOX News [2/24/2025 7:02 PM, Greg Wehner and Bill Melugin, 46189K] reports in a rare case, a Massachusetts police department honored a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detainer request for a Brazilian illegal alien accused of rape. ICE Boston apprehended 21-year-old Willian Robert Vasconcelos-Dos Santos in Falmouth, Massachusetts, after he was charged with raping a Massachusetts resident last month. "Willian Robert Vasconcelos-Dos Santos is charged with horrifically victimizing a Massachusetts resident and represents a significant threat to the residents of our communities," ICE Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO) Boston acting Field Office Director Patricia H. Hyde said. "In this case, we appreciate the Falmouth District Court honoring the ICE immigration detainer and allowing our officers to take custody of Vasconcelos in the safety of a jail cell rather than having to arrest him at large. ICE Boston will continue to prioritize public safety by arresting and removing illegal alien offenders from our New England communities.". Vasconcelos-Dos Santos was arrested by the U.S. Border Patrol on April 10, 2024, after he illegally entered the U.S. near San Diego.

Yahoo! News: [GA] Mexican national arrested by ICE for child sex crimes, HSI Atlanta says

Yahoo! News [2/24/2025 8:59 PM, Staff, 52868K] reports a Mexican national was reportedly arrested by ICE and the Newnan Police Department for alleged sex crimes involving children, according to Homeland Security Investigations Atlanta. HSI says the suspect, who was not publicly named, entered the U.S. illegally and had 10 warrants out for his arrest for child cruelty, molestation and other crimes. The office says this arrest was part of the ICE Atlanta and Georgia Internet Crimes Against Children Taskforce's Operation Innocent Shield. It's not clear where the suspect is currently being held. No further information has been released yet. FOX 5 Atlanta is working to learn more information. The preliminary information in this article was released by Homeland Security Investigations Atlanta via X.

Yahoo! News: [AL] Guatemalan man arrested in Alabama sentenced to prison

Yahoo! News [2/24/2025 4:33 PM, Isaac Goffin, 52868K] reports a man who was found to be in the U.S. illegally was sentenced for illegal possession of a firearm, according to U.S. Attorney Prim Escalona on Monday. Joel Armando Martin-Martin, a 24-year-old from Guatemala, was sentenced to two years in prison. Martin-Martin pled guilty to being an "illegal alien in possession of a firearm" in November, according to the U.S. Department of Justice. Court documents state a Homewood police officer conducted a traffic stop on Martin-Martin on Aug. 5. According to court documents, the officer smelled marijuana and told Martin-Martin to exit the vehicle he was in. A vehicle search found a located DTI AR-style rife, 11 magazines fitted for the rifle, ammunition, a loaded Springfield 9mm magazine and three spent shell casings, per court documents. Homeland Security Investigations and the Homewood Police Department investigated the case.

Yahoo! News: [AL] Nearly a dozen arrested in Opelika child exploitation operation

Yahoo! News [2/24/2025 5:13 PM, Nicole Sanders, 52868K] reports almost a dozen people were arrested in connection to a child exploitation operation on Thursday and Friday, according to the Opelika Police Department. A total of 11 individuals were taken into custody in an operation conducted by OPD along with the Lee County District Attorney's Office, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, and Covenant Rescue Group – a non-profit aiming to bring hope to trafficking victims.

CBS Miami: [FL] Florida sheriffs move quickly on immigration enforcement
CBS Miami [2/24/2025 5:53 PM, Staff, 51661K] reports all of the state's 67 counties have entered agreements with federal immigration authorities to detain undocumented immigrant criminals in jails, the Florida Sheriffs Association announced on Monday as the state rushes to assist mass deportation efforts. The agreements bring counties into compliance with part of a state law (SB 2-C) passed during a special legislative session this month aimed at boosting enforcement of illegal immigration. Under the agreements, sheriffs' deputies with special training can process immigration "detainers" issued by federal authorities to keep inmates in jail. The inmates can be kept up to 48 hours before being picked up by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers. The "warrant service officer" program is a key part of the administration's crackdown on illegal immigration and focuses on undocumented immigrants who have committed crimes or been ordered to be deported by judges, according to Pinellas County Sheriff Bob Gualtieri. As state and local efforts accelerate, sheriffs warned that the administration needs to quickly increase the number of beds available for undocumented immigrants waiting to be processed and deported. Federal immigration authorities have about 2,000 beds in Florida "and they're full," Gualtieri said. The new Florida immigration law also created a State Board of Immigration Enforcement, which is made up of officials. Decisions made by the board must be unanimous. Lawmakers during the special session also approved a measure (SB 4-C) that makes it a state crime for undocumented immigrants to enter or attempt to enter Florida. People who violate the law face a mandatory nine-month jail sentence.

Miami Herald: [FL] Key West man nabbed on child porn charges. Feds say dozens of graphic images found
Miami Herald [2/24/2025 8:30 PM, David Goodhue, 3973K] reports federal agents have arrested a Key West man who they say had dozens of child pornography images and videos on his cell phone. The material on the device was extremely graphic, showing horrific scenes of men raping girls who appeared to be less than 8 years old, and children around the same age being restrained in bondage gear, according to the Homeland Security Investigations complaint filed Friday in U.S. Southern District Court. The iPhone was confiscated during a raid on 24-year-old Joel Ramirez Campos' home at 1220 2nd Street in Key West last month, according to the complaint. Agents were acting on a tip they received that Campos was uploading child pornography from that residence. While executing the search warrant, agents and other law enforcement officers found the iPhone in a case that also contained Campos' driver's license, which was sitting on a table next to his bed, according to the complaint. A forensic extraction of the phone turned up about 100 videos and images containing "child sexual abuse material," agents wrote in the complaint. One of the videos showing the abuse was more than 38 minutes long, according to the complaint.

Yahoo! News: [FL] Jailed Florida undocumented immigrants to be handed over to ICE
Yahoo! News [2/24/2025 10:48 PM, Nick Papantonis, 52868K] reports undocumented immigrants with deportation orders who encounter Florida police, deputies and troopers will find themselves on the fast track to being deported under a renewed partnership between ICE and the state's 67 county jails. The partnership existed during the first Trump administration in some Florida counties, but sheriffs on Monday announced the final sign-ons. The partnership became a requirement under Florida's recent special immigration session. "It just makes sense," Pinellas County Sheriff Bob Gualtieri said during a press conference Monday, announcing ICE had uploaded half of Florida's 1.4 million deportation

orders to the statewide crime-fighting database. Gualtieri said the program withered under the Biden administration, which required a conviction before ICE would swoop in. That gave accused criminals the ability to walk free from jails – and potentially disappear. He said he went from 400 deportation agreements per year under the Trump administration to just 14 under the first year of Biden's presidency. Now, the agency will take custody of a detainee within 48 hours after their criminal case wraps up, whether their sentence is finished or if the charges are dropped. Gualtieri and other sheriffs emphasized the program would only target criminals, but he admitted something as minor as a traffic stop could trigger the process. He and other sheriffs said they had little time to go after law-abiding people, even if they are here illegally. "If you're here with your kids… paying your taxes, you're not our priority," he said. Under Florida law, people who are victims or witnesses to crimes are exempt from being reported to ICE. The sheriffs on Monday called on crime victims to come forward without fear of being deported. "The concern I have for many of my law-abiding clients are those who sometimes have a bad day, perhaps they were in a fight with their spouse, and the police were called," Orlando immigration attorney Nayef Mubarak said. "Once you're in ICE custody in the Florida State criminal charges are dismissed, it's it doesn't matter you're now in the deportation process." Mubarak agreed with the general premise of the program and said there was little debate over deporting people with criminal records, but it was those grey area situations that made him pause.

Yahoo! News: [MO] 173 people detained in the Greene County Jail being held for ICE
Yahoo! News [2/24/2025 11:10 PM, Carissa Codel, 52868K] reports Greene County is holding true to its word on aiding Immigration and Customs Enforcement. There are nearly 200 people in the Greene County Jail currently being held for ICE. Greene County Sheriff Jim Arnott signed a contract with ICE saying the county would house immigration detainees. Now those plans have materialized. "We have been working with ICE knowing that this would be coming," Arnott said. "So we are fully prepared to work whatever direction they want to go." Greene County has made it known they will be helping with ICE operations since President Donald Trump signed the executive order authorizing mass deportations. "We're ready to apprehend detainees under the president's direction," Arnott said. "And we will move forward swiftly. We will house them and we will make it happen." A total of 173 people are being held in the Greene County Jail for ICE as of Feb. 24. Greene County has 300 beds specifically set aside for immigration detainees. Cpt. Jason Johnson with the sheriff's office says those detainees are being held in a pod in the exact same conditions as other inmates in the jail. "We're just following the executive orders of the president and Immigration and Customs Enforcement is also acting upon that executive order," Johnson said. "And we're housing the immigration detainees." The people being held are from local areas, as well as overflow detainees from Chicago, Kansas City and St. Louis. "At this point, we don't know exactly for how long they'll be here," Johnson said.

Univision: [TX] Greg Abbott confirms immigration operations outside Houston: here's what we know about the arrests
Univision [2/24/2025 5:57 PM, Staff, 5325K] reports on the morning of February 24, Texas Department of Public Safety Troopers and Special Agents collaborated with multiple agencies on an operation in Colony Ridge, Texas Governor Greg Abbott announced. The subdivision in unincorporated Liberty County has about 40,000 residents, most of whom are immigrants. According to Abbott, Texas Department of Public Safety Troops and Special Agents assisted Homeland Security Investigations with an operation that, he says, "targeted criminals and undocumented immigrants." Univision 45 was in the Cleveland, Texas area

and was able to verify how elements of Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), one of the main federal law enforcement agencies of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), were on different streets and areas. No official details have yet been released regarding the arrests or other measures resulting from the operation.

Yahoo! News: [TX] Feds to target “criminals and illegal immigrants” in Houston-area development, Abbott says

Yahoo! News [2/24/2025 12:03 PM, Alejandro Serrano, 57114K] reports that federal immigration authorities on Monday planned to conduct a targeted operation on "criminals & illegal immigrants" in a housing development outside of Houston that’s been under scrutiny from conservative lawmakers and media for selling land to undocumented people, Gov. Greg Abbott said. Abbott said in a social media post that he had worked with President Donald Trump’s immigration adviser, Tom Homan, "for months" to target Colony Ridge, a 33,000-acre development some 30 miles outside of the nation’s fourth-largest city. Conservative influencers, outlets, think tanks and Texas lawmakers had dubbed it as a safe haven for undocumented people, often painting it as a cartel-run crime hub. The extent of any enforcement was not immediately clear. Spokespersons for the Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Texas Department of Public Safety and Abbott did not respond Monday morning to requests for more information. Abbott said that DPS troopers and special agents are assisting federal agents with the operation.

Univision: [TX] An immigrant community in Texas was trying to live without fear and then Abbott announces that ICE is coming for them

Univision [2/24/2025 2:07 PM, Patricia Clarembaux, 5325K] reports that For Daniel and Lidia*, fear of deportation kept them at home the week of January 20, 2025, when Donald Trump assumed his second presidency. Just like their godmother, who preferred to send her five children to school in an Uber those days to avoid an encounter with immigration agents. Not only do they live undocumented in Texas, but they are in a neighborhood populated mostly by immigrants who, they say, have been "targeted" by the state’s Republican politicians: Colony Ridge. The fear in this community is not accidental. In recent years, conservative media and politicians have labeled Colony Ridge — in a county with a 42% Hispanic population, according to Census figures for July 2024 — as a "magnet for illegal immigrants" and an area "plagued by crime." The state’s own governor, Greg Abbott, criticizes it for acting as a "sanctuary" and has asked legislators for years to work on a text that would prevent the permanence and replication of spaces like this. They had also tried to stop watching the news: "Sometimes they are more sensationalist than normal," she said last week. And they were less likely to check social media or community Facebook groups, where reports of everything from lot sales to the presence of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents roaming the area are reported: "The same race is scary," he added.

CBS Austin: [TX] Local attorney highlights cases of non-criminals detained in recent I.C.E. operations

CBS Austin [2/25/2025 11:00 PM, Andrew Freeman, 602K] reports President Trump has long promised the mass deportations the country has been seeing over the last several weeks, with the stated goal of going after those with dangerous criminal records first. That hasn’t always been the case, as many people without criminal records are being detained too. Austin Immigration attorney Iris Albizu says it’s been a busy year so far. "We’re seeing

that there is, kind of like, no compassion," Albizu said. "We have seen more clients that are trying to stay on top of their cases, that they want more information on what's going on." But it's not just because of fear and uncertainty of deportation by the Trump Administration. She's currently representing a man who is being detained after being pulled over for speeding. "The state troopers are in combination, also working with ICE officers," Albizu said. " We have these cases that we have seen like, for example, in my case, someone that is not a threat to the security, not a threat to the public, was apparently speeding, but got no ticket and no warning, and still was detained by immigration after that." She couldn't share too many details for confidentiality reasons but says he's been in the country for seven years with no criminal record. As the father of two children who are both U.S. citizens, she calls the outcome "heartbreaking." "They need to pay the rent, they need to still pay the utilities, they need to buy groceries, and you have the father, who is the breadwinner, detained, so it is causing a lot of damage," Albizu said. At the Conservative Political Action Conference over the weekend or C.P.A.C., President Trump said these were the exact situations he wanted to stop by trying to end birthright citizenship. "It wasn't meant for these children," President Trump said. "It wasn't meant for people who escaped or invaded, came into our country illegally. It was meant for the children of slaves." At the same conference, Immigration and Customs Enforcement Director Tom Homan says they're coming for sanctuary cities next. "You said you'd double down on not helping the law enforcement office of I.C.E.," Homan said of Boston's mayor Michelle Wu. "I'm coming to Boston and I'm bringing hell with me."

Houston Chronicle: [TX] Houston-area development Colony Ridge targeted in Trump deportation push, Gov. Abbott says

Houston Chronicle [2/24/2025 11:45 AM, Benjamin Wermund, 2315K] reports that Gov. Greg Abbott said Colony Ridge, a sprawling development northeast of Houston that has long been the subject of right-wing conspiracy theories, is being targeted Monday morning in President Donald Trump's mass deportation push. Abbott said the operation is going after "criminals & illegal immigrants" in the sprawling development that is home to many low-income and immigrant families. The Texas Republican wrote he had worked with Trump's "border czar," Tom Homan, on the operation "for months." "Colony Ridge is being targeted today," Abbott, a third-term Republican, wrote in a post on the social media site X. "Texas DPS Troopers & Special Agents are assisting Homeland Security Investigations, with an operation in Colony Ridge this morning." Colony Ridge is being targeted today. Texas DPS Troopers & Special Agents are assisting Homeland Security Investigations, with an operation in Colony Ridge this morning. Abbott's office declined to answer questions about the operation and directed them to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Officials with DHS, Texas DPS leadership and federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement leadership have not responded to a request for comment. Tim Oberle, a spokesman for Houston-area Immigrations and Customs Enforcement, referred questions about the operation to his email address. But didn't immediately respond to a list of emailed questions.

FOX News: [CA] Anti-ICE activists disrupt LA operations, post photos, names and phone numbers of agents

FOX News [2/24/2025 10:39 PM, Stepheny Price, Bill Melugin, 46189K] reports flyers showing the names, pictures, and phone numbers of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents have surfaced in a Southern California neighborhood. Multiple federal law enforcement sources confirmed to Fox News national correspondent Bill Melugin that anti-ICE activists, who have been interfering with ICE operations in the Los

Angeles area in recent days, have now started putting up posters featuring the personal information of ICE and Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) officers working in the Los Angeles and Southern California area. The posters, which were written in Spanish, translate roughly to read "CAREFUL WITH THESE FACES." "These armed agents work in Southern California. ICE and HSI racially terrorize and criminalize entire communities with their policies. They kidnap people from their homes and from the streets, separating families and fracturing communities. Many people have died while locked up in jails, prisons, and detention centers," the posters continued. It is unclear which activist group is putting up these posters, but ICE officials said they are aware and are investigating. "These pathetic activists are putting targets on the backs of our law enforcement as they shield MS-13, Tren De Aragua and other vicious gangs that traffic women and children, kidnap for ransom and poison Americans with lethal drugs," a Department of Homeland Security (DHS) spokesperson told Fox News in a statement. "These individuals will be held accountable for obstructing the law and justice. This shouldn't be controversial."

CBS Los Angeles: [CA] Local activists track apparent ICE operations in Los Angeles
CBS Los Angeles [2/24/2025 8:52 PM, Jeff Nguyen, 51661K] reports that, with fear and frustration teeming in Los Angeles, local activists are tracking apparent ICE operations and reminding residents of their rights. Among the activists is a group called the Community Self-Defense Coalition LA, which consists of about 150 volunteers who patrol throughout the county. They've followed agents and recorded a pair of operations in Alhambra and San Fernando. "In both of those places, we're happy to report, the agents decided to abort the mission for whatever reason," said activist Ron Gochez. ICE said it can't respond to rumors or specifics of routine daily operations. The images shared by Community Self-Defense Coalition LA come after recent operations by the Trump administration to catch people unlawfully living in Chicago and New York. Activists got on loudspeakers, telling members of the community that they do not have to answer the door if agents do not have a warrant. The chair of LA County's Republican party said these operations are targeting criminals. "The people with the loudspeakers and megaphones, trying to disrupt the lawful activities of law enforcement, don't understand one thing," Chairwoman Roxanne Hoge said. "To live with the consequence that ICE is going to have to find these people in ever-increasing dangerous situations.". Gochez disputed Hoge's claim. "The data from ICE itself shows that more than half of the people who have been detained are people with absolute zero criminal records. The FBI, which has been assisting with immigration operations since late January, said anyone impeding law enforcement operations can be prosecuted. "We will not physically interfere," Gochez said. "We will not attack. We won't do anything illegal. We'll do anything in our legal means to defend the community.". Activists said they arrived late to an apparent ICE operation in LA's Eastside. They aren't sure if anyone was taken away.

Univision: [CA] ICE in Los Angeles: Activists claim they managed to avoid arrests in at least two immigration raids
Univision [2/24/2025 10:14 PM, Staff, 5325K] reports several pro-immigrant organizations in Southern California organized to act against immigration raids that have been carried out in recent weeks in the state and last Sunday, they claim, managed to prevent at least two arrests. Activists from the Union del Barrio coalition alerted the community about two alleged immigration raids involving DEA and FBI agents in Alhambra and in the city of San Fernando. The events allegedly occurred on the morning of Sunday, February 23. "We found two migra operatives. Our comrades arrived there and with megaphones were able to alert the people to defend themselves and also remove the agents," said Ron Gochez, an

activist. But their work would not be limited to just alerting, they reported that they were ready to intervene if necessary. They also said they saw five vehicles they attribute to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). "For me it's not fair, people are trying to make a living, they work hard for their money, to protect their family," said Sandra Ibarra, a resident of the area. Univision Los Angeles contacted the immigration services to find out about the operations, however, no response was provided due to the argument that they cannot respond or give specific details of their daily operations. However, for the members of the Union del Barrio their work was satisfactory. "We are very happy that today no one was taken by the migra in these operations. It was thanks to the companions who were there," Gochez shared. [Editorial note: consult video at source link]

San Francisco Chronicle: [CA] Sacramento Sikhs, Bay Area Baptists win protection from Trump immigration raids

San Francisco Chronicle [2/24/2025 7:04 PM, Ko Lyn Cheang, 5046K] reports a Sacramento Sikh temple and three Bay Area Baptist churches were part of a religious coalition that won a preliminary injunction Monday against the Trump administration's plan to send federal immigration authorities into houses of worship. On Jan. 20, President Donald Trump's acting Department of Homeland Security secretary, Benjamine Huffman, rescinded Biden-era protections for religious spaces, schools and hospitals from immigration raids. Following that rescission, on Jan. 31, Immigration and Customs Enforcement Acting Director Caleb Vitello issued a memo stating there were no "bright line rules" regarding where immigration laws could be enforced, allowing enforcement officials to make "case-by-case determinations" on whether to enter those protected areas. Even before Vitello's memo, on Jan. 27, a coalition of Quaker meetings sued the Trump administration on free speech and religious freedom grounds. They were later joined by the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, which consists of 1,400 churches serving an estimated 750,000 Baptists nationwide, and the Sikh Temple of Sacramento, which represents about 30,000 Sikhs. On Monday, a federal judge in Maryland, Theodore Chuang, granted plaintiffs' request for a preliminary injunction barring the Trump administration from conducting immigration enforcement activities in places of worship owned, operated or used by plaintiffs. The judge ordered the Department of Homeland Security to revert to the Biden-era policy, but only with regard to the plaintiffs.

Yahoo! News: [CA] Activists in LA mobilize against deportation efforts

Yahoo! News [2/24/2025 9:36 PM, Nancy Loo, 52868K] reports President Donald Trump's border czar, Tom Homan, is focusing on Boston for upcoming deportations. Homan said the city had doubled down on not allowing law enforcement to help with deportations and warned he would be "bringing hell" with him to Boston. His words prompted applause at the Conservative Political Action Conference but harsh criticism from Boston officials and leaders in other sanctuary cities, including Los Angeles. In LA, the weekend was full of rumors and fears among the immigrant population, with people expecting Immigration and Customs Enforcement raids. That led to emptier spots where day laborers usually gather to look for work. Activists in LA mobilized, including a group called the Community Self-Defense Coalition, working to advise people without documents of their rights, including that they do not have to answer the door unless there is a signed warrant. California is the biggest sanctuary state, with an estimate of nearly two million people who do not have documents, more than half of them in Los Angeles County. Activists have been keeping tabs on what is happening and sending warnings on social media, stopping to patrol

neighborhoods when suspected ICE or Homeland Security vehicles are spotted. They also alert communities with megaphones, adding to heightened tensions in the community.

NBC News: [Cuba] Deported Venezuelan says he's 'traumatized' by his time in Guantánamo

NBC News [2/24/2025 6:43 PM, Nicole Acevedo and Johana Suárez, 44742K] reports a young Venezuelan who was deported back to his country said he was "traumatized" by his time in a U.S. military prison in Guantánamo Bay, Cuba. Kevin Rodríguez, 22, is one of the 178 Venezuelan immigrants sent to Guantánamo this month, after President Donald Trump's order to use the detention camp to speed up his administration's goal of mass deportations. In an exclusive interview with Noticias Telemundo, NBC's Spanish-language sister network, Rodríguez detailed the conditions he said he experienced at the military prison during the two weeks he was detained before returning to Venezuela on Thursday. The Department of Homeland Security and the Immigration and Customs Enforcement did not respond to emails seeking comment about Rodríguez's case and his allegations about the conditions in Guantánamo. Rodríguez said the cobwebs and ants inside the approximately 6 by 9 feet cell gave the sense that the place had long been unoccupied. "Those cells were in very bad condition," he said in one of the first personal accounts from a migrant detained there. "You could really see that no one had been there in a long time. They didn't even clean them.". He said a thin mattress separated him from the concrete bed top he slept on for 14 days, "enduring the cold.". According to Rodríguez, detainees were taken out, in handcuffs, to shower every three days. "They searched us before we went into the shower," he said. "When we came out, they searched us again.". "The food was really bad and there was very little food," Rodríguez said, adding he lost 9 pounds while he was there. "The last meal of the day was at 4 p.m. And then by 7, 8, 9 p.m., we were very hungry.".

Citizenship and Immigration Services

Dallas Morning News: Why are Christians fleeing persecution among Trump's deportees?

Dallas Morning News [2/25/2025 2:30 AM, Staff, 2778K] reports we should all be appalled by the treatment of a group of deportees sent to Panama earlier this month. They were shackled, deprived of cellphones and passports, and not told where they were going. Understandably, some of the passengers were terrified, including young children who had to watch their parents being restrained. Removal proceedings should follow an orderly process, and people should be treated humanely. The Trump administration has repeatedly said it is cracking down on dangerous migrants, but reporting about recent deportation flights to Central America suggests the administration is treating all migrants harshly. Some of these migrants, many from Asian countries, might actually meet the criteria for asylum in the United States. According to New York Times, one of the deportees sent to Panama is an Iranian woman who said she was accompanied by nine other Iranian Christians, including three children. In Iran, converting from Islam to Christianity is a crime punishable by death. President Donald Trump alleged during his campaign that Christians were being persecuted in the U.S. and said he would protect them. Aren't Christians fleeing other nations under the threat of death because of their religion also worth protecting? According to local authorities, the deportees sent to Panama had no criminal records. Once under Panama's jurisdiction, they were locked in a hotel and barred from seeking attorneys, according to The Times. A Homeland Security spokeswoman, Tricia McLaughlin, denied

that the migrants sent to Panama "asserted fear of returning to their home country at any point during processing or custody." But The Times' interviews with deportees indicated they were distraught about being sent home and about being held at the hotel. Most undocumented migrants don't meet the legal criteria for asylum, and in a better system, their cases would be adjudicated quickly. Last year, then-President Joe Biden stepped up enforcement, with more than 270,000 migrants sent back to their countries. The Trump administration has been keen to ramp up deportations by using military planes and striking deals with third countries to send migrants the U.S. has difficulty deporting.

Yahoo! News: [CO] Colorado refugee resettlement agencies scramble for funding to help new arrivals

Yahoo! News [2/24/2025 6:00 AM, Lindsey Toomer, 57114K] reports attendees watch live music at the World Refugee Day celebration, put on by Colorado Refugee Connect, at Aurora City Center Park in Aurora on June 20, 2021. (Eli Imadali for Colorado Newsline). Resettlement service agencies in Colorado are left to search for their own funding to continue helping newly arrived refugees after an executive order President Donald Trump signed on his first day in office stopped their funding. Trump issued an executive order halting the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program, which allows people unable to return to their home country for fear of violence or persecution to legally reside in the U.S. after an extensive vetting process. He will decide based on a report from the secretary of state and the secretary of Homeland Security whether resuming the program "would be in the interests of the United States" after 90 days. Jewish Family Services of Colorado has offered refugee resettlement services over the last four years. Jessica Zeidman, chief advancement officer at JFS, said last year, her organization helped 190 refugees resettle in Colorado, and they had signed a contract with the federal government to help 175 more people this year. After the November election, Zeidman said the organization anticipated changes to the refugee program and looked to the thresholds Trump imposed in his first term to help them prepare, but "were not expecting him to close it completely." The president proposes annual thresholds that limit how many refugees will be permitted in the country, which need to be approved by Congress. The organization quickly mobilized to "bring in as many refugees as we could" ahead of Jan. 20. Between Oct. 15 and Jan. 15, Jewish Family Services resettled 137 people in Colorado, more than double the typical number of 60 people they would help during that time. Zeidman said her team was at the airport on New Year's Day picking up families. That included people from Afghanistan, Sudan, Iraq, Venezuela, Burma, Syria, Columbia and the Democratic Republic of Congo. The stop work order included in Trump's executive order has been "the most detrimental," Zeidman said. That action voided the contract HIAS, the parent organization overseeing refugee resettlement at Jewish Family Services, had with the Department of State to provide money to refugees during their first 90 days in the U.S. Zeidman said federal funding made up about 60% of the JFS budget for refugee resettlement.

PBS: [Afghanistan] Groups call on veterans to protest Trump administration's 'intentional betrayal' of Afghans who helped U.S. forces

PBS [2/24/2025 9:16 AM, Staff, 12036K] reports the main coalition of advocacy groups that have helped resettle Afghans who aided American forces during the war is ramping up its pressure campaign on President Donald Trump to reverse course after he closed the door on an estimated 200,000 people. The coalition of more than 250 groups, known as #AfghanEvac, is calling on veterans of the global war on terror to rally against the Trump administration for blocking the relocation of Afghans in danger of retaliation from the Taliban

for working with the U.S. government. "This is worse than the chaotic withdrawal in August 2021. Because now, we know better. Because this time, it is not an accident," Shawn VanDiver, a Navy veteran and founder of #AfghanEvac, wrote in an open letter to veterans Monday. "It is not an oversight. It is a choice. It is an intentional betrayal of those we swore to stand with and an insult to the veterans who led this fight." Within hours of taking office, Trump issued an executive action that indefinitely halted all refugee admissions and foreign aid, including cancelling flights for Afghans who were already vetted and who had booked flights to come to the U.S. Trump's actions effectively denied nearly all pathways forward for Afghans who helped the U.S. military over the course of the 20-year war. The letter, provided first to PBS News, calls on veterans to speak up and call their representatives in a push to convince the Trump administration to reverse course. VanDiver also placed blame on some of Trump's top advisers. "We believe this decision comes directly from the White House, specifically from Homeland Security Advisor and Deputy Chief of Staff Stephen Miller. We don't know if Secretary [of State Marco] Rubio, or even President Trump himself, are aware of the implications of this shut down," VanDiver writes. "We are certain that National Security Advisor Mike Waltz, a veteran of the war in Afghanistan, does not support this action, because he has vocally and publicly worked for the last several years to ensure an immigration pathway is available for the Afghans he served alongside."

Customs and Border Protection

Border Report: 14 indicted for alleged role in 'prolific' migrant smuggling operation
Border Report [2/24/2025 5:52 PM, Fernie Ortiz, 117K] reports a federal grand jury has indicted 14 individuals from Texas, New Mexico and Mexico for their alleged role in a "prolific alien smuggling organization," prosecutors announced Monday. According to a news release from the Justice Department, a grand jury in Las Cruces, New Mexico, on Wednesday returned an indictment against the 14 defendants for conspiracy to transport, harbor, and bring aliens into the United States from South and Central America. Eight of those individuals were subsequently arrested on Thursday and Friday. The release says they transported migrants within the United States and held them in "stash houses" along the way. Additionally, some of the smuggling suspects led authorities on high-speed chases or instructed migrants on how to flee U.S. Border Patrol agents and evade checkpoints. The indictment also alleges that the defendants abandoned a person in the desert and they ended up dying of heat exposure. Antoinette T. Bacon, a supervisory official with the Justice Department's Criminal Division, said the smuggling organization is based in Mexico and allegedly smuggled hundreds of migrants, including unaccompanied children, through New Mexico and South Texas. "We are committed to eliminating transnational alien smuggling organizations that exploit migrants purely for profit and undermine our national security," she said.

Yahoo! News: US troops patrol quiet border as crossing numbers drop
Yahoo! News [2/24/2025 10:19 AM, Jeronimo Gonzalez, 57114K] reports that thousands of US troops are patrolling the Mexico border after US President Donald Trump declared illegal migration a national emergency, but they have little to do. Last month, Trump sent an additional 1,600 troops to the US border, joining the 2,500 National Guard and Army Reserve troops who were already stationed there. "Whatever is needed at the border will be provided," US Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth said at the time. Illegal crossings into the US have been dropping for over a year: In January, there were 29,000 arrests at the border, down from almost 250,000 in September 2023. Some asylum shelters have shut for lack of

demand, The New York Times reported, while one soldier told The Wall Street Journal that his unit is doing "A whole lot of nothing.". The White House and some Trump supporters argue that the decline is a result of the tough border stance, but critics argue that the huge troop deployment is a waste of money.

AP/CBS Los Angeles: Thieves targeting freight trains in California and Arizona deserts make off with $2M worth of Nikes

The AP [2/24/2025 5:25 PM, Staff, 48304K] reports thieves have targeted freight trains running through the deserts of California and Arizona in a string of audacious heists resulting in the theft of more than $2 million worth of new Nike sneakers, including many that haven't hit the retail market yet, according to officials and court documents. Eleven people were charged in the Jan. 13 burglary with possessing or receiving goods stolen from interstate shipment. All 11 have pleaded not guilty and were all ordered detained until trial. Ten are Mexicans who were in the United States illegally. Another defendant is a Mexican citizen who was in asylum proceedings in the United States, authorities said in court records. The suspects in the Jan. 13 heist were caught with the help of tracking devices that were inside some of the boxes, the complaint says. Thefts from cargo trains cost the nation's six largest freight railroads more than $100 million last year because of a combination of the value of the stolen goods and the cost of repairs to railcars the thieves damaged, and the problem is getting worse in recent years as the thefts have become more organized and sophisticated. The Association of American Railroads trade group estimates that the number of thefts jumped roughly 40% last year to 65,000 nationwide. CBS Los Angeles [2/24/2025 8:38 PM, Matthew Rodriguez, 51661K] reports DOJ officials said that this is one of the latest cases involving train thefts in Northern Arizona and California. Prosecutors said that criminal organizations, normally consisting of Mexican citizens, typically with connections to Sinaloa, have used the technique of cutting air hoses on trains to force emergency stops. Once at the location of their choosing, the crews will break into particular containers and unload the contents into trucks. With the cargo, the suspects' will drive to California to sell the goods online. California law enforcement has arrested suspects in similar cases. Two cases originated in the remote Mojave Desert of Amboy, Calif., which is roughly 70 miles away from the Arizona border. In November, the California Highway Patrol tracked a crew from the border to Anaheim after the seven suspects allegedly stole 1,279 Air Jordan 11 Retro Shoes that had an estimated value of $311,832.

Washington Post: Turned away at the U.S. border, migrants make a dangerous trek in reverse

Washington Post [2/25/2025 5:00 AM, Samantha Schmidt, 31735K] reports growing numbers of migrants — many of them Venezuelan — have made this journey in recent days, a reverse wave of migration in response to Trump's hard-line anti-immigration policies. Many have hired smugglers to take them around the jungle, by boat. But last week, dozens appeared to have been assisted by Panamanian authorities, several of the migrants told Washington Post, recounting an unusual journey through dangerous waters to Colombia — and away from Trump's America. In recent days, hundreds of migrants arrived to a Lajas Blancas camp, controlled by Panamanian authorities, in the Darien Gap. The migrants pleaded with authorities to allow them to return home. But flying them back would not be easy: Most of the Venezuelans have no valid passport, and Panama has no diplomatic relations with the government of Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro. Panamanian authorities instead opted for an "experiment," several migrants recounted. They granted an initial group of about 50 migrants access to a route — by bus and then, by

boat — that would take them through the daunting waters bypassing the Darien Gap and into Colombia. Late last week, an officer in Lajas Blancas, which is secured by Panama's National Border Service, Senafront, told the migrants in the camp about a plan, approved by superiors, to help move an initial group of people south, according to a video of the officer's explanation. The officer's comments were captured by a migrant who recorded them and provided them to The Post. A private company charged a package fee for the entire trip to Colombia, costing about $175, the officer told the migrants. The migrants agreed, and the next day, boarded a bus to begin a multiday, three-boat journey through the rough ocean waters surrounding this remote jungle. "Our coyotes were the Panamanian officers," Alfredo Valbuena, a 30-year-old Venezuelan migrant said, using a term referring to illegal smugglers, after he stepped off a boat in the Colombian coastal town of Turbo on Sunday afternoon, completing the final leg of the trip. Anelio Merry, a spokesman for the Guna Yala indigenous territory where the boat trips were taking place, confirmed that the trips were coordinated by the Panamanian border service and the country's ombudsman's office. A spokesman for the Panamanian security ministry and Senafront, the border service, declined to comment. "It would have been easier to take things into our own hands — safer, cheaper, faster," said Franyelis Izarza, 25, a Venezuelan mother who made the trip with her 4-year-old daughter.

Yahoo! News: [MA] JetBlue pilot arrested at Boston's Logan Airport on child exploitation charges

Yahoo! News [2/24/2025 12:56 PM, Taylor Ardrey, 57114K] reports that a JetBlue pilot was arrested last week on child exploitation charges, authorities said. The pilot, identified as 33-year-old Ohio resident Jeremy Gudorf, was taken into custody on an outstanding warrant by U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers on Friday as he arrived for work at Boston's Logan Airport, according to authorities and the airline. "The pilot has been placed on indefinite leave as law enforcement proceeds with the matter," JetBlue said in a statement to USA TODAY. His flight was headed to Paris, Boston media outlet WCVB reported. Police in North Carolina launched an investigation after 2024 tip. The Huntersville Police Department in North Carolina said it launched an "extensive" probe after getting a tip from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children in October 2024. Tech company Google helped officers obtain records and trace down images that led to an arrest warrant. Gudorf was charged with second-degree sexual exploitation of a minor, police said. WCVB reported that Gudorf had an arraignment hearing on Friday and was given $10,000 bail with orders to be in North Carolina by Tuesday.

Miami Herald: [AL] 200,000 fake US postage stamps — worth over $100K — seized in Alabama, officials say

Miami Herald [2/24/2025 1:56 PM, Natalie Demaree, 6595K] reports that thousands of counterfeit forever stamps were blocked from entering postal circulation by U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers in Alabama, officials said. A total of 200,000 postage stamps worth $146,000 from Hong Kong were seized after an inspection determined the stamps were fake, according to a Feb. 21 CBP news release. The batch included rolls of the Flag Stamp, which according to the United States Postal Inspection Service is the most frequently seen counterfeit stamp. About a week earlier, Customs and Border Protections officers stopped eight shipments of 161,860 fraudulent U.S. forever stamps, worth more than $118,000, officials said in a Feb. 13 news release. "CBP has seen a real uptick in counterfeit U.S. Postal Service postage stamps especially around the holidays to include high volume card holidays like Valentine's Day," officials said in the release. In fiscal year

2024, 90% of items violating Intellectual Property Right laws seized by CBP came from China and Hong Kong, CBP officials said.

Muncie Star Press: [IN] Deputies: Local man reportedly admits bringing undocumented immigrants to Muncie

Muncie Star Press [2/24/2025 4:01 PM, Douglas Walker] reports a Muncie man arrested Sunday for driving while intoxicated reportedly admitted to helping smuggle undocumented immigrants from Mexico into Muncie. Sergio Velasco, 50, was preliminarily charged with promotion of human trafficking, along with driving while intoxicated, forgery, and driving without ever receiving a license. Velasco said he usually received from each immigrant the $13,500 he had paid to a coyote — a person who smuggled the immigrants across the U.S.-Mexico border — along with 5% to 8% interest. Velasco said the "coyotes" routinely deliver undocumented immigrants to Muncie, Anderson and Indianapolis. He also said two more immigrants were coming to Muncie "as soon as they can get here." The Muncie man also allegedly said "he himself had come to the United States approximately 30 years ago by means of a coyote and had never obtained citizenship here." His immigration status is reportedly being investigated.

Washington Examiner: [TX] 'Hundreds' of Texas National Guard soldiers stand ready to arrest and deport illegal immigrants

Washington Examiner [2/24/2025 6:00 AM, Anna Giaritelli, 2365K] reports the southern border state of Texas has authorized "several hundred" of its National Guard soldiers to carry out immigration enforcement, a job that has long been reserved for law enforcement. The federal U.S. Customs and Border Protection has deputized a wide array of state soldiers to do the job of Border Patrol agents as the Trump administration simultaneously expands its pool of federal police who can apprehend and remove illegal immigrants, the Texas Military Department told the Washington Examiner this week. The state disclosed that 300 members of the Texas National Guard were deputized in a "historic ceremony" in the Rio Grande Valley of South Texas as of Feb. 18. The following day, another 290 members of the Guard were sworn in to carry out the immigration duties of federal agents. Border Patrol Chief Mike Banks led at least one of the deputization ceremonies. The state also promised more deputizations in the coming days and weeks. The newly deputized soldiers are now training with CBP and conducting security patrols with Texas law enforcement and federal CBP units across wide areas, according to TMD. "The Texas Military Department will continue focusing on multi-agency operations to leverage joint capabilities and refine tactics, techniques, and procedures to secure the Texas-Mexico border," the department said in a statement. The decision to deputize the state military came straight from the top of the Department of Homeland Security, whose secretary, Kristi Noem, announced on Feb. 3 that she had approved deputizing Texas soldiers as a way "to help secure the border" by creating "a force multiplier to arrest the bad guys and keep our nation safe."

USA Today: [TX] Border patrol scrambles plans, stops at least 90 people from smuggling eggs into the US

USA Today [2/24/2025 3:03 PM, Saleen Martin, 89965K] reports that since January, U.S. Customs and Border Protection agents in Texas have stopped at least 90 people from smuggling eggs into the country from Mexico, the agency said in a news release Friday. According to U.S. Customs and Border Protection, or CBP, specialists in the El Paso, Texas area have issued 16 civil penalties totaling almost $4,000 linked to the attempted smuggling

of prohibited products such as raw eggs. It is illegal to bring fresh eggs, raw chicken, unprocessed avian products and live birds into the U.S., the agency said, adding that travelers should declare all agriculture products to U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers and agriculture specialists. "Failure to declare may lead to potential fines and penalties," the agency said. U.S. Customs and the agency Border Protection issued a reminder that raw egg imports from Mexico are prohibited due to health concerns regarding Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza or bird flu. Some consumers who previously bought a dozen eggs at a time are now buying four dozen, Saloni Vastani, an associate professor of marketing at Emory University, previously told USA TODAY. "Egg prices are going up because of the avian flu, but that's driving people to buy more eggs than they usually do because they're anticipating higher prices and reduced grocery store supply," Vastani said.

Telemundo 48 El Paso: [NM] Congressman demands answers on incident between CBP and LCHS students

Telemundo 48 El Paso [2/24/2025 5:00 PM, Staff, 11K] reports Representative Gabe Vasquez (NM-02) condemned the events that occurred on February 21, 2025, where Border Patrol agents stopped and searched a bus carrying students and coaches from Las Cruces High School at a checkpoint on Interstate 25. According to reports received by Vasquez's office, the interaction escalated after officers questioned the driver, who was unable to respond in English. Instead of defusing the situation, an officer proceeded to board the bus, ignored attempts by coaches to explain the situation, and demanded information from the students, leaving them shaken. Vasquez is demanding answers from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and calling for transparency regarding enforcement actions involving children, particularly on school buses and in other sensitive locations.

Newsweek: [NM] Border Patrol Agents 'Harass' Students on School Bus

Newsweek [2/24/2025 11:47 AM, Billal Rahman, 56005K] reports that a group of New Mexico high school students traveling to Albuquerque for a swim meet were "harassed" by U.S. Border Patrol agents at a checkpoint, according to Democratic Representative Gabe Vasquez. "Harassing and frightening children does not make New Mexico safer," the congressman said. "No student should have to fear law enforcement while traveling to a school event." Newsweek has contacted the Las Cruces Independent School District for comment. Under the current administration, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) has been granted expanded enforcement powers, including the authority to conduct raids in places of worship, schools, and hospitals. Critics argue that these raids instill fear in vulnerable communities and violate protections against unreasonable searches and seizures. Although this incident was not a raid, ICE's conduct faces scrutiny in the way it treats children. There are concerns that inspections like this one, along with warrantless arrests, unauthorized data collection, and detentions without probable cause, may raise constitutional challenges, potentially leading to legal disputes over the balance between immigration enforcement and individual rights.

Telemundo: [NM] LCPS speaks about incident between its students and CBP

Telemundo [2/24/2025 6:54 PM, Staff, 11K] reports Las Cruces, NM The administration of the Las Cruces Public Schools (LCPS) reported that it is obtaining more information about an incident involving a group of students travelling to a state competition on February 21. According to the district, the students, who were travelling on a rented bus that was not visibly marked as belonging to LCPS, complied with the instructions of U.S. Border Patrol

agents. They were quickly allowed to continue their journey. The students were members of a swimming team at Centennial High School, Las Cruces High School and Mayfield High School. They also reported that on Monday morning, the administration of LCPS, including Superintendent Ignacio Ruiz, maintained an open and productive communication with the U.S. Customs and Border Protection Office. U.S. They said the conversation included implementing proactive measures to prevent similar incidents in the future. The district endorsed its commitment to the safety and emotional well-being of all students, regardless of their immigration status. "I understand the fear and uncertainty that our students and staff must have felt in that situation," Superintendent Ruiz acknowledged. Do we believe this was an isolated event and we will continue to work with local and federal authorities to ensure that students' educational experiences are not interrupted. Our community is diverse and all students, regardless of their origin, deserve to feel safe and supported while participating in school activities.

Yahoo! News: [NM] LCPS meets with CBP after Border Patrol stop

Yahoo! News [2/24/2025 4:51 PM, Melissa Luna, 52868K] reports Las Cruces Public Schools (LCPS) Superintendent Ignacio Ruiz, along with the district's administration, met with U.S. Customs and Border Protection on Monday, Feb. 24, after agents boarded a bus of Las Cruces High School students on Friday, Feb. 21 when they were on their way to a swim meet in Albuquerque. The district says they spoke with CBP about the "implementation of proactive measures to prevent similar incidents in the future" and "remains committed to the safety, security, and emotional well-being of all students, regardless of immigration status.". "I understand the fear and uncertainty our students and staff must have felt in that situation," Ruiz said. "We believe this was an isolated event, and we will continue to work with local and federal authorities to ensure students' educational experiences are not disrupted. Our community is diverse, and every student, regardless of background, deserves to feel safe and supported while participating in school activities.". The district says it upholds the principles established by the U.S. Supreme Court ruling in Plyler v. Doe (1982) stating that all students have a right to free public education. As we have previously reported, U.S. Rep. Gabe Vasquez, D-New Mexico, says the students were "harassed" after the charter bus was stopped at a Border Patrol checkpoint that Friday. "The situation escalated after agents questioned the driver, who was unable to respond in English. Rather than de-escalating, an agent proceeded to board the bus, ignored attempts by coaches to explain the situation, and demanded information from the students, leaving them rattled and shaken," Vasquez's office said.

AZCentral: [AZ] 'Blow them out of the sky': AZ wants to waive police liability for shooting border drones

AZCentral [2/24/2025 8:01 AM, Ray Stern, 6018K] reports Arizona politicians on both sides of the aisle agree law enforcement officers should be able to shoot down or disable drones near the border without worrying about the liability. The push for a new law in Arizona that immunizes authorities from claims of property damage has put anti-drone sentiment front and center in a state known for its permissive gun laws. It also follows last year's drone anxiety as thousands of reports were made across the country of suspicious drones, including those flying near military bases, as well as reports of cartel drones used to ferry drugs over the border. A Mexican state police official reported earlier this month how the cartel used bombs dropped by drones to attack authorities. Attorney General Kris Mayes, a Democrat, said at a Feb. 17 news conference she wants officers to disable them with electronic devices "or frankly blow them out of the sky with guns." State Rep. David

Marshall, R-Snowflake, chair of the House Public Safety and Law Enforcement Committee, talked almost gleefully during a hearing on Thursday on the proposed law how an officer or sheriff's deputy could use a shotgun loaded with birdshot to take a drone out. "I've done it and it works well," Marshall said, without explaining where or when he shot down a drone. If a pellet from the birdshot "hits you in the head — too bad, go home, put a Band-Aid on it. God bless you." Most Democratic and Republican lawmakers in the committee approved House Bill 2733 during the hearing, and it will now move to the full House for a vote. Of the 13 committee members attending the hearing, 10 voted for the bill while the remaining three, one Republican and two Democrats, voted "present" instead of directly opposing it with a "no" vote.

CBS 7: [NV] FBI says woman drugged, robbed older men during deadly romance scheme in US and Mexico

CBS 7 [2/25/2025 4:34 AM, Staff, 4K] reports the FBI's Las Vegas branch announced on Friday criminal charges against a woman who is accused of "deliberately and methodically" targeting older men to rob them of everything. Aurora Phelps is currently incarcerated in Mexico and awaiting extradition after the Department of Justice filed a motion to unseal an indictment against her. In one instance, Phelps allegedly drugged a Nevada man and then pushed him in a wheelchair across the border while he was in an "inebriated state.". "Phelps then took him to a hotel room in Mexico City, where the victim was found dead a few hours later," FBI Special Agent in Charge Spencer L. Evans explained. Evans says all of the victims in the indictment are U.S. citizens. Three of the men are from Nevada. "Two of Phelps' other alleged victims were found dead shortly after their encounters with her, and the one living victim mentioned in the indictment survived and emerged from a coma after Phelps administered large amounts of prescription sedatives to him over the course of a week." Evans added. The FBI says it's "one of the most egregious and reprehensible" romance schemes in recent history. The crimes spanned from July 2021 and December 2022. "We believe Phelps connected with each of them through an online dating application so she could lure them into her confidence under false pretenses and then drug them with dangerous doses of prescription sedatives and other controlled substances," Evans said during Friday's press conference. Phelps is also alleged to have stolen millions of dollars in stock from one of the victims. "Once she incapacitated her victims, Phelps stole their cars, accessed their bank and brokerage accounts to withdraw cash, used their credit cards to make a variety of purchases including luxury retail goods and gold, and even attempted to access their social security and retirement accounts," Evans added. Phelps' charges include seven counts of wire fraud, three counts of mail fraud, six counts of bank fraud, three counts of ID theft, one count of kidnapping and one count of kidnapping resulting in death. Investigators asked any individuals who believe they had been targeted by Phelps to contact the FBI. The FBI fears there could be more victims. Phelps faces life in prison if convicted.

San Diego Union Tribune: [CA] Border Patrol traffic stop on I-5 yields $1 million worth of cocaine

San Diego Union Tribune [2/24/2025 6:05 PM, Teri Figueroa, 1682K] reports Border Patrol agents found about $1.1 million worth of cocaine in an SUV during a traffic stop on Interstate 5 in far North County, agency officials said Monday. Just after 2:35 p.m. Feb. 18, agents pulled over a "suspicious vehicle" on I-5 near the San Clemente Border Patrol Checkpoint, the agency said in a news release. They did not say what it was about the SUV that caught the agents' attention. A trained drug-sniffing dog was brought to the scene, and

the dog got a hit on the vehicle. A search turned up 55 cellophane-wrapped packages tucked into an aftermarket compartment in the floorboard, authorities said. The find weighed in at nearly 143 pounds. The Drug Enforcement Administration took custody of the cocaine and the driver. It was the first of two big finds during traffic stops by Border Patrol agents with the San Diego Sector last week. The following day, just before 9:30 a.m. Feb. 19, agents stopped a sedan at the Interstate 15 Temecula Border Patrol Checkpoint, just across the San Diego-Riverside County line. A drug-sniffing dog got a hit on the sedan, and agents found a backpack on the floor of the front passenger's side. Inside the backpack, the agency said, were eight bundles of fentanyl. It weighed about 18.5 pounds. Border Patrol officials said it was worth about $143,000. The driver, the drugs and the sedan were turned over to the San Diego County Sheriff's Department.

Yahoo! News: [CA] Over $1.2M worth of drugs seized in two traffic stops
Yahoo! News [2/24/2025 9:24 PM, Domenick Candelieri, 52868K] reports U.S. Border Patrol agents seized over 160 pounds of narcotics last week during two traffic stops. The first traffic stop occurred Tuesday on Interstate 5 north near the San Clemente Border Patrol Checkpoint, U.S. Customs and Border Protection said in a news release Monday. Authorities pulled over the suspicious vehicle and found packages consistent with smuggled narcotics in an aftermarket compartment in the floorboard, according to border officials. Those bundles contained 55 cellophane-packages of cocaine, weighing 142.96 pounds and worth an estimated $1.1 million. Another traffic stop happened Wednesday at the Interstate 15 Temecula Border Patrol Checkpoint. During the inspection, authorities found a backpack containing eight bundles of fentanyl on the front passenger floorboard. The drugs weighed 18.51 pounds, with a street value worth of approximately $143,000. Both drivers and drugs in both incidents were taken into custody. The first driver faces narcotics-related charges, while the second driver faces charges for transportation and possession of a controlled substance for sale.

Yahoo! News: [Mexico] Shelters for deportees set up by Mexican government along border sit mostly empty
Yahoo! News [2/24/2025 7:04 AM, Alfredo Corchado, Anglea Kocherga, Gaige Davila and Aline Corpus Simerman, 57114K] reports mega shelters for deportees set up by the Mexican government along the border sit mostly empty, one month after President Donald Trump threatened "mass deportations" on Day 1. The scenes here and in other border cities west in Tijuana and east in Reynosa underscore the setbacks, thus far, of Trump's promise to launch the largest deportation operation in U.S. history. Trump campaigned to target an estimated 11 million undocumented persons. Mexican officials along the border, including here in Ciudad Juárez, appear relieved they haven't seen a swell of deportees, yet. "We hope there won't be a large repatriation," said Mexico's Secretary of Welfare Ariadna Montiel Reyes, after a tour of a sprawling, empty tent camp that can potentially hold 2,500 deportees. The federal agency is in charge of providing services for Mexicans returned to their home country in a process often called repatriation. So far, about 2,000 Mexican migrants have set foot in government-operated shelters, said Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum. Overall, more than 13,455 migrants have been deported to Mexico, according to Sheinbaum. Among them in a noteworthy negotiation: more than 2,970 migrants from countries other than Mexico, including Cuba and Venezuela, Mexican officials say. People unload mattresses at a shelter for Mexican deportees in Ciudad Juárez. But Mexican officials along the border say they haven't seen a big influx of deportees from the United States. The numbers of deportees in the last month sent to Mexico were higher than the last

four weeks under the administration of President Joe Biden, said Ariel G. Ruiz Soto, a senior policy analyst at the nonpartisan Migration Policy Institute. Deportations have since stabilized, if not actually fallen in pace, from the first 10 days of the Trump administration, said Ruiz Soto, who has examined data from both the U.S. and Mexico. "That has a lot to do with the real challenges that ICE (U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement) is facing with limited capacity in the interior," he said, referring to detention space.

Transportation Security Administration

MeriTalk: Officials Push for Travel Security Overhaul, More Tech Deployments
MeriTalk [2/24/2025 3:54 PM, Weslan Hansen, 45K] reports former top Federal officials and travel leaders are calling on Congress and the White House to create an interagency task force to oversee national travel policy and increase the rollout of biometric security screening and other technology-driven capabilities across U.S. airports. A new report released on Feb. 19 by the U.S. Travel Association (USTA) and a group of former officials of Federal agencies including the Department of Homeland Security is asking legislators and top Trump administration executives to implement a new U.S. travel strategy which those officials said would bolster security and efficiency. The report aims to address recent and projected record-breaking air travel levels, with 2024 marking the highest-ever recorded levels of domestic air travelers. In 2025, domestic travel is expected to increase by nearly four percent and exceed $1 trillion in value – equaling pre-pandemic levels – with even more growth expected beyond that, according to the USTA. To keep up with increased travel, another recommendation asks policy makers to increase funding by $300 million over the next five years for biometric identity verification which would enable the Transportation Security Agency's (TSA) to use improved facial screening technology at national airports.

Federal Emergency Management Agency

Federal News Network: FEMA Advisory board starts to take shape
Federal News Network [2/24/2025 4:08 PM, Michele Sandiford, 1089K] reports a new advisory board that will consider reforms to the Federal Emergency Management Agency is starting to take shape. DHS put out the official charter for FEMA Review Council late last week. The council is slated to hold its first meeting by April 24 and deliver an initial report to the White House by late July. President Donald Trump has called for potentially eliminating FEMA and sending emergency management funds directly to states. Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem, who has a seat on the new council, has said the administration should "get rid of FEMA the way it exists today."

USA Today: [KY] Kentucky flooding and cold weather death toll rises to 22; FEMA to tour damage
USA Today [2/24/2025 10:29 PM, Marina Johnson and Thao Nguyen, 75858K] Video: HERE reports the death toll from widespread flooding and extreme weather that battered Kentucky earlier this month has increased to 22, officials announced Monday. The latest confirmed death is a man who died of hypothermia in Marshall County, located in southwestern Kentucky, Gov. Andy Beshear said during a Monday morning update. The announcement follows six additional deaths that were reported over the weekend, according to the Louisville Courier-Journal, part of the USA TODAY Network. "This has

been a painful, difficult disaster," Beshear said Monday. "There aren't many natural disasters where we lose 22 people. After the widespread flooding in 2022 and the tornadoes in 2021, this is one of the most deadly disasters certainly since I've been governor.". The state was hit hard by flooding from a powerful storm that brought heavy rain and strong winds to the Southeast during the weekend of Feb. 14. Much of the central and east U.S. was also under cold weather advisories last week when an arctic blast plunged temperatures to record lows. The severe weather caused widespread power outages, evacuations, water rescues, and left more than two dozen people dead across several states, including Kentucky, West Virginia, and Georgia. Beshear previously described the storm as "one of most serious weather events" the state has seen in a decade. In 2022, communities in central and eastern Kentucky saw historic flooding after heavy rains swelled rivers and creeks. More than 40 people died as a result of the storms and "health conditions directly arising from flooding," The Courier-Journal reported at the time. 'Every one of them counts':Florida sea turtles return to ocean after suffering from 'cold stunning'. Kentucky death toll rises to 22 after major flooding. In separate announcements Friday and Saturday, Beshear said six adults from Warren, Pike, Caldwell, Ohio, Morgan, and Logan counties were killed due to the recent severe weather.

Reported similarly:
Yahoo! News [2/24/2025 1:12 PM, Marina Johnson, 57114K]

The Hill: [CA] Newsom asks Congress for almost $40B in wildfire recovery aid
The Hill [2/24/2025 1:18 PM, Sharon Udasin, 16346K] reports that
California Gov. Gavin Newsom (D) has requested that Congress appropriate nearly $40 billion to support communities affected by the wildfires that devastated the Los Angeles region last month. Recognizing that "the total impact on California's economy will take years to fully quantify," the governor asked for about $39.68 billion, in a letter sent late Friday to congressional leadership and to the chairs of each chamber's appropriations committee. Noting that "hurricane-force wind drive fires" destroyed 16,251 structures as more than 16,000 personnel battled the blazes, Newsom said that the requested funds would bolster "the immediate and long-term recovery work needed to rebuild lives and properties from this catastrophic event." "As the state continues to evaluate and assess the damage while conductive active response and recovery efforts, we expect to identify additional funding needs to help these communities recover," the governor wrote in the letter, obtained by The Hill on Monday. The governor's request, which was first reported by The Washington Post, occurred amid an ongoing debate as to whether the Golden State should receive aid without meeting certain conditions.

Secret Service

AP/CBS News: Clint Hill, Secret Service agent who leaped onto JFK's car after he was shot, dies at 93
The AP [2/24/2025 8:18 PM, Jack Dura, 52868K] reports Clint Hill, the Secret Service agent who leaped onto the back of President John F. Kennedy's limousine after the president was shot, then was forced to retire early because he remained haunted by memories of the assassination, has died. He was 93. Hill died Friday at his home in Belvedere, California, according to his publisher, Gallery Books, an imprint of Simon & Schuster. A cause of death was not given. Although few may recognize his name, the footage of Hill, captured on Abraham Zapruder's chilling home movie of the assassination, provided some of the most

indelible images of Kennedy's assassination in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963. Hill received Secret Service awards and was promoted for his actions that day, but for decades blamed himself for Kennedy's death, saying he didn't react quickly enough and would gladly have given his life to save the president. "If I had reacted just a little bit quicker. And I could have, I guess," a weeping Hill told Mike Wallace on CBS' 60 Minutes in 1975, shortly after he retired at age 43 at the urging of his doctors. "And I'll live with that to my grave." It was only in recent years that Hill said he was able to finally start putting the assassination behind him and accept what happened. On the day of the assassination, Hill was assigned to protect first lady Jacqueline Kennedy, and was riding on the left running board of the follow-up car directly behind the presidential limousine as it made its way through Dealey Plaza. Hill told the Warren Commission that he reacted after hearing a shot and seeing the president slump in his seat. The president was struck by a fatal headshot before Hill was able to make it to the limousine. Zapruder's film captured Hill as he leaped from the Secret Service car, grabbed a handle on the limousine's trunk and pulled himself onto it as the driver accelerated. He forced Mrs. Kennedy, who had crawled onto the trunk, back into her seat as the limousine sped off. Hill later became the agent in charge of the White House protective detail and eventually an assistant director of the Secret Service, retiring because of what he characterized as deep depression and recurring memories of the assassination. CBS News [2/24/2025 11:19 PM, J.D. Miles, 51661K] reports that those who knew him tell CBS News Texas that Hill never really overcame the guilt he felt on that tragic day. In one of the most watched and analyzed films ever recorded, it's a young Secret Service agent's actions that seem to capture the most attention. "His entire career was defined by roughly 5/10 of a second," said Farris Rookstool, a former FBI Analyst and JFK Assassination Historian.

Reported similarly:
New York Times [2/24/2025 2:32 PM, Richard Goldstein, 145325K]
Washington Post [2/24/2025 2:14 PM, Michael S. Rosenwald, 31735K]
AP [2/24/2025 4:18 PM, Jack Dura]
CBS News [2/24/2025 6:44 PM, Staff, 51661K]
NBC News [2/24/2025 3:58 PM, Tim Stelloh, 44742K]
FOX News [2/24/2025 3:41 PM, Emma Colton, 46189K]
CNN [2/24/2025 3:21 PM, Hannah Rabinowitz, 908K]

Coast Guard

Yahoo! News: [MA] Coast Guard detains 2 undocumented immigrants off Massachusetts coast

Yahoo! News [2/24/2025 7:35 AM, Melanie DaSilva, 57114K] reports that two undocumented immigrants were detained by the U.S. Coast Guard off of Massachusetts last week. During a routine boat inspection on Thursday, the boarding team learned two of the six crew members were not U.S. citizens. That violates a law requiring at least 75% of a crew to be citizens. "The Coast Guard stands firm in its mission to safeguard our waters and enforce the law," Lt. Samantha Corcoran said in a release. "This detention highlights our vital role in upholding maritime regulations and protecting national security at sea.". The two men were detained and handed over to the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers from the Boston Field Office.

New York Times: [NY] 1 Person Is Still Missing After Boat Capsizes Off the Coast of Queens

New York Times [2/24/2025 8:26 PM, Shayla Colon and Ellen Yan, 145325K] reports Cecilio Adames met up with five friends Sunday morning at a dock in Howard Beach, Queens. The group planned to go fishing on a boat one of them owned. It was not fishing season, and the air was a frigid 36 degrees, but Mr. Adames was “excited” to be going out in good company, his daughter Alisha Adames, 16, said. Hours later, detectives knocked on the family’s door. The boat had capsized and Mr. Adames was at a Staten Island hospital, they said. When the family got there, the police said he was dead. The 30-foot-long Grady-White boat Mr. Adames and his friends were on had taken on water around noon on Sunday in the Ambrose Channel, the main shipping channel in and out of the Port of New York and New Jersey, the authorities said. The boat capsized about five miles southeast of Breezy Point, a private beach community in Queens. The U.S. Coast Guard said in a statement that five people had been recovered from the boat and that four were unresponsive. The New York Police Department confirmed that at least three of those four had died. As of Monday morning two were still hospitalized, one in critical condition and the other listed as stable, a police spokeswoman said. The sixth passenger was still missing Monday, and divers, boat crews and aircrews were searching the area, the Coast Guard said. The authorities identified the missing man as Vernon Glasford, 52. Jenel Bobb, Mr. Glasford’s sister, said that she had spoken to her brother on the phone Saturday evening and that he had been looking forward to relaxing with his friends on the boat. He asked if she wanted to come along, but she declined because of how cold it would be. Ms. Bobb said Mr. Glasford had left for the marina early in the morning and his family had not heard from him again. “It does not feel real,” she said. “If I see a body, then it is for real, but for now I don’t know.” The Coast Guard was working with New York City’s fire and police departments to understand what caused the boat to capsize. The investigation was continuing Monday night.

Reported similarly:
CBS New York [2/24/2025 12:06 PM, Staff, 52225K]
CBS New York [2/24/2025 7:10 AM, Christina Fan, 52225K]
Miami Herald [2/24/2025 5:42 PM, Natalie Demaree, 3973K]
Newsweek [2/24/2025 9:20 AM, Daniel Orton and Chloe Mayer, 56005K]
USA Today [2/24/2025 8:59 AM, Christopher Cann, 89965K]

Yahoo! News: [NY] Coast Guard suspends search for missing person day after boat capsized near Staten Island, New York

Yahoo! News [2/24/2025 9:11 AM, Chris Oberholtz, 57114K] reports that the search for a man who went missing after a boat capsized in the chilly waters near Staten Island, New York, killing three people and leaving two others injured, has concluded. Four of the five rescued were found unresponsive Sunday afternoon about 5 miles off the coast of Breezy Point, Queens, prompting a massive multi-agency rescue operation, U.S. Coast Guard officials said. In a Monday evening update, the Coast Guard announced the search for the man was suspended after more than 30 hours of searching over 842 square miles. "The decision to suspend a search is always difficult. Though our active search has ended, our support and sympathy remain with all those impacted by this tragic incident," said Capt. Jonathan Andrechik, the Coast Guard Sector New York commander. The Coast Guard said waters were roughly 38 degrees on Monday afternoon. The Coast Guard said it is coordinating with the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation regarding next steps in the investigation. Within minutes, a coordinated response was

launched, deploying three rescue boats from Coast Guard Stations New York and Sandy Hook, along with an MH-65 Dolphin helicopter from Coast Guard Air Station Atlantic City. Two of the rescued individuals were airlifted to Staten Island University Hospital, and the remaining three were transported to Coast Guard Station Sandy Hook.

AP/Miami Herald: [FL] Coast Guard crews rescue three boaters stuck at sea for 9 hours after their boat capsizes

The AP [2/24/2025 6:37 PM, Stephany Matat, 33392K] reports that Coast Guard crews rescued three boaters in Captiva Island, Florida, after their boat flipped over and they were stuck at sea for nine hours. A family member reported concerns at 1 a.m. Sunday after not hearing from the three boaters since 8 p.m. Saturday. The Coast Guard Clearwater helicopter aircrew found the three boaters sitting on the top of the capsized boat at about 6 a.m., and a boat crew with the Coast Guard in Fort Myers Beach rescued the boaters and sent them for emergency medical evaluation at HealthPark Medical Center in Fort Myers. The three boaters reported no health issues from being stuck at sea, according to a Coast Guard press release. It's unknown why the boat flipped over. Dennise Werre, chief warrant officer of the Coast Guard Sector St. Petersburg, said in a press release that it's important to have a "float plan" with loved ones before going out to sea. Float plans are meant to be told to someone not going on the boat, outlining information about the intended route, how many people are aboard and what safety equipment is available on the boat. "We were able to locate and rescue the three boaters thanks to the quick coordination of the Coast Guard and the Lee County Sheriff's Office, along with the use of critical search tools," Werre said. The Miami Herald [2/24/2025 11:49 AM, Mark Price, 6595K] reports that the boaters were clinging to the hull, the USCG said in a news release. The rescue happened Sunday, Feb. 23, off Captiva, a barrier island about a 165-mile-drive south from Tampa. "A family member called Coast Guard Sector St. Petersburg watchstanders at approximately 1 a.m., reporting their last contact with the three boaters was at 8 p.m., Saturday," officials said. "A Coast Guard... MH-60 helicopter aircrew found the three boaters sitting on top of their capsized vessel in reportedly good health.". Video shows the three frantically waving their arms in hope of getting the helicopter crew's attention. A USCG rescue boat based out of Fort Myers Beach was sent to pull the boaters from the water, officials said. They were examined by emergency medical personnel at the Coast Guard station, officials said. Details of any injuries were not released. The three were wearing life jackets when found, video shows. [Editorial note: consult video at source link]

Reported similarly:
AZ Central [2/24/2025 11:11 AM, Saman Shafiq, 6018K]

FOX News: [LA] Coast Guard rescues 3 people in Gulf of America after boat capsizes

FOX News [2/24/2025 6:07 PM, Fox News] reports the U.S. Coast Guard rescued three people after a fishing boat capsized off the coast of Louisiana. [Editorial note: consult video at source link]

USA Today: [HI] Video shows Coast Guard chase down alleged yacht thief in Hawaii

USA Today [2/24/2025 3:18 PM, Natalie Neysa Alund, 75858K] reports in a dramatic showdown captured on video, members of the U.S. Coast Guard chased down a yacht that was allegedly stolen in Hawaii. Coast Guard officers received a report of a 43-foot yacht "driving erratically, potentially endangering other mariners, and violating the permanent security zone" near piers in Honolulu Harbor, the main seaport of the state, military officials

announced. But the boat isn't fast enough as the Coast Guard vessel catches up and cuts it off, then steers it back to shore, where other law enforcement agencies are waiting. Officials said they arrested a man suspected of stealing the yacht on charges including first-degree theft. The man's identity was not released.

Yahoo! News: [HI] Honolulu-based Coast Guard crew patrols South Pacific
Yahoo! News [2/24/2025 12:06 PM, Kevin Knodell, 57114K] reports that Hawaii Coast Guard crews remain busy across the Pacific as President Donald Trump's administration shakes up U.S. government policy at home and abroad. The Honolulu-based Coast Guard Cutter Midgett is sailing across the South Pacific conducting operations with island nations. The U.S. has been competing with China for influence in Pacific island nations under Trump's first administration and under former President Joe Biden. However, Trump's freeze on foreign aid—as well as vows to roll back environmental efforts at a time most Pacific island nations consider climate change their No. 1 threat—has many leaders in the region scrambling to make sense of what they can expect from the U.S. under Trump's second presidency. As the Midgett makes its way across the South Pacific, its crew has sought to reassure communities in the region of U.S. commitments. During a port call in New Zealand earlier this month, the cutter's commanding officer, Capt. Matthew Rooney, told reporters during a Feb. 9 media conference that since Trump took office his crew has been undertaking "the same mission that it always is with us. We provide a partnership, and if there's any sort of technical support, assistance (needed), we'll provide that, as requested by our friends and partners."

Reuters: [Australia] US Coast Guard ship in Tasman Sea did not interact with Chinese navy, commander says
Reuters [2/24/2025 11:00 PM, Kirsty Needham, 41523K] reports a U.S. Coast Guard cutter crossing the Tasman Sea as part of maritime security cooperation with Australia and New Zealand knew Chinese naval ships were in the area but had no interaction with them, its commanding officer said on Tuesday. China's navy held live-fire exercises on Friday and Saturday in international waters between Australia and New Zealand that Australian officials have described as unprecedented. The drills forced airlines to change the paths of 49 commercial flights for safety reasons. The movements of the People's Liberation Army Navy frigate, cruiser and refueling vessel involved are being monitored by Australian and New Zealand defence forces. The U.S. Coast Guard national security cutter Midgett arrived in port in Sydney on Saturday from New Zealand. "We were aware of their presence," Captain Matthew Rooney, commanding officer of the Midgett, told reporters in Sydney of the Chinese ships on Tuesday. "It did not affect our operations. We follow international norms, regulations for preventing collisions at sea and we had no encounters and we would expect the Chinese navy to do the same," he added. Euan Graham, senior analyst with the Australian Strategic Policy Institute, said it was the furthest south the Chinese navy had held exercises, and showed China did not need a naval base in the South Pacific to project power. China was likely testing the diplomatic resolve of Australia, New Zealand and Australia's security ally the United States, he said. "This is a clear signal that China doesn't feel deterred from operating close by (the U.S.'s) closest Pacific ally," he said. A spokesperson for China's foreign ministry said on Friday the People's Liberation Army Navy had been conducting exercises and training in distant waters and upheld safety standards in accordance with international laws and practices. The U.S. Coast Guard has increased operations in the South Pacific since 2024, patrolling for illegal fishing by distant fleets including from China, at the invitation of Pacific Island countries. China registered dozens of

coast guard vessels for fisheries patrols in the Pacific Islands for the first time in 2025, although none have deployed yet.

CISA/Cybersecurity

StateScoop: Secretaries of state ask DHS to retain essential election security services

StateScoop [2/24/2025 12:00 PM, Colin Wood] reports the National Association of Secretaries of State on Friday sent a letter to U.S. Department of Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem, noting a preference that she retain certain services used by state and local election officials to protect the nation's critical elections infrastructure. The request arrives as the former South Dakota governor — who prides herself in being the only state leader not to have accepted federal cybersecurity funding via the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act — evaluates further cuts to her department and its Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency. The association, which includes members from secretaries of state and other top election officials in 40 states and territories, strikes a cooperative tone, first congratulating Noem on her appointment last month, and also requesting "official, ongoing, timely communications." Officials throughout state government, including several secretaries of state, have told StateScoop in recent weeks that they receive few updates from federal agencies, including DHS, about upcoming programmatic changes, and that they're unclear on what will happen to the funding and technical support they receive. New Mexico Secretary of State Maggie Toulouse Oliver last week told StateScoop that she's in a "difficult place" as she searches for a way to fund critical protections of her state's election systems. "Most of us are starting our legislative sessions," she said. "Ours is very short in New Mexico and we didn't even have the foreknowledge to be able to relay to our legislature that we were going to be losing out on a lot of these tools and resources." Pennsylvania Secretary of State Al Schmidt called it "foolish and inefficient" to remove federal support from state election efforts. Acting CISA Acting Director Bridget Bean circulated an internal memo this month announcing a "review and assessment" of the agency's misinformation efforts, before DHS eliminated about 400 positions, including more than 130 CISA staff. The Elections Infrastructure Information Sharing and Analysis Center, meanwhile, lost a critical part of its cooperative agreement with DHS, which could mean the organization's closure. The EI-ISAC, which is operated by the New York nonprofit Center for Internet Security, has distributed more than 1,000 Albert sensors, devices that help elections officials detect anomalous network activity, to state and local governments over the last several years. NASS's letter — signed by Minnesota Secretary of State Steve Simon, the group's president, and Mississippi Secretary of State Michael Watson, its president-elect — notes that the nation's elections systems were designated by DHS as critical infrastructure in 2017. They write that the services provided by DHS and CISA have for years helped election offices defend against "sophisticated cyber threat actors including nation-state and cybercriminal groups."

Newsweek: The Best Thing' Hospitals Can Do to Prevent Cyberattacks: CISO Weighs In

Newsweek [2/24/2025 3:04 PM, Alexis Kayser, 52220K] reports hospitals may be concentrating their cybersecurity efforts in the wrong place, according to Mike Hamilton, field chief information security officer at Lumifi Cyber. Hamilton spoke on Newsweek's virtual panel, titled "Crisis Management: A Crash Course for Health Care Leaders," on February 13. When asked to expand on health systems' cybersecurity blind spots, Hamilton

explained that attackers have three common methods for obtaining "initial access" to an organization. The first is social engineering, using impersonation and deep fakes to trick an employee into giving up sensitive information. Second is credential abuse: testing every password in a massive database against a person's account. Finally, many hackers gain access through vulnerability exploit, finding weak spots in firewalls and entering before they are patched. He recommends a strict credential policy that aligns with guidelines set by the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

CNN: [North Korea] North Korean hackers steal record $1.5 billion in single crypto hack, security firm says

CNN [2/24/2025 4:54 PM, Sean Lyngaas, 22131K] reports North Korean hackers have stolen $1.5 billion in cryptocurrency in a single heist, making it the largest crypto hack on record, security experts told CNN. The hack hit Bybit, which describes itself as the world's second-largest cryptocurrency exchange, with over 40 million users. In a matter of minutes on Friday, the hackers stole a significant portion of North Korea's reported annual gross domestic product. And over the weekend, the hackers were already laundering about $160 million of the stolen loot through a series of accounts connected to North Korean operatives, according to crypto-tracing firm TRM Labs. In a single hack, the North Koreans have nearly doubled what they stole in crypto last year, the firm said. It's an early test for how the Trump administration will address the steep challenge of trying to prevent North Korea from funding its nuclear and missile programs through hacking.

Terrorism Investigations

Border Report: Terror designation might prompt cartels to target Americans, expert says

Border Report [2/24/2025 3:53 PM, Julian Resendiz, 117K] reports the White House on Feb. 20 designated eight Latin American transnational criminal gangs as foreign terrorist organizations. They include Mexican drug cartels flooding American communities with fentanyl and other drugs, and Central and South American street gangs like MS-13 and Tren de Aragua linked to violent acts in the United States. It might even back them into a corner – which could pose risks for American officials and visitors to Mexico. Fines are already in the books to prosecute Americans inadvertently engaging in international money laundering. The terror designation now could mean jail time, he said. Also, the subsidiaries of American companies in Mexico occasionally have been targeted for extortion by local criminals threatening to disrupt their operations or harm their employees. From now on, giving in to those threats could be interpreted as funding a terrorist organization, Ballard said. Further, if the U.S. and Mexico begin to inflict serious damage on cartel finances or jailing many of its leaders, there's always the risk that these groups will lash back.

Yahoo! News: [TX] Authorities arrest 21-year-old Texas man plotting 'mass casualty attack' targeting police

Yahoo! News [2/24/2025 9:38 PM, Darryl Coote, 52868K] reports local and federal authorities are saying they thwarted a mass casualty attack Monday morning with the arrest of a 21-year-old Texas man accused of making terrorist threats against police officers. Seth "Andrea" Gregori was arrested shortly after 9 a.m. CST Monday, the Corpus Christi Police Department said in a statement. Little is publicly known about the alleged plot, but the FBI's Houston field office said Gregori had planned "an attack on police similar to the 2016 Dallas

ambush" when Micah Xavier Johnson killed five police officers and injured nine others, as well as two civilians, in a mass shooting. "FBI Corpus Christi and local partners have thwarted another mass casualty attack!" FBI Houston said on X. According to the Corpus Christi Police Department, the FBI was notified of "terroristic threats" Gregori had made, investigated the alleged crime and secured a warrant for his arrest. "The Corpus Christi Police Department greatly appreciates the assistance of our local, state and federal partners in helping to keep our community safe," the police department said. "Their support is vital to helping us accomplish our mission to reduce crime, the fear of crime and enhance public safety." According to the FBI, Gregori was arrested on state charges filed by the Nueces County District Attorney's Office.

Chicago Tribune: [IL] Jury selection begins in Highland Park parade shooting trial
Chicago Tribune [2/24/2025 2:02 PM, Clifford Ward, 5269K] reports that jury selection began Monday in Lake County Court in the case of Robert Crimo III, who is charged in the mass shooting that killed seven people at the 2022 Independence Day parade in Highland Park. At the conclusion of the morning session, attorneys had agreed on three people who will eventually decide whether Crimo is guilty of first-degree murder and numerous counts of attempted murder in the attack that injured more than 40 parade spectators. The first day of the trial began at about 10:30 a.m. when Judge Victoria Rossetti brought in the first group of potential jurors, a dozen people who were then questioned individually by the judge, prosecutors led by State's Attorney Eric Rinehart and Crimo's legal team from the Public Defender's Office. The first juror chosen was a middle-aged woman who said she works as a business analyst. A man who operates a truck repair business and a woman who works as a nurse in hospice care were also chosen before the lunch break. While jury selection was scheduled to continue Monday afternoon, the jurors selected during the morning session were dismissed until March 3, when opening statements and the presentation of evidence are expected to begin. The judge told jurors that the trial will likely last three to five weeks.

Reported similarly:
Washington Post [2/24/2025 2:14 PM, Susan Berger, 31735K]

AZCentral: [AZ] Teen accused of Phoenix Pride terror plot wants bond lowered from $1M
AZCentral [2/24/2025 4:27 PM, Miguel Torres, 4457K] reports a 17-year-old accused of plotting a terrorist attack on a Phoenix Pride event is requesting a bond reduction from $1 million. The teen's lawyer argues that common household products were misconstrued as bomb-making materials and that his client has no ties to terrorist organizations. Prosecutors, however, said the teen searched online as recently as September for information on explosives and firearms, raising concerns about public safety. Jalo, 17, faces one count of providing assistance or direction to an act of terrorism and one count of organizing an act of terrorism.

National Security News

DefenseScoop: Space Force stands up planning team to assess tech for Trump's 'Iron Dome for America'

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DefenseScoop [2/24/2025 12:00 PM, Mikayla Easley] reports the Space Force has established a cross-functional "technical integrated planning team" dedicated to evaluating space-based capabilities that can contribute to President Donald Trump's vision for a next-generation homeland missile defense system, according to a senior Space Force official. Under the "Iron Dome for America" executive order published in January, Trump has tasked Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth to create a plan to field a multi-layered missile defense architecture for the U.S. homeland. Given how heavily the directive leans on space-based systems, Chief of Space Operations Gen. Chance Saltzman said the Space Force will likely have a "central role" in the architecture's development. "We are leaning forward establishing this technical IPT to start thinking about it from an overarching perspective," Saltzman told reporters Monday. With only a few weeks to develop a strategy and deliver it to the president, the Space Force's new technical integrated planning team (IPT) is currently analyzing technological maturity, cost estimates and capability gaps of space systems that could be part of the architecture. "What they're going to do is pull it together and make sure everybody has got eyes wide open before they start saying, 'Initiate a program here,'" a senior Space Force official said Monday during a background briefing with reporters. "It's more of a data collection [of] what do we know, and identify what we know we don't know." The directive calls attention to several ongoing space-based missile defense programs — such as sensors onboard the Missile Defense Agency's Hypersonic and Ballistic Tracking Space Sensor Layer (HBTSS) satellites and the Space Development Agency's Proliferated Warfighter Space Architecture (PWSA) tracking layer. Both the MDA and SDA have released respective requests for information that ask for industry feedback on possible space-based capabilities for the Iron Dome for America architecture. The Space Force official noted that the specificity of the Iron Dome for America directive has been helpful for the IPT as they conduct their analysis.

CBS News: [Mexico] 5 women, 3 men shot dead in street in cartel stronghold

CBS News [2/24/2025 6:48 AM, Staff, 52225K] reports gunmen shot dead eight people in Mexico's most violent state, authorities said Sunday. The five women and three men, who have not been identified, were killed in the street on Saturday night in Guanajuato, the prosecutor's office said. The gunmen have not been caught, authorties said. Guanajuato is a thriving industrial hub and home to several popular tourist destinations, but it is also considered Mexico's most violent state, according to official homicide statistics. The shootings took place in the municipality of Cortazar, where in 2023 gunmen stormed a water park and killed seven people, including a child. The National Guard arrested on Sunday a man in Guanajuato identified by local media as the leader of hitmen for the Santa Rosa de Lima cartel. Violence in Guanajuato is linked to ongoing conflict between the Santa Rosa de Lima gang and the Jalisco New Generation cartel, one of the most powerful in the Latin American nation. Last week, the Trump administration formally labeled eight cartels as terrorist groups, including the Jalisco cartel. The U.S. State Department urges Americans to reconsider traveling to Guanajuato. "Of particular concern is the high number of murders in the southern region of the state associated with cartel-related violence," the department says in a travel advisory. Last month, security forces clashed with gunmen in Guanajuato, leaving 10 suspected criminals dead and three police officers injured. In December, eight people were killed and two others wounded after gunmen pulled up to a roadside stand in Guanajuato and opened fire on customers and bystanders. On October 4, the bodies of 12 slain police officers — all bearing signs of torture and left with messages by cartels — were found in different areas of Salamanca, a town in Guanajuato. The state prosecutor's office also said the perpetrators left messages in which a cartel claimed responsibility. Messages are often left on victims' bodies by cartels seeking to threaten their rivals or punish behavior

they claim violates their rules. The bodies were found less than 24 hours after gunmen attacked a residential center for people suffering from addictions in the same municipality, killing four. In June, a baby and a toddler were among six members of the same family murdered in Guanajuato. In April, a mayoral candidate was shot dead in the street in Guanajuato just as she began campaigning. Drug-related violence has seen more than 480,000 people killed in Mexico since the government deployed the army to combat trafficking in 2006, according to official figures.

FOX News: [Ukraine] Trump teases meeting with Zelenskyy amid US' 'serious discussions' with Putin to end Russia-Ukraine war

FOX News [2/24/2025 1:50 PM, Brooke Singman and Emma Colton, 49889K] reports that President Donald Trump teased a possible meeting with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy Monday, amid what he called his "serious discussions" with Russian President Vladimir Putin — which could involve European peacekeeping troops — about ending the war between Russia and Ukraine. The president, from the Oval Office Monday, hinted at a potential meeting with Zelenskyy to finalize an agreement for rights to access its natural resources in exchange for the United States' billions of dollars in support for the country's war against Russia. "In fact, he may come in this week or next week to sign the agreement, which would be nice, I'd love to meet him. Would meet at the Oval Office," Trump said. "The agreement is being worked on now." "They are very close to a final deal," the president said. The Trump administration is seeking to recoup the cost of aid sent to the war-torn country by gaining access to rare earth minerals like titanium, iron and uranium. "It'll be a deal with rare earths and various other things. And, he would like to come. As I understand it, here, to sign it. And that would be great with me," Trump said. "I think they then have to get it approved by their council or whoever might approve it, but I'm sure that will happen." Trump said the deal is "very beneficial to their economy," while Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent added it is "very close."

FOX News: [Ukraine] Zelenskyy names his terms for giving up power as US, Ukraine lock in on mineral deal

FOX News [2/24/2025 1:44 PM, Morgan Phillips, 46189K] reports that Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said he would step down as president of Ukraine if it meant his nation would be accepted into NATO. Zelenskyy told reporters Sunday he was willing to give up the presidency "if it is for the peace of Ukraine," or if Ukraine is offered NATO membership – after President Donald Trump called him a "dictator" for failing to hold wartime elections. He also said he did not agree with Trump that Ukraine should pay the U.S. retroactively for the over $100 billion in aid offered since war broke out three years ago on Monday. "We agreed with Biden that this was a grant. A grant is not a debt," Zelenskyy said. U.S. officials have said NATO membership is off the table for Ukraine at any point in the near future, as Russia would never agree to such terms. Despite Zelenskyy's complaints, Trump insisted a new draft mineral deal is "very close," and the deal will be worth $350 billion. "It looks like we're getting very close, the deal's being worked on we're getting very close to getting an agreement where we get our money back over a period of time. But it also gives us something that is very beneficial to their economy, to them as a country," Trump told reporters while meeting with French President Emmanuel Macron. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent confirmed the U.S. and Ukraine are at the "one-yard line" of a deal.

The Hill: [Ukraine] Trump says he'll meet with Zelensky soon to sign minerals deal

The Hill [2/24/2025 1:41 PM, Brett Samuels, 16346K] reports that President Trump on Monday signaled he could meet with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky at the White House in the coming weeks to finalize a deal on critical minerals. Trump's comments, which came during a meeting with French President Emmanuel Macron, happened days after he suggested Zelensky did not need to be part of negotiations about ending the war in Ukraine. "I will be meeting with President Zelensky. In fact he may come in this week or next week to sign the agreement," Trump told reporters in the Oval Office. "They're very close to a final deal. It'll be a deal with rare Earths and various other things. And he would like to come, as I understand it, here to sign it," Trump added. "And that would be great with me. I think they then have to get it approved by their council or whoever might approve it. But I'm sure that will happen." The Trump administration has been involved in talks with Ukraine about gaining access to the country's critical minerals amid talks to end the Russia-Ukraine war. U.S. officials have suggested the deal would benefit Ukraine because it would create a greater incentive for the U.S. to provide security guarantees for Kyiv. Trump suggested Monday the agreement would be a way for the U.S. to recoup the money it has spent on military assistance for Ukraine in its war against Russia.

New York Times: [Ukraine] Trump and Europe Clashed Over Ukraine

New York Times [2/24/2025 6:06 PM, Matthew Cullen, 145325K] reports President Trump and France's president, Emmanuel Macron, repeatedly exchanged compliments and friendly gestures during a White House meeting this afternoon. But on the topic of Ukraine, the divergence between the two leaders was evident. Trump refused to call Vladimir Putin a dictator, as he has described Ukraine's president, Volodymyr Zelensky, and falsely claimed that the U.S. had spent three times as much as Europe on the war. He demanded that Ukraine sign over hundreds of billions of dollars in revenue from natural resources to the U.S., without mentioning Russian concessions. Macron corrected Trump's assertions about European aid, made clear that Russia — not Ukraine — was to blame for the war, and insisted that any truce "must not mean a surrender of Ukraine." The meeting came on the third anniversary of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine. Several European leaders acknowledged the day by visiting Kyiv and pledging their support. Meanwhile, Trump suggested that his negotiations with Putin could end the fighting "within weeks," and said that he might visit Moscow if a peace deal were reached. The U.S. also angered its European allies by voting against a resolution at the U.N. General Assembly that condemned Russian aggression and called for the withdrawal of Russian troops from Ukraine. The Americans were joined by Russia, Belarus and North Korea.

USA Today: [Ukraine] Zelenskyy says he would step down if Ukraine can join NATO

USA Today [2/24/2025 12:14 PM, Taylor Wilson, 89965K] reports that Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy says he would step down if Ukraine can join NATO, while blasting President Donald Trump's mineral pitch. USA TODAY National Correspondent Dinah Voyles Pulver takes a look at some of the impact from USAID domestically. Pope Francis attended Mass Sunday but remains in critical condition. USA TODAY Money Reporter Bailey Schulz examines why we're seeing more generations living together under one roof. 'Conclave' wins big at the Screen Actors Guild Awards. [Editorial note: consult audio at source link]

Newsweek: [Ukraine] Ukraine Issues Update on North Korean Involvement in Russia War

Newsweek [2/24/2025 10:49 AM, Micah McCartney, 56005K] reports that Kyrylo Budanov, head of the Ukrainian Defense Ministry's Main Intelligence Directorate, told reporters on Sunday that Moscow is sourcing half of its ammunition from North Korea amid the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war. Newsweek has reached out to the North Korean embassy in China and the Ukrainian foreign ministry via email for comment. South Korea says North Korea has supplied Russia with thousands of containers' worth of munitions since Russian President Vladimir Putin launched his invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. As Russia and North Korea continue to deepen their military partnership, Ukrainian and South Korean officials estimate that more than 10,000 North Korean troops have joined Russian forces, marking Pyongyang's first involvement in a foreign conflict since 1953. Many were deployed to Russia's Kursk region where Ukraine has been conducting a counteroffensive. Kyiv estimates around 4,000 North Koreans have been killed or seriously injured. However, Neither Moscow nor Pyongyang have publicly acknowledged North Korean boots on the ground in the war.

Newsweek: [Russia] Russian Military Expert Warns Moscow 'Must be Prepared' for War With NATO

Newsweek [2/24/2025 10:29 AM, Isabel van Brugen, 6595K] reports that Russia could go to war with NATO in the next decade, a Russian military expert warned. Igor Korotchenko, who often makes highly contentious statements on Russian state-owned TV, predicted a future conflict between Russia and the West in an op-ed published in the Russian newspaper Moskovsky Komsomolets. Newsweek has contacted the Russian Foreign Ministry for comment by email. Tensions between Moscow and the West have risen exponentially since Russian President Vladimir Putin's invasion of Ukraine on February 24, 2022. As the U.S. and Russia engage in back-channel talks to potentially bring an end to the war, NATO member states are raising concerns over Europe's collective security, warning of the urgent need to bolster defenses against the risk of Russian aggression extending beyond Ukraine's borders. In an op-ed in Moskovsky Komsomolets published on the eve of the third anniversary of the war, Korotchenko, director of the Moscow-based Center for Analysis of World Arms Trade, said Russia must be prepared for war with NATO in the near future. "The Russian Army must be prepared for any development of the situation in the medium term, including a possible military conflict with NATO in Europe in the next decade," he wrote. He said that even if the Kremlin establishes a stable relationship with U.S. President Donald Trump, in four years, a new leader will take office.

New York Times: [Israel] Israel and Hamas Trade Accusations of Violating Fragile Cease-Fire

New York Times [2/24/2025 5:53 AM, Isabel Kershner, 740K] reports Israel and Hamas on Sunday accused each other of violating the already fragile Gaza cease-fire deal after Israel delayed the release of hundreds of Palestinian prisoners who were supposed to be exchanged for hostages. The office of Israel's prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, said the prisoners would not be freed until the release of further hostages "has been assured," and Hamas committed to letting them go without "humiliating ceremonies." The growing tensions come after a week of mutual recriminations and strained nerves on both sides. The delay raised more questions about the future of the cease-fire for Gaza, with a temporary, six-week truce set to expire on March 1. There is no clarity yet about a possible extension, or even whether serious negotiations have begun. Some members of Israel's right-wing government are pressing for a resumption of the fighting after the initial phase of the cease-fire, which has provided a brief lull in the devastating war set off by the Hamas-led attack on

Israel on Oct. 7, 2023. On Saturday, Hamas released six Israeli hostages, the last living captives set to be freed in the first phase of the cease-fire. Earlier it had handed over the remains of four hostages, including those of Shiri Bibas and her two young children, who were all taken alive during the 2023 assault. Israel was supposed to release 620 Palestinian prisoners and detainees in return, the largest group of detainees to be let go since the cease-fire in Gaza began last month, but it delayed the move, citing what Mr. Netanyahu's office described as Hamas's "cynical exploitation" of the hostages for propaganda purposes. Late Saturday, dozens of Palestinian families, their faces somber, left a venue in Ramallah in the Israeli-occupied West Bank where some prisoners were supposed to appear, after waiting there for hours in the hope of reuniting with their loved ones. Many families said they had received no official communication regarding the delayed release, relying instead on media reports and word of mouth. [Editorial note: consult video at source link]

AP: [Taiwan] Taiwan is investigating a Chinese-crewed ship believed to have severed an undersea cable

AP [2/25/2025 3:45 AM, Staff, 52868K] reports Taiwanese authorities are investigating a Chinese-crewed ship suspected of severing an undersea communications cable in the latest such incident adding to tensions between Taipei and Beijing. Taiwan's coast guard intercepted the Togolese-flagged cargo ship Hongtai in waters between its main island's west coast and the outlying Penghu Islands early Tuesday, according to a statement by the coast guard. The coast guard had earlier been notified by telecommunications provider Chunghwa Telecom that one of its undersea cables had been severed 6 nautical miles (11 kilometers) northwest of Jiangjun Fishing Harbor. The Hongtai had been anchored in that same area since Saturday evening, the coast guard said. From Saturday until early Tuesday, authorities in the nearby Anping Port in Tainan had sent signals to the vessel seven times but had received no response. After the Chunghwa Telecom cable damage report, the coast guard approached the ship, which had begun to sail northwestward, and escorted it to Anping Port. Taiwanese authorities said the ship's entire eight-person crew were Chinese nationals and the case was being handled "in accordance with national security-level principles." "The cause of the underwater cable break, whether it was due to intentional sabotage or simply an accident, is still pending further investigation for clarification," the coast guard said. "The possibility of this being part of a gray-zone incursion by China cannot be ruled out," it added. Communications on the Penghu Islands were not disrupted because Chunghwa Telecom had successfully activated a backup cable, the coast guard said. This is the latest in a series of incidents in recent years in which undersea Taiwanese cables have been damaged — with Taipei in some instances blaming China. Earlier this year, a Chinese cargo ship was suspected of severing a link northeast of the island. In February 2023, two undersea cables serving Taiwan's Matsu Islands were severed, disrupting communications for weeks. Taipei fears China might damage its underwater communications cables as part of attempts to blockade or seize the island, which Beijing claims as its own. A Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson said during a regular press briefing on Tuesday that he was not aware of the issue and it did not pertain to diplomacy.

Reported similarly:
Reuters [2/25/2025 3:50 AM, Yimou Lee, 41523K]

Newsweek: [North Korea] North Korea Threatens US With Nuclear Response

Newsweek [2/24/2025 5:55 AM, Micah McCartney, 56005K] reports North Korea on Friday doubled down on expanding its nuclear forces, warning it will use "strategic means" to counter military cooperation between the U.S. and its South Korean ally. Newsweek reached out to the North Korean embassy in China with a written request for comment. Kim Jong Un's frequent missile tests and expanding nuclear capabilities have further aggravated North-South relations, now at their lowest point in decades. Pyongyang now possesses a limited number of intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) believed capable of striking targets across North America, though one senior U.S. Air Force official recently warned any such attack would backfire. Last week, the U.S. test-fired an ICBM over the Pacific and deployed strategic bombers for joint drills with South Korea's Air Force. According to a statement by North Korea's defense ministry information office, the second Trump administration has already stepped up U.S. "provocations threatening the security environment of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK)." Wednesday's launch of the Minuteman III ICBM, joint live-fire drills with South Korean troops near the border earlier this month, and the recent five-day port call of the Los Angeles-class fast-attack submarine USS Alexandria in Busan, South Korea, were listed as provocative U.S. moves, by the DPRK. It also condemned the upcoming Freedom Shield exercise, the annual U.S.-South Korea joint military drill aimed at bolstering deterrence and readiness against North Korean threats. "This reality clearly proves why the DPRK armed forces' build up of war-fighting capability, with nuclear deterrence at its core, is a just and inevitable option," it added, vowing to "counter the strategic threat of the U.S. and other enemies with strategic means."

{End of Report} RETURN TO TOP

From: (b)(7)(E) [dhs@techmis.com]
Sent: 3/8/2025 12:46:35 PM
To: (b)(7)(E) @techmis.com
Subject: DHS Morning Briefing (3-8-25)
Attachments: DHS Morning Briefing (3-8-25).pdf

DHS MORNING BRIEFING

Prepared for the Office of Public Affairs (OPA)
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

(b)(7)(E)

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Editorial Note: The DHS Daily Briefing is a collection of news articles related to Department's mission. The inclusion of particular stories is not intended to reflect their importance, nor is it intended to endorse the political viewpoints or affiliations included in news coverage.

TO: **Homeland Security Secretary & Staff**
DATE: **Saturday, March 8, 2025 8:00 AM ET**

Top News

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Axios: Nearly 100 immigration court staff retiring, resigning amid backlog

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The Hill/FOX News/USA Today: Noem says DHS has ID'd, will seek prosecution of 'criminal leakers'

FOX News: Noem team demands end to 'fake news' reports she spent $650K as governor on credit card — it was $2K

Newsweek: Trump Administration Moves Offices from Six Sanctuary Cities

New York Times: Trump Seeks to Bar Student Loan Relief to Workers Aiding Migrants and Trans Kids

CBS News: [DC] Son of ruthless cartel leader gets life in U.S. prison for trafficking drugs

Chicago Tribune: [IL] Chicago observers relieved a reserved Mayor Brandon Johnson achieved 'a draw' with congressional Republicans

Newsweek: [TX] Greg Abbott Won't Rule Out Bounty Hunters to Apprehend Illegal Immigrants

FOX News: [CO] Venezuelan gangs are far from a 'fake' problem, Colorado DA says: 'Giant issue'

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AP: [CA] Federal judge won't order immigration officials to change school arrests policy

Miami Herald: [Haiti] JetBlue to extend flight ban on a country after plane hit with gunfire

New York Times: [Panama] Panama Says It Will Release Migrants From Detention Camp

Wall Street Journal: [Venezuela] Trump Deportation Plans Hit New Obstacle in Venezuela

Opinion – Op-Eds

The Hill: Trump's 'golden visa' will drive up housing prices as foreign oligarchs swoop in

The Hill: The SAVE Act would make it harder to vote — and not just for noncitizens

US News & World Report: Trump Is Right To Target Fentanyl. But Tariffs Won't Do the Trick.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement

Newsweek/NPR: President Trump brings back practice of detaining families together

Washington Post: [DC] ICE's acting director was demoted two weeks ago. He's still in the job.

Newsweek: [VA] Trump Supporter Wrongly Detained by ICE Now Questions His Vote

WSOC: [NC] Bill requires sheriffs to notify ICE before certain suspects are released

Yahoo! News: [NC] ICE fails to detain suspect in Charlotte shooting, sheriff says

NPR: [FL] Florida says its cops are ready to help ICE with deportations

Yahoo! News: [MI] Michigan immigrant father arrested by ICE outside school after dropping off child

Chicago Tribune: [IN] Indiana AG: Lake County sheriff didn't comply with ICE until February

Newsweek: [IL] Landlord Made to Pay $80,000 for Threatening to Call ICE on Tenants

Border Report: [TX] ICE deports Mexican national wanted in disappearance of 43 Mexican students

Yahoo! News: [TX] 20 migrants in custody after ICE operation at Spring business

Yahoo! News: [WI] Washington and Winnebago county sheriff's departments sign agreements to work with ICE

Yahoo! News: [AZ] Mexican citizen arrested by ICE agents using armored vehicle pleads guilty to felony

Citizenship and Immigration Services

NPR/NBC News: Freeze on funding to help green card holders get citizenship stirs uncertainty

FOX News: New report reveals illegal immigrant population hit new high during Biden-era crisis

Yahoo! News: Tech, GOP scuffle ensues over H-1B visa program

Telemundo52: [CA] USCIS proposes to review social networks of applicants for residency, citizenship and asylum in the U.S.

The Hill: [South Africa] Trump offers pathway to citizenship for South African farmers, families

Yahoo! News: [Ukraine] Trump to consider extension of temporary stay rights for Ukrainians in US

NPR: [Pakistan] Afghans in Pakistan awaiting U.S. resettlement are stuck in a treacherous limbo

Washington Post: [Pakistan] Afghans promised a future in the U.S. now fear deportation from Pakistan

Customs and Border Protection

CBS News: Some migrants hoping to cross U.S. border consider turning back due to Trump crackdown

FOX News: Border state lawmaker demands Border Patrol agents be paid during pending shutdown: 'Above and beyond'

FOX News: Along the southern border, 'the nonsense has ended': CBP's Ronald Vitiello

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UPI: U.S. Customs and Border Protection unit renamed to honor slain agent

Yahoo! News: Nearly 300 Fort Campbell soldiers deploy to US-Mexico border for 2nd time this year

Newsweek: How Much Fentanyl Comes Into the US From Canada, Really?

Yahoo! News: [MA] Pilot previously arrested at Logan Airport shoots himself in parking lot of MBTA station, police say

Yahoo! News: [KY] Soldiers from Fort Campbell deployed to southern border

Border Report: [TX] Cartel spy drones monitoring US Border Patrol agents

The Hill: [TX] Buoy barriers on Rio Grande have doubled in size

Washington Examiner: [TX] Abbott's border buoys scheme pays off after nearly sinking under Biden

CBS Austin: [TX] 'A chess match': Ranchers on Texas border test new solutions in battle against smugglers

KFOR: [TX] Missing Oklahoma 2-year-old child found safe in El Paso, says OHP

San Diego Union Tribune: [CA] Nighttime smuggling attempt stopped after shots disable panga engine

Border Report: [Mexico] US repatriating 135 migrants daily to Mexico on flights

Federal Emergency Management Agency

The Hill: FEMA fires three more people connected to directive to skip homes with Trump signs

Washington Examiner: [NY] Fired FEMA official sues DHS over NYC migrant hotel payments she says DOGE cleared

Yahoo! News: [KY] FEMA warning Kentuckians of scams following February's deadly floods

Newsweek: [CA] California Changes Drinking Water Restrictions

Secret Service

FOX News: Trump assassination attempt suspect legal team battles DOJ over evidence, test-firing gun

USA Today: Honorary Secret Service member Devarjaye Daniel is also an honorary deputy in Wood County

FOX News: [PA] New book details security lapses ahead of Trump assassination attempt: 'Clear there was a problem'

CBS Austin: [VA] Romanian citizen arrested after credit card skimmers found at Wal-Marts along East Coast

Yahoo! News: [SC] Twice-convicted Florence man facing 2 new counts of sexual exploitation of a minor

South Carolina Daily Gazette: [SC] Irmo man pleads not guilty to threatening President Trump, denied bond

ABC News: [Russia] US seizes Russian crypto exchange websites, charges head of site with money laundering

Coast Guard

Yahoo! News: US Coast Guard infrastructure is quietly crumbling. It needs at least $7 billion to fix it.

Yahoo! News: [MD] Army Corps of Engineers gives green light for next step in Key Bridge replacement

Yahoo! News: [WI] U.S. Coast Guard to begin ice breaking operations in Green Bay, reopen waters to commercial traffic

CISA/Cybersecurity

CyberScoop: CISA completed its election security review. It won't make the results public

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CBS News: Cybersecurity agency's top recruits decimated by DOGE cuts

Yahoo! News: [IL] CPS data breach: Cyberattack exposed personal information of current, former students

MeriTalk: [China] White House Gearing Up China Cyber Fight Amid Talent Layoffs

Terrorism Investigations

Houston Chronicle: [TX] Harris County teen charged in alleged terrorism plot, accused of coordinating with ISIS fighter

National Security News

AP: [OR] U.S. Army soldiers accused of selling military secrets, including to China

CBS Minnesota: [Ukraine] Trump says he's considering Russia sanctions and tariffs until ceasefire is reached with Ukraine

Washington Post: [Ukraine] U.S. suspends commercial satellite imagery service to Ukraine

FOX News: [Ukraine] U.S. continues to share data to protect Ukrainians against Russian strikes, despite intel pause: sources

Washington Post: [Russia] Trump threatens 'large scale' sanctions on Russia after major attack on Ukraine

New York Times: [Iran] Trump Offers to Reopen Nuclear Talks in a Letter to Iran's Supreme Leader

CNN: [Afghanistan] US reviewing visa programs as official says Afghanistan could be included in Trump travel ban

Yahoo! News: [China] China bans more US defense firms

FOX News: [China] Congress exposes China's potential loophole for Trump tariffs: 'Drawing a line in the sand'

New York Times: [China] China Hits Canada With Tariffs in Indirect Riposte to Trump

AP: [North Korea] North Korea unveils nuclear-powered submarine for the first time

Top News

New York Times/Washington Post/AP/CBS News/Washington Examiner: Trump administration ends collective bargaining for TSA officers

The New York Times [3/7/2025 12:01 AM, Tim Balk, 145325K] reports the Department of Homeland Security said Friday that it was ending its collective bargaining agreement with workers in the Transportation Security Administration, claiming that the union contract was imperiling the safety of travelers. The move was the latest step by President Trump's administration to undermine labor protections for federal workers, and prompted an outraged response from the American Federation of Government Employees, a union that represents some 47,000 at the T.S.A., along with hundreds of thousands of other federal workers. The union vowed to fight the action, saying that it had little do with safety and appeared to be illegal. The move could lay the groundwork for the government to fire T.S.A. workers and perhaps even privatize the agency, according to labor experts. Project 2025, a conservative policy playbook that Mr. Trump distanced himself from during the presidential campaign but has since followed, called for privatizing the T.S.A. The T.S.A., which has about 50,000 workers in the field and makes up about a quarter of the Homeland Security Department's work force, is tasked with securing the nation's airports, highways and passenger rail system. It was created in 2002 in response to the Sept. 11 attacks and folded into the Homeland Security Department in 2003. In a statement on Friday, the Homeland Security Department claimed that a "select few poor performers" in the T.S.A. were exploiting benefits and suggested that too many employees were devoting time to union matters rather than security

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work. “Eliminating collective bargaining removes bureaucratic hurdles,” the statement said, adding that the union had “constrained” efforts to keep Americans safe. Everett Kelley, the union’s president, said in a statement that “this action has nothing to do with efficiency, safety or homeland security.” “This is merely a pretext for attacking the rights of regular working Americans across the country because they happen to belong to a union,” he added. The Washington Post [3/7/2025 6:18 PM, Lori Aratani, 31735K] reports that in making the unilateral decision, Homeland Security Secretary Kristi L. Noem cited provisions in the original legislation, enacted during the Bush administration, that created TSA, giving agency management the power to set personnel rules, including for collective bargaining. “Eliminating collective bargaining removes bureaucratic hurdles that will strengthen workforce agility enhance productivity and resiliency, while also jump-starting innovation,” the agency said in a statement. Everett Kelley, national president of the American Federation of Government Employees, which represents TSA officers, called the administration’s actions an attack against workers aimed at punishing unions that have fought efforts to shrink the federal workforce. “Our union has been out in front challenging this administration’s unlawful actions targeting federal workers, both in the legal courts and in the court of public opinion,” he said. “Now our TSA officers are paying the price with this clearly retaliatory action.” Kelley vowed to challenge the action. Whether the union will prevail is an open question given the broad leeway that was given to the agency in the wake of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks to set pay, hiring and work rules at the department. The AP [3/7/2025 8:55 PM, Rebecca Santana and Michael R. Sisak, 5269K] reports that it came amid a push by Homeland Security to improve the pay of frontline workers, which has historically lagged behind other government employees. Pekoske credited the pay increases with improving employee retention and morale. The union said the order would strip collective bargaining rights from roughly 47,000 transportation security officers, or TSOs. Those are the people responsible for staffing airports and checking to make sure passengers do not have weapons or explosives. The decision comes at a time of increasing passenger travel — screeners see an average of 2.5 million passengers a day. The union said the department and the Trump administration were violating the right of staffers to join a union. It also said that the reasons the Republican administration had given for the decision — specifically the criticisms of union activity — were “completely fabricated.” CBS News [3/7/2025 2:55 PM, Staff, 51661K] reports that the decision is "terrible for aviation security and everyone who depends on safe travel," the Association of Flight Attendants said. The group added, "This will take us back to the days of security at the lowest price with the highest costs for our country.” The American Federation of Government Employees, the union representing the TSA workers, said in a statement that the order would strip collective bargaining rights from roughly 47,000 transportation security officers, or TSOs. Those are people responsible for staffing airports around the country and checking to make sure that hundreds of thousands of passengers a day do not carry any weapons or explosives into the secure areas of airports. The union said Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem and President Donald Trump’s administration were violating the right of staffers to join a union. It also said that the reasons the Republican administration had given for the decision — specifically the criticisms of union activity — were "completely fabricated.” The Washington Examiner [3/7/2025 1:00 PM, Annabella Rosciglione, 2296K] reports that the DHS public affairs office characterized the move as DHS increasing efficiency, safety, and "organizational agility." DHS said that a "select few poor performers" had been taking advantage of the agreement’s family and sick leave policy. DHS’s press release also claimed that nearly 200 officers, out of TSA’s screening workforce of approximately 47,000, work "full time" on union matters. "Thanks to Secretary Noem’s action, Transportation Security Officers will no longer lose their hard-earned dollars to a union that does not represent them," a DHS spokesperson wrote in the press release. "The Trump administration is committed to returning to merit-based hiring and firing policies. This action will ensure Americans will have a more effective and modernized workforce across the nation’s transportation networks. TSA is renewing its commitment to providing a quick and secure travel process for Americans," the spokesperson continued.

Reported similarly:
The Hill [3/7/2025 12:27 PM, Rebecca Beitsch, 12829K]
Reuters [3/7/2025 12:02 PM, David Shepardson, 41523K]
CBS Austin [3/7/2025 11:44 AM, Jamel Valencia, 602K]
FOX News [3/7/2025 8:31 AM, Bradford Betz, 10702K]

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Federal News Network [3/7/2025 10:32 AM, Justin Doubleday, 1089K]
Government Executive [3/7/2025 2:51 PM, Erich Wagner, 819K]

Axios: Nearly 100 immigration court staff retiring, resigning amid backlog

Axios [3/7/2025 12:55 PM, Russell Contreras, 13163K] reports that nearly 100 U.S. immigration court professionals are resigning or retiring, on top of the around 30 immigration judges and senior staff recently fired by the Trump administration, a union for immigration judges said Friday. Why it matters: The staff reduction will likely add to the historic backlog of cases and slow President Trump's mass deportation plan, even as he asks Congress for more resources. The nation's immigration court system is how immigrants can make their case to stay in the U.S. The big picture: The Department of Justice said in a memo last month it is moving to consider all immigration judges at-will employees without any federal employee protections. That's putting immigration judges and the Trump administration on a collision course likely to slow down the record pace of cases immigration courts heard as President Biden left office. Zoom in: About 85 immigration court professionals are resigning or retiring, the International Federation of Professional Engineers (IFPTE), the union representing the country's roughly 700 immigration judges, says. This follows the firing of 29 judges and senior staff by the Trump administration. The union said no cause was given for the firing of judges.

Washington Examiner: Judge layoffs complicate Trump's deportation plans

Washington Examiner [3/7/2025 11:06 AM, Annabella Rosciglione, 2296K] reports that more than 100 high-level immigration officials across the United States have been fired or taken the Trump administration's resignation offers, which could complicate its plans to execute "mass deportations" in an already overwhelmed system. In total, 85 employees, including 18 judges, at the Justice Department's Executive Office for Immigration Review accepted the government's deferred resignation or early retirement offer, and more than 29 judges were fired by the Trump administration. These judges are part of the administrative court system under the Justice Department, not the judicial branch, and they have the authority to make decisions about asylum claims and could order that someone be removed from the country. Losing this high volume of immigration judges is likely to cut into President Donald Trump's efforts to deport millions of immigrants. Delays in adjudicating immigration claims are part of what contributes to the number of undocumented immigrants living in the U.S. while they wait for their cases to be resolved. Each immigration judge handles, on average, 500 to 700 cases a year. According to data collected by the Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse at Syracuse University, the court already has a massive backlog of more than 3.7 million cases.

The Hill/FOX News/USA Today: Noem says DHS has ID'd, will seek prosecution of 'criminal leakers'

The Hill [3/7/2025 4:46 PM, Ailia Zehra, 12829K] reports Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem said Friday that the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has identified two "criminal leakers" within its ranks and will refer them to the Department of Justice for felony prosecutions. The names of the individuals have not been revealed. Last month, Tom Homan, President Trump's "border czar," said Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) actions in Colorado were hindered after a raid was "leaked," allowing the targets to escape. ICE officers were still able to carry out some arrests. FOX News [3/7/2025 3:14 PM, Louis Casiano, Bill Melugin, 46189K] Video: HERE reports that the names of the two alleged leakers were not disclosed. DHS spokeswoman Tricia McLaughlin told Fox News that they are expected to face charges. Earlier this week, Noem said her agency wasn't deterred by leaks after a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) raid was leaked ahead of time. The leaks drew anger from ICE, with one official telling Fox they feared the result of an ICE agent being killed. Previous leaks to the news media have involved raids in Los Angeles and Aurora, Colorado. Last month, Border czar Tom Homan said the administration was closing in on the individual responsible for the leak of the Aurora raid. Noem had pointed the finger at the FBI. USA Today [3/7/2025 5:12 PM, Lauren Villagran, 75858K] reports Noem didn't say what statute the leakers are accused of violating. High-level Trump administration officials are under enormous pressure to carry out the president's "mass deportation" effort. Last month, several top officials began complaining that immigrant round-ups, including of alleged gang members,

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weren't delivering the results expected. They alleged that people with knowledge of law enforcement plans have been leaking sensitive details ahead of the raids. The Aurora operation targeted more than 100 people, but an immigrant rights group told USA TODAY it was only able to track five detentions. In a video statement on X, Noem appeared to indicate the alleged leakers were working for the Department of Homeland Security, which is the parent of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

FOX News: Noem team demands end to 'fake news' reports she spent $650K as governor on credit card — it was $2K

FOX News [3/7/2025 6:00 AM, Emma Colton, 52868K] reports that Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem's legal team hit a South Dakota media outlet with a cease-and-desist letter demanding that it correct and end its knowingly "false and misleading" reporting that Noem allegedly racked up hundreds of thousands of dollars on a government-issued credit card when she served as governor, Fox News Digital has learned. "On behalf of former South Dakota Governor Kristi Noem in her personal capacity, I write out of concern that your website continues to publish false and misleading information about my client that you have known to be false since at least July 2024," an attorney representing Noem in her personal capacity said in a letter to the co-founders of a South Dakota outlet called The Dakota Scout. The letter was obtained by Fox News Digital on Thursday. "Specifically, your website repeatedly, and inaccurately, refers to all charges on credit cards used by the Office of the Governor of South Dakota as charges of my client—allowing a conclusion by multiple commenters on the site and other news outlets that my client violated the laws of South Dakota or stole taxpayer funds for her personal use," it continued. "We demand that The Dakota Scout immediately cease spreading these false, misleading, and inaccurate statements and take immediate and significant steps to correct past inaccuracies."

Newsweek: Trump Administration Moves Offices from Six Sanctuary Cities

Newsweek [3/7/2025 2:08 PM, Sonam Sheth and Gabe Whisnant, 52220K] reports the Small Business Administration (SBA) announced it will relocate six regional offices from so-called "sanctuary cities" as part of the Trump administration's broader effort to crack down on cities with immigrant-friendly policies. President Donald Trump made immigration and border security a central theme of his successful 2024 campaign and pledged to start carrying out mass deportations of migrants on "day one." Trump has since taken a number of steps to deliver on his promises, including taking legal action against sanctuary cities and revoking federal funding. More than 200 cities and counties across the U.S. consider themselves sanctuaries. In a Thursday statement, SBA Administrator Kelly Loeffler said the agency's offices in Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Denver, New York City and Seattle will be moved to "less costly, more accessible locations that better serve the small business community and comply with federal immigration law." The SBA's announcement comes after a heated congressional hearing on sanctuary cities earlier this week, during which Republican Representative James Comer, chairman of the House Oversight Committee, engaged in a shouting match with Democratic Representative Ayanna Pressley of Massachusetts. The confrontation occurred when Comer tried to block Pressley from introducing data into the Congressional Record showing that Texas-born citizens have a higher rate of violent crime than migrants.

New York Times: Trump Seeks to Bar Student Loan Relief to Workers Aiding Migrants and Trans Kids

New York Times [3/7/2025 10:16 PM, Stacy Cowley, 145325K] reports President Trump signed an executive order instructing administration officials to alter a student loan forgiveness program for public servants to exclude nonprofit organizations that engage in activities that have what he called a "substantial illegal purpose." His order to restrict the program appears to target groups supporting undocumented immigrants, diversity initiatives or gender-affirming care for children, among others, as the Trump administration has sought to eliminate federal support for efforts that have drawn right-wing ire. The order, made public on Friday, is the latest of many attempts to overhaul the loan forgiveness program, which has often whipsawed borrowers with rule changes and bureaucratic obstacles. The program, known as Public Service Loan Forgiveness, was created by Congress in 2007 and cannot be eliminated without congressional action, but the Education Department has some leeway to determine

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how it operates. Mr. Trump's executive order directed the secretaries of education and the Treasury to amend the program to exclude workers for organizations supporting illegal actions, listing several categories of examples, including "aiding or abetting" violations of federal immigration law. The Trump administration has taken a broad view of what it considers to be support of illegal activities. The order cited as examples organizations that support "illegal discrimination," which the administration has previously said includes diversity and inclusion initiatives.

CBS News: [DC] Son of ruthless cartel leader gets life in U.S. prison for trafficking drugs
CBS News [3/7/2025 3:18 PM, Staff, 51661K] reports the son of a Mexican drug cartel boss was sentenced to life in a U.S. prison for his leadership role in one of the country's largest and most violent narcotics trafficking organizations. Rubén Oseguera, known as "El Menchito", is the son of Nemesio "El Mencho" Oseguera, the fugitive cartel boss of the Jalisco New Generation cartel, which U.S. officials have described as "one of the world's most violent and prolific drug trafficking organizations." The son served as the CJNG cartel's second-in-command before his extradition to the U.S. in February 2020. The younger Oseguera faced a maximum sentence of life in prison and a mandatory minimum of 40 years in prison when U.S. District Judge Beryl Howell sentenced him in Washington, D.C. Howell also ordered a forfeiture of over $6 billion as part of the sentence. In September, a federal jury convicted the younger Oseguera of conspiring to distribute cocaine and methamphetamine for U.S. importation and using a firearm in a drug conspiracy. Ruben Oseguera ordered the killings of at least 100 people, personally shot and killed at least two people and ordered subordinates to shoot down a Mexican military helicopter, killing at least nine people in 2015, prosecutors said.

Chicago Tribune: [IL] Chicago observers relieved a reserved Mayor Brandon Johnson achieved 'a draw' with congressional Republicans
Chicago Tribune [3/7/2025 1:38 PM, Alice Yin and Jake Sheridan, 5269K] reports that during his first year in office, Mayor Brandon Johnson infamously went on the offensive when pressed on his plans to visit the southern U.S. border. Instead of answering or brushing off questions, the rookie mayor chided reporters: "I have children who attend schools who have soccer games, y'all." "Do you understand that you have not had a mayor like me?" Johnson said in the October 2023 City Hall news conference. "I still have a budget that I have to address. And I'm doing all of that with a Black wife raising three Black children on the West Side of the city of Chicago. I am going to the border as soon as possible." The anxiety many Chicagoans felt when he accepted an invitation to testify Wednesday before U.S. Congress on the city's sanctuary policy — and the relief once he finished — can be traced to earlier interactions like that. If he reacted as antagonistically to Republican congressmen hoping to goad him into an argument on Wednesday, the mayor's appearance at the House Oversight Committee could have gone south fast. But a different Johnson appeared on Capitol Hill to testify in the hotly anticipated hearing on sanctuary policies for immigrants.

Newsweek: [TX] Greg Abbott Won't Rule Out Bounty Hunters to Apprehend Illegal Immigrants
Newsweek [3/7/2025 1:51 PM, Billal Rahman, 52220K] reports Texas Governor Greg Abbott has not ruled out the possibility of deploying bounty hunters to assist law enforcement in apprehending suspected undocumented immigrants. When asked by Newsweek whether he would support such a policy, Abbott's office indicated the governor is open to various enforcement measures. "Governor Abbott fully supports law enforcement using every tool and strategy to aid in the Trump administration's deportation of illegal immigrants," Abbott's press secretary, Andrew Mahaleris, said. Republican lawmakers in Mississippi and Missouri have proposed expanding powers for bounty hunters to carry out immigration enforcement, while Arizona has proposed offering law enforcement agencies incentives for catching migrants without legal status. It is part of a broader push by Republicans to expand the role of bounty hunters in immigration enforcement. Supporters argue that the measure strengthens border security, particularly as local police forces struggle with staffing shortages. The legislation has sparked fierce debate, with proponents arguing it strengthens immigration enforcement policy while critics warn it could lead to racial profiling and civil rights violations.

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FOX News: [CO] Venezuelan gangs are far from a 'fake' problem, Colorado DA says: 'Giant issue'
FOX News [3/7/2025 9:00 AM, Michael Lee Fox, 46189K] reports that a Colorado district attorney is arguing that those who are trying to dismiss the issue of Venezuelan gangs in the state have been taking an "ignorance-is-bliss approach to the law." "There were the two extreme positions. One was, 'Hey, they'd taken over the city'... then you'd have the people on the far left in the mainstream media saying 'there's no such thing as a country of Venezuela. Venezuelans don't exist. It's all made up. It's a figment of your imagination,'" Colorado's 23rd Judicial District Attorney George Brauchler told Fox News Digital. "The truth is, Venezuelan gangs did take over the running of about 2 to 3 different apartment complexes… so to suggest that this isn't an issue is fake. It is a giant issue. It is a growing issue. And this sort of ignorance is bliss approach to the law." The comments come as Colorado has recently entered the national spotlight as a result of the state's sanctuary laws, which have limited local jurisdictions from being able to cooperate with federal immigration authorities. The issue became even more controversial in the last few months after reports of the spread of the violent Venezuelan immigrant gang Tren de Aragua, which had taken over multiple apartment complexes in the Colorado city of Aurora.

AP: [CA] Federal judge won't order immigration officials to change school arrests policy
AP [3/7/2025 8:05 PM, Colleen Slevin, 1682K] reports that Immigration authorities don't need to revert to a Biden-era policy limiting arrests at schools after officials in Denver challenged new policies from the Trump administration, a federal judge ruled Friday. U.S. District Judge Daniel Domenico said Denver Public Schools failed to prove that a drop in attendance was due to the Trump administration's new policy. It wasn't clear how much of the fear surrounding possible enforcement actions in schools was really due to the new rules as opposed to broader concerns of increased immigration actions, he said. The new policy has not yet been acted upon, according to a group representing large urban school districts across the U.S. Besides a drop in attendance, Denver Public Schools says it has had to divert resources to respond to fear among students and families over the lifting of longtime rules restricting immigration enforcement near schools, churches and other sensitive locations. "This includes providing mental health support to students, diverting administrator attention from academics to immigration issues, and assisting students who miss school to catch up," lawyers for the school district said in their request to block the new rules.

Miami Herald: [Haiti] JetBlue to extend flight ban on a country after plane hit with gunfire
Miami Herald [3/7/2025 1:21 PM, Veronika Bondarenko, 3973K] reports that with Haiti rocked by ongoing gang fights and different militant groups trying to seize control of the government, several U.S.-based airlines recently witnessed the violence in the most direct way. On Nov. 11 a Spirit Airlines (SAVE) plane flying into Port-au-Prince's Toussaint Louverture International Airport from Fort Lauderdale was hit with gunfire while attempting to land. While the gunfire only grazed the surface of the planes and did not result in any injuries, JetBlue Airways (JBLU) and American Airlines (AAL) also found bullet grazings on some of their aircraft before both airlines and the FAA issued an emergency stop on all flights into Haiti. While the FAA ban for U.S. airlines is set to expire on March 12, JetBlue just confirmed that it would not be resuming its Haiti flights until at least midyear. "Our top priority remains the safety and well-being of our customers and crew members," a JetBlue spokesperson confirmed to the Miami Herald on March 5. "Due to the ongoing civil arrest in Haiti, we have made the decision to suspend all flights to and from the country through at least June 11, 2025." As is typical in such situations, the airline added that it "will continue to monitor the situation closely and update [its] plans as necessary."

New York Times: [Panama] Panama Says It Will Release Migrants From Detention Camp
New York Times [3/7/2025 1:48 PM, Genevieve Glatsky, Julie Turkewitz, Annie Correal and Farnaz Fassihi, 145325K] reports Panama will release 112 migrants who had been deported from the United States last month and were being held in a remote jungle camp, a minister said on Friday, after lawyers and advocates said the conditions violated Panamanian and international laws. The migrants come from countries that the United States cannot easily return deportees to, often because those nations will not receive them. Panama was issuing 30-day temporary humanitarian passes to the migrants to give them time to arrange their return to their homelands, or to other countries willing to take them, Panama's

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security minister, Frank Ábrego, told reporters on Friday. He said the passes have a possible extension of up to 90 days. The decision to release the migrants could represent another challenge to President Trump's efforts to deport millions of migrants from the United States. In mid-February, when the United States began sending planeloads of people from Asia, Africa and the Middle East to Panama and Costa Rica — and then those countries began locking up the deportees — it appeared that he had enlisted two pliant nations to help with his ambitious deportation plans. The images of people locked in a hotel in Panama seemed a potentially powerful deterrent for those thinking about migrating to the United States. But the decision by Panama to release the migrants suggests that it may be harder than the Trump administration had hoped to press other nations into helping carry out mass expulsions. The decision to release the migrants did not involve the United States and was made solely by Panamanian officials, according to a person familiar with the discussion among those officials, who was not authorized to speak publicly. The release amounted to offering the migrants a form of temporary protected status, the person said. While the government would not offer the migrants hotels or other lodging after they left the camp, known as San Vicente, the migrants would be directed to options for shelter and other assistance, including petitioning for asylum in countries other than their own, the person said. He did not provide further details. The U.S. State Department did not immediately respond to a request for comment. "It's hard to outsource immigration policy because other countries have their own constraints," said Andrew Selee, the president of the Migration Policy Institute, a nonpartisan research organization. "This was a bid by the Panamanian government to buy some good will with the Trump administration," he added. "But it was not yet a developed strategy."

Reported similarly:
AP [3/7/2025 3:50 PM, Alma Solís and Megan Janetsky, 10355K]

Wall Street Journal: [Venezuela] Trump Deportation Plans Hit New Obstacle in Venezuela
Wall Street Journal [3/7/2025 1:41 PM, Kejal Vyas and Vera Bergengruen] reports President Trump's plan for mass deportations faces a new hurdle: The Venezuelan government has privately warned the administration that it won't accept migrants after the White House rescinded Chevron's license to pump oil there, said people familiar with the matter. Early last month, Trump touted a deal an envoy reached with Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro to accept tens of thousands of migrants who had fled the strongman's regime because of economic upheaval and political repression. The deal would have smoothed the way for Trump's deportation plans because Venezuelans are one of the biggest groups of unauthorized migrants in the U.S., and Maduro had long refused to accept them. But signs of difficulty emerged almost immediately, as Trump allies jockeyed over whether to engage with an authoritarian regime the U.S. has deemed illegitimate or take a more-hawkish stance. Caracas accepted about 360 returning Venezuelans in the weeks after the deal was announced, but no flights have taken place since Feb. 20. Now the deal appears to be unraveling after the Trump administration gave Chevron 30 days to wind down its operations in Venezuela, which Secretary of State Marco Rubio has said "shamefully bankrolled the illegitimate Maduro regime." The move is expected to heighten the economic pressure on Maduro and lead more people to consider fleeing the country. "The people on the street are going to feel this fast," said José Martínez, an accountant in Caracas. The move led to the recent Venezuelan warning, which could make it more difficult for Trump to deliver on his pledge of mass deportations of migrants. His deportation plans have faced legal and logistical challenges in recent weeks, as U.S. courts temporarily blocked the transfer of Venezuelan detainees to Guantanamo Bay and military deportation flights were paused because of cost concerns. The abrupt shift in the Trump administration's approach to Venezuela has fostered uncertainty in both Washington and Caracas about which direction it will ultimately take. Other international oil companies are awaiting Treasury Department guidance on whether they need to leave Venezuela, too.

Opinion – Op-Eds

The Hill: Trump's 'golden visa' will drive up housing prices as foreign oligarchs swoop in

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The Hill [3/7/2025 2:30 PM, John Mac Ghlionn, 12829K] reports President Trump's announcement of a new $5 million "gold card" residency permit has raised eyebrows, and for good reason. At first glance, the proposal seems simple enough: foreign investors prepared to invest a significant amount secure access to the U.S. citizenship. But look closer, and the problems start piling up — from money laundering to soaring housing prices that push ordinary Americans out. Although golden visa programs bring in money, they have a messy track record. They let the wealthy buy their way in, often hurting the country more than helping it. Trump is pitching this as an economic win, but if history is any guide, it could lead to scandals, public outrage and eventual collapse — just like similar programs in Europe. But before looking overseas, consider the EB-5 visa, the very program Trump's plan would replace. It was supposed to create jobs in struggling areas but ended up fueling luxury real estate booms in places like Manhattan and Beverly Hills. Instead of lifting up small towns, it became a loophole for billionaires to buy green cards, leaving working-class communities with empty promises and shattered dreams. Worse, the EB-5 was riddled with schemes and abuse. Investors and developers manipulated the system, fabricating job numbers or misusing funds. Some cases made national headlines, like the developers at Vermont's Jay Peak ski resort who siphoned off millions for personal gain. Even with these scandals, the program dragged on for years, kept alive by deep-pocketed real estate interests.

The Hill: The SAVE Act would make it harder to vote — and not just for noncitizens
The Hill [3/7/2025 11:00 AM, Elizabeth C. Matto, 12829K] reports that given the volume and magnitude of actions taken by the White House since Inauguration Day, it is understandable that most of America's attention has been focused on the executive branch. What should not be lost in this flurry of activity, however, is legislation being advanced by the 119th Congress that could be just as consequential to the institution most fundamental in a representative democracy: the vote. The Safeguard American Voter Eligibility Act, or the SAVE Act, would require individuals to provide documentary proof of U.S. citizenship to register to vote in federal elections. It passed in the House in July of 2024 but did not advance in the Senate. Recently reintroduced by Rep. Chip Roy of Texas, the bill now has a heightened chance of success given partisan unity within government. The consequences of the SAVE Act belie its name by compromising access to the ballot for large swaths of the populace and complicating an already overly complicated process. Moreover, the act undermines the ideals of the "democratic experiment" begun nearly 250 years ago of a republican form of government — an experiment that, until recently, has trended toward expanding rather than restricting suffrage. The ostensible purpose of the SAVE Act is to curb voting in our federal elections by those who do not hold American citizenship.

US News & World Report: Trump Is Right To Target Fentanyl. But Tariffs Won't Do the Trick.
US News & World Report [3/7/2025 4:54 PM, Leah Wread DeVere, 24727K] reports President Donald Trump has vowed to combat the drug overdose crisis in the United States, and he has demanded that Mexico, Canada and China crack down on fentanyl smuggling, citing the deadly drug as a key reason for imposing tariffs this week on our three biggest trading partners. I agree with Trump that we are facing a fentanyl crisis, with tens of thousands of people in the U.S. dying from drug overdoses each year, but there's a much better way to fight this scourge. The obscure de minimis trade rule allows packages valued at $800 or less – everything from clothing and jewelry to electronics and prescription medication – to enter the U.S. with "expedited clearance processing" and minimal customs scrutiny, without paying import taxes. Unfortunately, this loophole has become a pipeline for drug smugglers to ship fentanyl, pill presses and precursors – substances used to manufacture illegal drugs – directly to the doorsteps of people like my son.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement

Newsweek/NPR: President Trump brings back practice of detaining families together
Newsweek [3/7/2025 11:05 AM, Billal Rahman, 52220K] reports that Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents are preparing a new operation to detain migrant families with children, according to multiple reports. The raids are expected to focus on tracking down adults and minor children

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who entered the U.S. together and have deportation orders, according to NBC News. Another operation is also underway to track down children who entered the country unaccompanied and were released without court dates, the network said. Newsweek has contacted the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and ICE for comment. It comes after Karoline Leavitt, the White House press secretary, confirmed in January that the Trump administration sees all migrants without legal status as "criminals." President Trump in January also granted ICE the authority to detain migrants suspected of being in the country illegally in or near sensitive locations such as schools, hospitals, and churches. ICE lawyers are reportedly now working to obtain warrants to enter the homes of migrants with children across the U.S. in order to carry out arrests and deportations, NBC reported. A DHS spokesperson said in a statement, according to Fox News: "These individuals have final deportation orders from a federal judge. This administration will not ignore the rule of law." NPR [3/7/2025 5:15 PM, Ximena Bustillo] reports the Trump administration has brought back the practice of detaining families with children as a part of an effort to crack down on immigration. The Department of Homeland Security is reopening the Karnes and Dilley detention centers in Texas and retrofitting them for families. Families have already been sent to the detention center in Karnes City, in southeastern Texas, DHS said. The Biden administration largely ended the practice of family detention, using the facilities to hold adults instead. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the DHS agency that processes people for deportation, has been particularly constrained since the start of the administration in finding enough people to arrest and detain those without legal status. Its 20 field offices have been tasked with a quota of at least 75 arrests per day, despite limited staffing – even as the agency struggles to find space to hold those placed in detention.

Washington Post: [DC] ICE's acting director was demoted two weeks ago. He's still in the job.
Washington Post [3/8/2025 6:00 AM, Maria Sacchetti and Marianne LeVine, 31735K] reports that, two weeks ago, as White House officials complained about lagging immigration arrest numbers, the homeland security secretary demoted the acting director of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Caleb Vitello. The department spokeswoman said in a statement that Vitello "is no longer in an administrative role," and his hometown paper in New York reported: "Kenmore native out at top ICE job after a month." Some of his employees said they learned of the change from news reports, not an internal announcement. But a replacement has yet to be named, and Vitello is still listed at the top of the leadership chart on ICE's website. He has continued to appear at immigration raids wearing a ballistic vest and has been featured in agency news releases. After his public demotion, he celebrated ICE's 22nd anniversary with a post on LinkedIn: "I'm so honored to be leading the proud men and women of the only professional home I've ever known this many years later." Days later, he posted a photo of himself on the job and wrote: "Love being in the field with my people." The leadership reshuffle — on paper, if not in reality — has puzzled many workers at the 20,000-employee agency and baffled lawmakers on Capitol Hill, who are unsure whether they should still send Vitello their official correspondence. Current and former colleagues say the uncertainty is injecting chaos into an agency that is under pressure to dramatically increase enforcement without additional funding. "We don't even know who to direct our inquiries to," said Rep. Bennie G. Thompson (Mississippi), the ranking Democrat on the House Homeland Security Committee. "Maybe that's by design, but it reeks of incompetence." An ICE spokesman referred questions to the Department of Homeland Security. DHS spokeswoman Tricia McLaughlin, who initially said that Vitello was reassigned to a senior role overseeing daily enforcement operations, did not answer questions about why he remains in the top job. President Donald Trump's "border czar," Tom Homan, a former acting ICE director, also did not respond to questions. A White House official said Vitello is expected to serve as the acting director until the administration finds a new one. Trump named Vitello to the position in December, in a glowing announcement that commended Vitello's "exceptional leadership, extensive experience, and commitment to ICE's mission." Vitello previously held several leadership roles, including chief of staff for ICE's Enforcement and Removal Operations. During Trump's first term, Vitello served on the White House National Security Council as the director for interior immigration enforcement, a priority of Trump adviser Stephen Miller. But frustrations simmered as immigration arrest numbers underwhelmed some Trump officials, even as they frightened immigrant communities nationwide.

Newsweek: [VA] Trump Supporter Wrongly Detained by ICE Now Questions His Vote

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Newsweek [3/7/2025 1:37 PM, Dan Gooding, 52220K] reports that a United States citizen detained by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers in northern Virginia says he is now questioning his vote for President Donald Trump last November. Jensy Machado, a naturalized citizen, said he was in a car stopped by agents while on his way to work in Manassas, in the D.C. suburbs, where a large-scale immigration enforcement operation took place earlier in the week. "They just got out of the car with the guns in their hands and say, turn off the car, give me the keys, open the window, you know. Everything was really fast," he told Telemundo 44 and NBC 4 Washington. Newsweek reached out to ICE for comment via email Friday afternoon. ICE has been empowered to conduct increased enforcement action across the country, including the raids in Virginia earlier this week, attended by Secretary of Homeland Security Kristi Noem. With promises of mass deportations from President Trump, agents are coming under increasing pressure to deliver, with other reported incidents of U.S. citizens arrested. Machado, who said he voted for Trump in November, told NBC he was on his way to work with two other men when ICE agents stopped them Wednesday morning. Secretary Noem, on X following raids Tuesday: "Northern Virginia is safer this morning after a successful operation getting criminal aliens and gang members off our streets. Thank you to our brave enforcement officers." It was unclear at time of publishing if an investigation was underway into Machado's temporary detention. Increased ICE activity continues to be reported across the country.

Reported similarly:
The Hill [3/7/2025 3:55 PM, Ashleigh Fields, 12829K]
NBC News [3/7/2025 4:26 PM, Jackie Bensen, 44742K]

WSOC: [NC] Bill requires sheriffs to notify ICE before certain suspects are released
WSOC [3/7/2025 5:36 PM, Joe Bruno] reports House Speaker Destin Hall introduced a bill he says will close a loophole that he says some sheriffs are using to not notify ICE before suspects subject to a detainer are released. The bill was introduced, in part, because of a continued dispute between ICE and the Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office. Last month, Channel 9 was with ICE agents as they arrested Jose Napoleon Serrano. The twice-deported Honduran national was subject to a detainer. But ICE says the agency wasn't notified before he was released, and that's why they had to arrest Napoleon Serrano when he was on his way to work. Speaker Hall's new bill would make that phone notification mandatory. Speaker Hall's bill says the 48 hour detainer hold starts when the prisoner would otherwise be released from jail. Currently, the 48 hours start when the jail gets the detainer. It also says the jail has to give ICE a two-hour warning before that person is released. Speaker Hall says this closes a loophole being used by a handful of sheriffs in the state.

Yahoo! News: [NC] ICE fails to detain suspect in Charlotte shooting, sheriff says
Yahoo! News [3/7/2025 7:32 PM, Staff, 52868K] reports Mecklenburg County Sheriff Garry McFadden has released a detailed timeline regarding the arrest of Erick Lopez-Hernandez. Lopez-Hernandez was arrested on February 20, following a shooting incident involving the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department. He is charged with attempted murder and assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill. Despite an initial inquiry to the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, no detainer was issued until February 28, which later expired on March 2 without any action from ICE. "I've been saying it repeatedly. This case is a clear example that the current deportation process is failing," Sheriff McFadden said. On February 20, after being hospitalized due to a shooting involving CMPD, Lopez-Hernandez was arrested on outstanding warrants. An initial arrest query was sent to ICE at 1:43 p.m., and ICE confirmed his previous deportation in 2023 but did not issue a detainer at that time. On February 28, ICE issued a detainer at 7:35 a.m., and later that day, Sheriff McFadden received an email from ICE's Atlanta Field Office requesting notification upon Lopez-Hernandez's release. The detainer expired on March 2 at 7:35 a.m., with no pickup attempt by ICE. Sheriff McFadden suggested ICE charge Lopez-Hernandez with Re-Entry After Deportation, a federal crime under 8 U.S.C. 1326. On March 6, ICE informed MCSO that the case was being presented to the Assistant U.S. Attorney for criminal prosecution. Despite the outcome, ICE expected notification upon any release. By March 7, Sheriff McFadden checked for any new detainer

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or federal warrant but found none. He reiterated that MCSO would not hold detainees without proper judicial authorization, citing the need for a new detainer or warrant to comply with state law.

NPR: [FL] Florida says its cops are ready to help ICE with deportations
NPR [3/7/2025 4:51 PM, Greg Allen] Audio: HERE reports Florida is going all-in on President Trump's crackdown on illegal immigration. Gov. Ron DeSantis has ushered in a new law that formalizes agreements between all 67 Florida sheriffs and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). The move enables local officers to enforce federal immigration laws. Florida has also imposed harsher penalties for offenses committed by people illegally in the U.S. than for everyone else.

Yahoo! News: [MI] Michigan immigrant father arrested by ICE outside school after dropping off child
Yahoo! News [3/7/2025 7:55 PM, Niraj Warikoo, 52868K] reports that, on Wednesday morning, Jose Guadalupe Jaimes dropped off his son at a middle school in Trenton, his children said. Moments later, the immigrant father driving a work van was approached by three vehicles with their lights flashing. Agents with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, some with guns drawn, hopped out to arrest Jaimes, 55, who now sits in St. Clair County Jail, the latest ICE arrest in Michigan that has unnerved immigrant advocates. Born in Mexico, Jaimes has lived for 30 years in the U.S., starting his own painting business that supports his wife and five children. Now, they're scrambling to find out what may happen to him and how they will continue their lives without his support, both emotionally and financially. Records show Jaimes was booked in St. Clair County Jail, but with no criminal charges and an immigration hold. He appears to have no criminal record or cases pending in Wayne County courts, records show. "We just want him back home," one of his sons, Hector Jaimes, told the Free Press. Hector is a junior at a college in Tennessee, who drove eight hours back home Wednesday after hearing of his dad's arrest from a Facebook post. "We're worried about him." The arrest was made outside Arthur Middle School in Trenton after Jaimes had dropped off his eighth grade son, who was diagnosed with Asperger's syndrome, a type of autism. Hector said his father had a work permit obtained a few years ago and documentation to live in the U.S. A spokesman for ICE told the Free Press that he had been "ordered removed by an immigration judge in 2014." The spokesman said that ICE officers arrested Jaimes on Wednesday, describing him as an "an illegal alien from Mexico." He "remains in ICE custody pending the outcome of his immigration proceedings," the ICE spokesman said. The case will now be handled by federal immigration courts.

Chicago Tribune: [IN] Indiana AG: Lake County sheriff didn't comply with ICE until February
Chicago Tribune [3/7/2025 5:17 PM, Maya Wilkins, 5269K] reports after the Lake County Sheriff's Department said it always cooperated with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, representatives from the Indiana attorney general's office say the claim is inaccurate. In a Friday email to the Post-Tribune, Press Secretary Slayde Settle said a June 2024 report "clearly identified Lake County as a jurisdiction that does not honor ICE detainers." The Lake County Sheriff's Department did not comply until February, Settle said ICE confirmed. Hammond City Jail was another jurisdiction listed as non-cooperative with ICE, according to the report.

Newsweek: [IL] Landlord Made to Pay $80,000 for Threatening to Call ICE on Tenants
Newsweek [3/7/2025 6:48 PM, Billal Rahman, 3973K] reports that a judge ordered a Chicago landlord last month to pay $80,000 to former tenants after the landlord threatened to call ICE agents on them during a verbal dispute in June 2020, according to court documents. According to the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF), which filed the suit on behalf of the tenants, this marks the first judgment issued under Illinois's 2019 Immigrant Tenant Protection Act. On February 19, Cook County Circuit Judge Catherine A. Schneider ruled that former landlord Marco Antonio Contreras and his wife, Denise Contreras, must pay over $80,000 in damages, along with attorneys' fees and legal costs, for violating state law. The judge also ordered a smaller payment to compensate the tenants for being denied access to their belongings. The former tenants made a statement through their attorney. "We decided not to stay silent because our landlords threatened us with calling immigration, and we do not believe that anyone has a right to threaten us," the couple said. "No one should feel or act superior to others. We are

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all equals and deserve respect. Just because someone is your landlord does not mean that they get to do whatever they want to you."

Border Report: [TX] ICE deports Mexican national wanted in disappearance of 43 Mexican students

Border Report [3/7/2025 3:44 PM, Sandra Sanchez, 117K] reports U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers have sent back to Mexico a Mexican national wanted for kidnapping and organized crime in connection with the disappearance and abduction of 43 students in Mexico in 2014, the agency said Friday. Ariel Nuñez Figueroa, 30, was transported Thursday from the Montgomery Processing Center in Conroe, Texas, to the Juarez-Lincoln Bridge Port of Entry in Laredo, Texas, and turned over to Mexican authorities, ICE says. ICE fugitive operations officers located Nuñez after receiving information that he was potentially residing in the Houston area. They took him into custody on Sept. 9 after they say he illegally entered the United States on an unknown date and at an unknown location. A U.S. immigration judge on Jan. 22 ordered him sent back to Mexico.

Yahoo! News: [TX] 20 migrants in custody after ICE operation at Spring business

Yahoo! News [3/6/2025 11:53 AM, Terrian Spurs, 52868K] reports that in an operation on Tuesday, the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) took 20 undocumented migrants into custody in Spring. ICE reports they discovered discrepancies during an I-9 audit for a local business and were investigating. 20 migrants in custody after ICE operation in Spring. According to the agency, officials conducted a worksite enforcement operation at Texas Couplings LLC for alleged violations of US employment law. The operation followed the discovery of substantial discrepancies during an I-9 audit. At the location, they found 20 migrants and took them into custody for administrative immigration violations. They were taken to Montgomery Processing Center in Conroe. ICE Homeland Security Investigation's worksite enforcement strategies. The Immigration Reform and Control Act (IRCA) of 1986 requires employers to verify the identity and work eligibility of all individuals they hire, and to document that information using the Employment Eligibility Verification Form I-9. Part of ICE Homeland Security Investigation's (HSI) strategy is using the I-9 inspection program to promote compliance with the law and prevent illegal employment, the agency stated. ICE HSI focuses on looking into employers who knowingly break the law. They use I-9 audits and civil fines to encourage compliance. [Editorial note: consult video at source link]

Yahoo! News: [WI] Washington and Winnebago county sheriff's departments sign agreements to work with ICE

Yahoo! News [3/7/2025 6:07 AM, Claudia Levens, 52868K] reports that the Washington County Sheriff's Office has agreed to work with Immigration and Customs Enforcement in an agreement that immigrants' rights groups have been and continue to be critical of. It's not the only Wisconsin agency looking to work with ICE to crack down on immigration. According to data kept by the Department of Homeland Security webpage, both the Washington County and Winnebago County sheriff's departments entered into agreements on March 3 to participate in what is known as the 287(g) program, which authorizes certain local law enforcement officers to serve and execute administrative warrants to noncitizens in their jails. The agencies are joining seven others in Wisconsin and 300 others across the country which have signed onto the program since 2019. The Journal Sentinel made three attempts to reach each county's sheriff March 5 and 6 to ask about how this program would alter their activity but were unsuccessful. The decisions by the two agencies to join the program come as President Donald Trump has been taking action on his promises to crack down on immigration and ramp up deportations. Wisconsin's American Civil Liberties Union condemned local law enforcement agreements with ICE.

Yahoo! News: [AZ] Mexican citizen arrested by ICE agents using armored vehicle pleads guilty to felony

Yahoo! News [3/7/2025 7:06 AM, Daniel Gonzalez, 52868K] reports that a 61-year-old man arrested by ICE agents using an armored vehicle in February during the start of President Donald Trump's immigration crackdown has pleaded guilty to a felony charge of illegally re-entering the U.S. after previously being deported, court records show. Alfonso Garcia Vega was arrested Feb. 2 after a large

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contingent of federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers showed up in a quiet residential neighborhood in north Phoenix and used an armored vehicle and stun grenades to get him to surrender when he refused to come out of his home. Garcia Vega's arrest was among a number of attention-grabbing arrests by ICE officers around the country as the Trump administration ramped up an immigration crackdown within days of Trump's Jan. 20 inauguration. ICE's use of force to arrest Garcia Vega was condemned as excessive by a family member who downplayed his criminal history and by immigrant advocates. Garcia Vega faces a sentence of up to two years in prison after he pleaded guilty Wednesday in federal court to a felony charge of re-entering the U.S. after previously being deported, according to court documents. Garcia Vega remains in custody. He is scheduled to be sentenced on May 22, according to the Office of the U.S. Attorney for Arizona.

Citizenship and Immigration Services

NPR/NBC News: Freeze on funding to help green card holders get citizenship stirs uncertainty
NPR [3/8/2025 12:01 AM, Jennifer Ludden, 29983K] reports that on his first day in office, President Trump issued an executive order suspending the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program, citing concerns over the country's ability to absorb large numbers of refugees. That stranded about 10,000 people who were barred from boarding flights to the U.S., including Afghans who had risked their lives working for the American government or military. A few days later, the administration issued a stop work order that ended services for refugees already in the U.S. That, along with the funding freeze, has hobbled resettlement agencies nationwide, forcing them to lay off hundreds of staff and even shut down offices. Refugee resettlement agencies have filed multiple lawsuits challenging the Trump administration actions. A U.S. Supreme Court decision on Wednesday could lead to reimbursement for some services already rendered. But the State Department also has terminated all contracts with resettlement groups. For now, those groups are scrambling to help recently arrived refugees most in need. NBC News [3/7/2025 3:38 PM, Nicole Acevedo, 44742K] reports the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights in Los Angeles, or CHIRLA, is one of a number of organizations that serve immigrants by helping lawful permanent residents earn U.S. citizenship. But those services were jeopardized last month, when the coalition got a notification from U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) stating that their congressionally approved funding had been put on hold. The funding freeze meant disruptions to students receiving civics instruction, taking classes to learn English and getting ready for citizenship interviews and exams. On Friday, 35 Democratic members of Congress sent a letter to USCIS Acting Director Kika Scott and DHS Secretary Kristi Noem seeking answers on the funding freeze. If USCIS funding is not reinstated to this program, it will erase the progress made in reducing naturalization backlogs in recent years, the lawmakers said in the letter, spearheaded by Rep. Jimmy Gomez, D-Calif., whose parents immigrated from Mexico. If backlogs grow, the time it takes to process citizenship applications will likely double.

FOX News: New report reveals illegal immigrant population hit new high during Biden-era crisis
FOX News [3/7/2025 12:50 PM, Adam Shaw, 46189K] reports that the number of illegal immigrants in the U.S. is estimated to have surged to more than 18 million after the Biden-era border crisis, according to a new research report by a hawkish immigration group, which also found an 11% increase in less than two years. The report was produced by the Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIR), which argues for lower levels of immigration overall. It estimates that, as of March 2025, there are approximately 18.6 million illegal immigrants living in the U.S. That is 11% higher than an estimate the group published in June 2023, when it found that there were 16.8 million illegal immigrants. Overall, it estimates that the population has grown by 4.1 million or 28.2% since December 2020. "As of 2025, American population growth comes almost entirely from unsustainably high levels of immigration, both legal and illegal," the report says. FAIR estimates that there were around 11.7 million illegal immigrants in 2013. The group includes, as an illegal immigrant, anyone who does not have legal status like a visa or permanent residency, and notably also includes those who may be in the country illegally but given a lawful presence, like Temporary Protected Status or humanitarian parole.

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Yahoo! News: Tech, GOP scuffle ensues over H-1B visa program
Yahoo! News [3/7/2025 1:42 PM, Reed Albergotti, 52868K] reports key figures in the US tech industry have softened their support for the H-1B program that brings up to 85,000 skilled workers to the US every year after a revolt from President Donald Trump's anti-immigration MAGA political base. Now calls for reform of the program include tech titans like Elon Musk and Marc Andreessen, as well as their Democratic ally Rep. Ro Khanna of California and a broad coalition that includes Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders. The shift began in December, when the Trump administration hired an Indian American venture capitalist, Sriram Krishnan, to a key AI policy position, drawing a vitriolic and sometimes racist backlash on Musk's X. Former Trump aide Steve Bannon called the program "a total and complete scam to destroy the American worker" and demanded "reparations for tech workers." A wave of tech industry figures immediately showed support for immigrant tech workers, many of whom have founded or now run the industry's most successful companies. But after saying he'd go to war for the H-1B program, Musk tweeted, "I've been very clear that the program is broken and needs major reform." Andreesen, whose iconoclastic views are often a leading indicator of Silicon Valley thinking, said on the Lex Fridman podcast last month that the social media controversy prompted him to think deeply about the issue. The venture capitalist has long expressed unequivocal support for the H-1B program, even visiting Washington to inform lawmakers. "We have been in a 60-year social engineering experiment to exclude native-born people from the educational slots and jobs that high-skill immigration has been funneling foreigners into," he concluded.

Telemundo52: [CA] USCIS proposes to review social networks of applicants for residency, citizenship and asylum in the U.S.
Telemundo52 [3/7/2025 9:24 PM, Luis Zaragoza, 101K] reports U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) unveiled Wednesday, a proposal that seeks to access the social media accounts of anyone applying for citizenship, permanent residency or asylum, a move necessary to align with President Donald Trump's executive orders on immigration. "If this happens they can review applicants' social networks in a subjective and discretionary manner, as there is currently no clear process on what type of content could be considered grounds for denial of an application," said Jazmín Mercado, legal representative for Justice for Immigrants. According to USCIS data some 3.5 million people are going through some immigration process. The agency also made changes to several immigration forms, such as the I-485. "In my opinion, this administration is going to look for a reason to deny an application, those immigration agents who are interviewing us to make the decision of a legalization or immigration benefit," said Rosa Elena Sahagún, immigration attorney. Jaime Jáuregui said he is concerned about the proposal, since next year he will apply for his citizenship, and he considers that he would not like to share that information. "It has nothing to do with an immigration process, I just don't see it right on the part of the government and the administration," said Jáuregui. Although there are those who agree with the measure that requires social networks to be reviewed. "If you have nothing to hide or nothing wrong you would have to show your networks, if you really want to be here," said Victor Barrios, a resident of Los Angeles. However, the measure to request the review of social networks for those who wish to apply for a visa from abroad to enter the United States, already exists at the consular level since May 31, 2019. This proposal will be open for public comment for 60 days, and if approved, applicants who object to showing their social media accounts could be denied their immigration petition.

The Hill: [South Africa] Trump offers pathway to citizenship for South African farmers, families
The Hill [3/7/2025 10:49 AM, Elizabeth Crisp, 12829K] reports that President Trump is offering an expedited pathway to U.S. citizenship to some South African farmers, calling their treatment in the country "terrible." "They are confiscating their LAND and FARMS, and MUCH WORSE THAN THAT," he wrote in a Friday morning post on Truth Social. Trump signed an executive order last month halting federal aid to South Africa over property laws he said impose "unjust racial discrimination" against white Afrikaner farmers. "To go a step further, any Farmer (with family!) from South Africa, seeking to flee that country for reasons of safety, will be invited into the United States of America with a rapid pathway to Citizenship," he wrote Friday. "This process will begin immediately!" He didn't provide additional details about the immediate plan, but Trump wrote in his February order that the U.S. would "promote the resettlement of

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Afrikaner refugees escaping government-sponsored race-based discrimination, including racially discriminatory property confiscation" and directed his Secretaries of State and Homeland Security to prioritize their resettlement through the United States Refugee Admissions Program." The South African government has rejected claims of racial discrimination and accused Trump of having a distorted take on its land law that went into effect in January.

Yahoo! News: [Ukraine] Trump to consider extension of temporary stay rights for Ukrainians in US
Yahoo! News [3/7/2025 5:26 AM, Staff, 52868K] reports that US President Donald Trump confirmed on 6 March that he plans to consider whether to extend or revoke the legal status of Ukrainians in the United States who fled Ukraine due to the war. Quote: "We're not looking to hurt anybody, we're certainly not looking to hurt them [Ukrainians in the US – ed.], and I'm looking at that... There were some people that think that's appropriate, and some people don't, and I'll be making the decision pretty soon." Details: Four sources cited by Reuters – an administration official and three other sources – say that a decision on Ukrainians could be made in April. The issue was raised even before the US leadership met with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in the Oval Office, a meeting that ended in a dispute. The issue arises amid one of Trump's key campaign promises, which was cracking down on illegal immigration and deporting migrants who are in the US without proper legal grounds, including those admitted under temporary humanitarian programs introduced by the Biden administration.

NPR: [Pakistan] Afghans in Pakistan awaiting U.S. resettlement are stuck in a treacherous limbo
NPR [3/7/2025 5:00 AM, Betsy Joles, 29983K] reports that around midday one recent Wednesday, in a drab apartment block on the outskirts of the Pakistani capital, neighbors rushed to warn each other they'd seen police nearby. The building is inhabited almost entirely by Afghan families, and the alarm sent children who were playing in the hallway dashing into their apartments. A woman discreetly pulled her door shut, letting a neighbor padlock it from the outside. Another urged visitors to come in and told them to stay quiet. Several minutes later, word spread that the coast was clear. Doors were unlocked and people reemerged from hiding. But for many Afghans like these, who fled across the border to Pakistan after the Taliban took power in August 2021, now is an especially precarious time. The Trump administration has halted the U.S. refugee program, Pakistan wants them out, and their lives may be at risk if they return to their own country. Pakistan issued an internal directive in late January ordering the deportation of Afghans awaiting resettlement to third countries if their cases are not processed by March 31, according to an official document from the prime minister's office shared by a Pakistani official and reviewed by NPR. The official did not want to be identified because he was not authorized to share the document, which specifies that "no public announcements shall be made" about the new policy.

Washington Post: [Pakistan] Afghans promised a future in the U.S. now fear deportation from Pakistan
Washington Post [3/8/2025 2:00 AM, Rick Noack, 31735K] reports that after 2½ years of anxious waiting, 36-year-old Shirzad and his family were booked on a Feb. 3 resettlement flight from Pakistan to the United States. Two weeks before they were due to depart, President Donald Trump signed an executive order suspending America's refugee program. "Now, we're living as if we're under house arrest — we don't leave our home anymore for fear of being detained," said Shirzad, a former Afghan aid worker for a U.S.-founded organization. Thousands of Afghans who were set to be relocated to the United States before Trump halted refugee admissions are at risk of being forced out of their homes in Pakistan — and potentially sent back to Taliban-run Afghanistan. Pakistani authorities were already gearing up for a major deportation campaign targeting hundreds of thousands of Afghans with no path to resettlement in Europe or the United States. Now, even those who had been promised a new life in America have been told they must leave Pakistan's capital region by the end of the month, which they fear is a pretext for arrest and deportation. While Pakistan has long respected Western requests to spare Afghans with ties to NATO countries, the upcoming campaign is expected to target anyone without a valid visa — including many like Shirzad, who, after being in limbo here for years, have recently been unable to pay surging visa extension fees. Hiding inside their cramped apartment on the outskirts of Islamabad has been particularly hard on his two children, Shirzad said. But going back to Afghanistan is not an option: "It's like inviting death into

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your home," he said. Like others in this story, he spoke on the condition that he be identified by his last name, fearing unwanted scrutiny from the Taliban. Afghans interviewed for this story said the uncertainty has taken a growing mental toll. Some said they were battling depression and suicidal thoughts.

Customs and Border Protection

CBS News: Some migrants hoping to cross U.S. border consider turning back due to Trump crackdown

CBS News [3/7/2025 2:12 PM, Camilo Montoya-Galvez and Suvro Banerji, 51661K] reports on a recent afternoon, CBS News accompanied U.S. Border Patrol agent Claudio Herrera along this rugged stretch of the U.S. southern border. Herrera said the area, located within Border Patrol's sprawling El Paso sector, has long been a hotspot for the illicit movement of people and drugs. But the situation there has changed markedly in recent weeks. "The activity is very slow," Herrera said along the New Mexico border, which is patrolled by El Paso sector agents. "There's multiple factors attached to why we have seen a significant drop in apprehensions recently." He continued: "One of them, of course, is consequences," referring to deportations of those entering the U.S. unlawfully. President Trump has moved aggressively to carry out the large-scale crackdown on illegal immigration he promised on the campaign trail. Since his inauguration, illegal border crossings, which were on the decline during the last year of the Biden administration, have plunged even further. In February, Border Patrol recorded roughly 8,500 apprehensions of migrants who crossed the U.S.-Mexico border illegally, the lowest level in at least 25 years, according to government figures obtained by CBS News. At a shelter in the Mexican border city of Ciudad Juárez, Eduardo Medina and his wife Joanna Cortes described how they had brought their three children to northern Mexico last year after fleeing the high levels of crime and violence in the southern state of Michoacán. The young family said they had been staying in a small room for six months, hoping to get an appointment to enter the U.S. with the government's permission. But the app the Biden administration set up to distribute entry appointments to migrants in Mexico, known as CBP One, was quickly terminated after Mr. Trump returned to the White House. While her dream involved opening a restaurant in the U.S. and enrolling her children in American schools, Cortes said her family is thinking of "returning to the land where we were born" due to the suspension of the CBP One system. Breaking down in tears, Cortes said she and her husband "sold everything" to ensure their children could have a "different life" away from the "hell" in Michoacán. But that dream, she said, has "ended."

FOX News: Border state lawmaker demands Border Patrol agents be paid during pending shutdown: 'Above and beyond'

FOX News [3/7/2025 10:16 AM, Adam Shaw, 46189K] reports that a border state lawmaker is pushing to ensure that Border Patrol agents are paid in the case of a government shutdown -- just as funding deadlines are looming in Washington, D.C. Rep. Monica De La Cruz, R-Texas, is reintroducing the Pay Our Border Patrol and Customs Agents Act, which would ensure that the salaries of Customs and Border Protection (CBP) employees are paid in the case of any government shutdown in FY 2025. Specifically, it would cover the salaries and expenses of any Border Patrol agents and the Office of Field Operations, which staffs ports of entry. "Border Patrol Agents go above and beyond to ensure our communities are protected and our border is secure," De La Cruz said in a statement. "Under President Trump's leadership, Border Patrol Agents can fully carry out their duties and, as a result, are reporting historically low numbers of illegal crossings. We cannot let politics jeopardize their hard-earned paycheck," she said. The bill has 16 co-sponsors, including lawmakers from states along the border. The bill's reintroduction comes amid concerns about whether there could be a government shutdown in the coming weeks. Congressional negotiators punted FY 2025 funding twice since October by passing a continuing resolution.

FOX News: Along the southern border, 'the nonsense has ended': CBP's Ronald Vitiello

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FOX News [3/7/2025 11:51 AM, Staff, 10702K] reports that U.S. Customs and Border Protection senior advisor Ronald Vitiello on military 'heroes' helping to secure the southern border and plan to finish building the border wall. [Editorial note: consult video at source link]

UPI: U.S. Customs and Border Protection unit renamed to honor slain agent

UPI [3/7/2025 1:52 PM, Ian Stark, 3973K] reports the U.S. Customs and Border Protection renamed one of its Air and Marine Operations units Thursday in honor of an agent who died in the line of duty. In a press release, the federal law enforcement agency announced that its now-formerly named Mayagüez Marine Unit has been dedicated the Michel O. Maceda Marine Unit. Agent Michel Maceda was one of three agents who stopped a vessel off Puerto Rico in November of 2022, and allegedly discovered the people onboard were attempting to smuggle drugs into the United States. The traffickers opened fire on Maceda and his fellow agents, striking all three. Of the three agents, Maceda's life couldn't be saved. The Michel O. Maceda Memorial Act was passed by Congress in September of 2024, which designated the renaming of the Mayagüez Marine Unit as the Michel O. Maceda Marine Unit, and the dedication was made official in Puerto Rico at the San Juan Custom House. Department of Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem was present and bestowed the two agents who survived the incident, Customs and Border Protection agents Jorge Santiago and Mark Lamphere with the Medal of Valor and Purple Cross awards.

Yahoo! News: Nearly 300 Fort Campbell soldiers deploy to US-Mexico border for 2nd time this year

Yahoo! News [3/7/2025 2:10 PM, Kenya Anderson, 52868K] reports for the second time within a couple of months, Fort Campbell soldiers have been deployed to the U.S. Southern border. On Thursday, March 6, about 300 Fort Campbell soldiers assigned to the 101st Division Sustainment Brigade were deployed to the southern border as a part of the U.S. Northern Command's mission. The soldiers were deployed to three locations: Fort Huachuca, AZ, Fort Bliss, TX and Joint Base San Antonio, TX. On Saturday, Jan. 25, the 716th Military Police Battalion, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) were deployed to California following President Donald Trump's executive order declaring a national border emergency at the U.S.-Mexico border. Soldiers will support the Joint Task Force for southern border operations by managing sustainment units, coordinating logistics, providing field feeding and controlling logistical movement. "The Soldiers of the 101st Division Sustainment Brigade are always ready to answer the call, and this mission is no different," said Col. Josh Porter, 101 DSB Commander. "Their expertise in logistics and support operations will be critical in ensuring the success of border security efforts. I have full confidence in their professionalism, dedication, and ability to execute this mission with the highest standards of excellence in service to the American people." In February, soldiers assigned to the 716th Military Police Battalion and 101st Airborne Division deployed to the U.S. southern border in California, following President Donald Trump's executive order and deportation plan. Those soldiers are working with the Department of Homeland Security and Customs and Border Protection and military forces already present at the border.

Newsweek: How Much Fentanyl Comes Into the US From Canada, Really?

Newsweek [3/7/2025 12:03 PM, Jesus Mesa, 3973K] reports that for weeks, President Donald Trump has blamed Canada and Mexico for failing to curb the flow of fentanyl into the U.S., vowing to impose sweeping tariffs on both neighbors as a way to induce them to do more to stop the movement of the lethal synthetic opioid that has devastated American communities for years. "They've allowed fentanyl to come into our country at levels never seen before, killing hundreds of thousands of our citizens," Trump said during his joint address to Congress on Tuesday. He highlighted the "extraordinary threat" posed by the drug, which has contributed to more than half-a-million American overdose deaths since 2012. On Thursday, Trump postponed the tariffs for the second time since first announcing them in early February. While Canada and Mexico have scrambled to show cooperation, the threat of economic penalties still looms. And while Trump continues to focus on foreign suppliers, analysts argue that the U.S. plays a much larger role in the fentanyl trade than it admits. Although the U.S. has cast Canada as a major supplier of fentanyl, accusing Canadian enforcement agencies of failing to stop illicit opioids from crossing the border, the situation is far more nuanced. According to U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) data, around 43 pounds of fentanyl were intercepted coming from Canada into the U.S. last year, whereas Canadian authorities intercepted about 11 pounds going the opposite way during the same period. The

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Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) reported six fentanyl seizures last month alone, all originating from the U.S. In one of the seizures, 56.1 grams of fentanyl were discovered by agents at the Windsor-Detroit Tunnel port of entry, including 20 fentanyl pills and 23 grams of a substance suspected to be fentanyl, all brought in by a pair U.S. citizens.

Yahoo! News: [MA] Pilot previously arrested at Logan Airport shoots himself in parking lot of MBTA station, police say

Yahoo! News [3/7/2025 10:21 AM, Frank O'Laughlin, 52868K] reports that a JetBlue pilot who was arrested on sex charges last month at Boston's Logan Airport fatally shot himself outside of an MBTA station on Friday morning, officials said. The Massachusetts State Police Violent Fugitive Apprehension Section found 33-year-old Jeremy Gudorf, of Ohio, in his parked car at the Wonderland station garage in Revere, according to a state police spokesperson. When troopers approached him, state police say Gudorf pulled out a gun and "abruptly shot himself." Troopers entered Gudorf's vehicle and rendered aid before he was rushed to a local hospital, where he was pronounced dead. "Pending official identification by the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, state police believe the identity of the individual to be Jeremy Gudorf," the spokesman added. Suffolk Assistant District Attorney Kyle Neyman said during the arraignment that Gudorf was wanted in Huntersville, North Carolina, on charges related to the sexual exploitation of a minor for service. U.S. Customs and Border Protection learned of the warrant for Gudorf's arrest while conducting a standard review of the manifest of a Boston-to-Paris flight and requested help from troopers assigned to the airport, state police said.

Yahoo! News: [KY] Soldiers from Fort Campbell deployed to southern border

Yahoo! News [3/7/2025 7:57 PM, Corey Elam, 52868K] reports that nearly 300 soldiers from the 101st Airborne Division have been deployed to the U.S. southern border. According to an announcement on Thursday, the soldiers will reportedly join military forces there and work with the Department of Homeland Security as well as customs and border protection agencies. In January, several soldiers stationed at Fort Campbell had been deployed following an executive order from President Trump declaring a national emergency. The division posted on Facebook that soldiers will be based in three locations: Fort Huachuca, Arizona; Fort Bliss, Texas; and Joint Base San Antonio, Texas. "The Soldiers of the 101st Division Sustainment Brigade are always ready to answer the call, and this mission is no different," said Col. Josh Porter, 101 DSB commander. "Their expertise in logistics and support will be critical in ensuring the success of border security efforts. I have full confidence in their professionalism, dedication, and ability to execute this mission with the highest standards of excellence in service to the American people."

Border Report: [TX] Cartel spy drones monitoring US Border Patrol agents

Border Report [3/7/2025 5:53 PM, Julian Resendiz, 117K] reports transnational criminal organizations are using drones to track the movement of U.S. Border Patrol agents near the border wall on a daily basis, according to a federal official in El Paso. The practice was first disclosed to the public last September, when Mexican authorities acting on a tip from U.S. officials arrested two drone operators near the border wall in Juarez, Mexico. Slosar said agents in El Paso are working with partner agencies in Mexico to tighten security on the ground, in the air and under the ground. Federal officials and security experts also have expressed concern about the possible existence of additional cross-border tunnels in the region following the Jan. 9 discovery of a quarter-mile long structure leading from Juarez to Gate 28 of the U.S. border wall. In El Paso, Mexican and U.S. law enforcement have confirmed to Border Report drones have been used by local gangs to air drop drugs in El Paso neighborhoods.

The Hill: [TX] Buoy barriers on Rio Grande have doubled in size

The Hill [3/7/2025 8:01 AM, Ali Bradley, 52868K] reports that aiming to prevent more people from crossing the border illegally, Texas Gov. Greg Abbott (R) has doubled the size of a buoy barrier in the Rio Grande in the last couple of years. Around 1,000 feet has been added to the barrier, which has previously been challenged in court. It was created in July 2023. Border crossings can be dangerous. In November 2023, hundreds of migrants attempted to cross the border in Eagle Pass, Texas. Several people, even babies, were swept away. NewsNation witnessed one man who was unconscious and required CPR to

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resuscitate him. Crossings have dropped this year, reportedly by 94 percent compared to 2024. Officials have attributed this to several factors, including mass Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) deportations done under President Trump's administration. Federal officials, including Vice President Vance, made a stop in South Texas on Wednesday at a location that was once a hot spot for migrant crossings. NewsNation went out on a boat with Border Patrol during Vance's trip. During his visit, Vance urged people in the U.S. without authorization to return to their countries voluntarily and return only through legal pathways to avoid deportation. He also said the administration hopes to build the entire border wall by the end of the term.

Washington Examiner: [TX] Abbott's border buoys scheme pays off after nearly sinking under Biden

Washington Examiner [3/8/2025 6:00 AM, Anna Giaritelli, 2296K] reports the water buoys that Texas installed at the Mexico border, once a major legal headache for the Biden administration, could soon be a welcome gift to the Trump administration. The state government of Texas is in the process of shifting control of a line of buoys that divide the United States and Mexico in the Rio Grande to be under federal control by the Trump administration. The change of command reflects the positive partnership between the state and President Donald Trump, according to the office of Gov. Greg Abbott (R-TX). "The floating marine barriers deployed by Texas were originally designed by Border Patrol to deny illegal entry. When former President Biden refused to use them, Texas stepped up and deployed the barriers to deter and repel illegal river crossings — these have been so successful that not a single migrant has attempted to cross over them," Abbott press secretary Andrew Mahaleris said in a statement to the Washington Examiner Friday. "President Biden was hostile to these border security efforts, but now we finally have a partner in the White House who is working with Texas to protect our state and nation." The Texas Department of Public Safety, the police force that has overseen the installation and management of the buoys, recently declared that the 2,000-foot floating barrier will soon be entrusted to the Trump administration. "In a conversation with the federal government, just in the last couple of days, they love the idea, and they're going to make a large investment and take over the buoy barrier operations in Texas, which is going to be a huge benefit to us," said Texas DPS Director Freeman Martin in a statement on Feb. 28. The idea of using buoys as a barrier was developed by the Border Patrol but was not supported by officials in the Biden administration. Shortly after, Texas latched on to the buoy idea and developed the red balls that now float between Eagle Pass and the Mexican border city of Piedras Negras. White House border czar Tom Homan touted Friday that Abbott had been a "great governor," "great partner," and "great friend" through the Biden years and proven to be aligned with Trump's border policies. "Governor Abbott did more to secure the border than the entire Biden administration did. He had illegal immigration in Texas down, what, 76%? And that's just the state of Texas working," said Homan to reporters outside the White House. "What Governor Abbott did not only saved the citizens of Texas but all the fentanyl that comes across. I look forward to working with Governor Abbott."

CBS Austin: [TX] 'A chess match': Ranchers on Texas border test new solutions in battle against smugglers

CBS Austin [3/7/2025 12:12 PM, Jordan Elder, 602K] reports that Bill Martin's family has been ranching in Carrizo Springs for generations, but his morning routine around the ranch is very different from that of his ancestors. Martin still checks on the cattle and completes the usual ranch tasks, but he also picks up trash left behind by migrants. He ensures no structures have been broken into. As he drives his truck around the property, he checks gates and fences for holes left by people trying to sneak across the land. Ranchers along the Texas border, including Martin, are trying to keep smugglers, drug mules, and migrants off of their properties. They're constantly having to evolve their security measures to do it. "This is the holy grail of gates now. This is the template or the blueprint everybody's gonna follow," Martin said, showing us a grey gate with orange spike mechanisms meant to take out a radiator if a vehicle tries to push it open. It also has a specially designed lock, too small for bolt cutters. "It looks like something out of a Mad Max movie," Martin joked. "I refer to this as like a chess game, and this is just the last move on our side. There will be a countermove on the other side." "How long has that chess match been going?" reporter Jordan Elder asked. "Probably about 20 years," Martin said. It's an expensive and dangerous

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game. He says he still needs to upgrade four gates on his property to this latest model, which could cost up to $15,000 out of his pocket. [Editorial note: consult video at source link]

KFOR: [TX] Missing Oklahoma 2-year-old child found safe in El Paso, says OHP
KFOR [3/7/2025 6:21 PM, Terré Gables] reports the Oklahoma Highway Patrol announced on Friday, that 2-year-old Anthony Stroder has been found and is set to be reunited with his father. OHP says Stroder was located at 10:30 a.m. on Friday while crossing into the United States from Mexico with his mother, Katelyn Thornton. Previously, Stroder was the subject of an Endangered Missing Advisory issued on February 8. According to OHP, 2-year-old Anthony Stroder was with his non-custodial mother, Katelyn Thornton, and her boyfriend, Aurelio Cardenas. Thornton and the child were stopped by Customs and Border Patrol at a border crossing station in El Paso, says OHP officials. Thornton is currently detained by the El Paso Police Department. The child's father is headed to El Paso to reconnect with his son. Authorities say Cardenas is a registered sex offender according to the Texas Public Sex Offender Registry. Cardenas, who was also included in the advisory, is wanted out of Potter County, Texas.

San Diego Union Tribune: [CA] Nighttime smuggling attempt stopped after shots disable panga engine
San Diego Union Tribune [3/7/2025 1:09 PM, Caleb Lunetta, 1682K] reports that a boat carrying nine undocumented immigrants near the coast of San Diego was stopped after agents fired rounds at the engine, disabling the vessel, federal officials said. The incident was reported after a U.S. Customs and Border Protection airplane spotted a panga crossing the maritime boundary line around 9:35 p.m. on Tuesday, CBP spokesperson Michael Scappechio said. The aircraft radioed other members of Air and Marine Operations, a component of CBP, who scrambled a boat to intercept the panga, Scappechio said. Just after midnight, the intercepting boat found the panga, officials said. The panga crew refused to follow the agents' orders to turn their engine off, according to CBP. "After exhausting all avenues to stop the vessel, (the agents) moved into position and deployed disabling rounds to successfully stop the panga," Scappechio said. Four Brazilians, two Mexicans, two Nepalese and one Chinese national were discovered on the panga and taken into custody.

Border Report: [Mexico] US repatriating 135 migrants daily to Mexico on flights
Border Report [3/7/2025 3:13 PM, Salvador Rivera, 117K] reports U.S. Customs and Border Protection officials says the U.S. is deporting a daily average of 135 migrants on flights to Mexico. CBP Deputy Director Ricardo Moreno told El Sol Newspaper in Mexico City that since President Donald Trump took office, they have flown more than 4,000 people to the interior of Mexico. Moreno stated this also guarantees the safety of migrants. As of March 3, Mexico's government says it has received a total of 19,663 deported migrants since Jan. 20 when Trump took office. That includes 4,052 who were not Mexican nationals.

Federal Emergency Management Agency

The Hill: FEMA fires three more people connected to directive to skip homes with Trump signs
The Hill [3/7/2025 4:47 PM, Ashleigh Fields, 12829K] reports the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) said it fired three people who were associated with a supervisor's directive to skip homes with President Trump's campaign signs while facilitating Hurricane Milton disaster relief efforts following an investigation. The agency fired Marn'i Washington in November of 2024 for directing her subordinates to avoid homes with Trump signs, which the Office of Special Counsel said was a direct violation of the Hatch Act's regulations on electioneering. Washington claimed she was acting on FEMA's policy to direct employees to avoid homes where there are hostile encounters which former administrator Deanne Criswell vehemently denied. Criswell left FEMA in January after facing pushback for the agency's response to Hurricane Helene and Milton which devastated communities in the southeast. Hamilton, who was selected to serve in her absence, said he has since directed team members to undergo additional training to ensure FEMA's staff provides impartial assistance regardless of political affiliation.

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Reported similarly:
Washington Times [3/7/2025 12:02 PM, Stephen Dinan, 1814K]

Washington Examiner: [NY] Fired FEMA official sues DHS over NYC migrant hotel payments she says DOGE cleared
Washington Examiner [3/7/2025 4:29 PM, Emily Hallas, 2296K] reports the former chief financial officer at the Federal Emergency Management Agency filed a lawsuit against the Trump administration after she was fired for sending funds to house illegal immigrants. The Department of Homeland Security fired Mary Comans last month over an $80 million grant to New York City that was meant to reimburse the city for housing illegal immigrants in hotels — an action the Trump administration called illegal. However, in a lawsuit filed against DHS and FEMA on Tuesday, Comans said she was "unlawfully terminated from her position" without due process or the opportunity to "appropriately respond" to the charges leveled against her. She further alleged that personnel from Elon Musk's Department of Government Efficiency, which later slammed her for sending out the funds, had reassured her that distributing them was the right course of action.

Yahoo! News: [KY] FEMA warning Kentuckians of scams following February's deadly floods
Yahoo! News [3/7/2025 5:33 PM, Kiley Hill, 52868K] reports February's devastating floods are a sad reality many Kentuckians are still coming to terms with. On top of that, scammers are trying to take advantage of victims. "We do see scams and bad actors that come out into a disaster area directly after an event happens," said FEMA spokesperson Craig Browning. "And it's very unfortunate that they try to take advantage of people who have already lost everything." That's why FEMA is warning people of these potential scams, saying if something seems too good to be true, it likely is. "In most cases, they are looking for some type of financial contribution or some type of money to be taken for some type of service given," Browning added. He said FEMA representatives will never charge applicants for disaster assistance, inspections, or help in filling out our applications. According to a FEMA press release, if a FEMA inspector comes to your home and you did not submit a FEMA application, your information may have been used without your knowledge to create a FEMA application. If that happens, you're asked to tell the inspector you did not apply for FEMA assistance; that way, the inspector can submit a request to stop furthering the application process. Also, if you did not apply for assistance but received a letter from FEMA, you're asked to call the FEMA Helpline at 800-621-3362. The helpline will then submit a request to stop further processing of that application. If you're unsure if the person knocking on your door is with FEMA, Browning said there are a few things you need to do. "Do not give away any of your personal information to also include your application number in the event that you applied for federal assistance." He also told Fox 56 that all FEMA employees have their federal IDs on them at all times, and if someone is refusing to show identification, then close your door.

Newsweek: [CA] California Changes Drinking Water Restrictions
Newsweek [3/7/2025 6:15 PM, Martha McHardy, 3973K] reports that drinking water restrictions in California put in place during the Palisades wildfires are set to be lifted. Wildfires in Los Angeles in January burned more than 47,900 acres, destroyed more than 16,250 homes and businesses, and killed 29 people. The most significant incidents included the Palisades Fire, which consumed nearly 24,000 acres in Pacific Palisades and parts of Malibu. The wildfires also saw local water systems contaminated with toxins, including benzene and other volatile organic compounds. In response, the California Department of Water and Power issued a "Do Not Drink" notice for specific areas, cautioning residents against using tap water for drinking or cooking until further notice due to potential contamination. Exposure to contaminants like benzene can have serious health consequences, including an increased risk of cancer and other long-term illnesses. Unlike bacteria, these toxins cannot be removed by boiling or filtering, making the situation especially dangerous for affected communities. Ensuring access to clean drinking water is essential for public health. The restrictions are set to be lifted for residents in the burn zone in Los Angeles County on Friday. [Editorial note: consult video at source link]

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Secret Service

FOX News: Trump assassination attempt suspect legal team battles DOJ over evidence, test-firing gun

FOX News [3/7/2025 4:59 PM, Rachel Wolf, 46189K] reports Ryan Routh, the man accused of trying to assassinate then-candidate Donald Trump in September 2024, appeared in court as his team battled with the Justice Department over evidence. The defense team and the DOJ lobbed accusations back and forth over alleged withholding of evidence as they prepared for the Sept. 8, 2025, trial. A major point of contention between the defense and the prosecution is the issue of firearm testing. The defense is calling for the firearm, which is in the DOJ's position, to be tested. The defense's reason for testing is that they believe the gun was too old to fire the distance the DOJ claims it would have. However, the prosecution maintains that firearm testing is unusual, and it could destroy evidence. President Trump said he would be willing to release findings on the two assassination attempts made against him during the 2024 campaign. However, there are no firm details at this time.

USA Today: Honorary Secret Service member Devarjaye Daniel is also an honorary deputy in Wood County

USA Today [3/7/2025 4:01 PM, Chris Mueller, Karen Madden] reports Devarjaye "DJ" Daniel, a 13-year-old brain cancer survivor, became an honorary member of the Secret Service during President Donald Trump's speech Tuesday to a joint session of Congress. But, in 2022, a Wood County Sheriff's Department officer was one of about 50 officers from departments across the United States and the world who took a day to honor DJ at the FBI National Academy in Virginia. Lt. Nathan Dean was going through an intensive three-month training at the academy during October through December 2022 when one of the instructors, who had heard about DJ, came up with the idea to have a DJ Daniel Day. DJ spent the day with the class going to trainings and hanging out, Dean said. DJ even got the opportunity to have lunch with the FBI director, Dean said. At one point, they took DJ to a large auditorium and each member of the class was called up to the front and given the opportunity to make DJ a member of their department. Dean got his chance to make DJ an honorary Wood County deputy.

FOX News: [PA] New book details security lapses ahead of Trump assassination attempt: 'Clear there was a problem'

FOX News [3/7/2025 5:00 PM, Lindsay Kornick, 46189K] reports an upcoming book sheds further light on security lapses long before the first assassination attempt against President Donald Trump. On Thursday, Vanity Fair released an excerpt of Axios Senior Political Reporter Alex Isenstadt's new book "Revenge: The Inside Story of Trump's Return to Power." The excerpt largely focused on the circumstances surrounding the assassination attempt at a Pennsylvania rally in July. The shooting in Butler and subsequent attempt at a Florida golf course were major security failures that put a spotlight on the U.S. Secret Service, especially. But prior to the attempt, Isenstadt reported that members of Trump's team were concerned about his safety, particularly when he began campaigning. One example included when Trump appeared at a Washington courthouse for an arraignment in August 2023. The Secret Service and the U.S. Marshals reportedly had "neglected to shut off the public's access to the elevator Trump was using, leaving him exposed to whoever was in the building."

CBS Austin: [VA] Romanian citizen arrested after credit card skimmers found at Wal-Marts along East Coast

CBS Austin [3/7/2025 10:13 AM, Robert Locklear, 602K] reports that after several Wal-Mart stores in Central Virginia found credit card skimmers at customer check-outs, officials announced that a suspect has been arrested. But the problem goes far beyond just the ABC13 viewing area in Central Virginia. According to officials, the same person is responsible for card skimmers throughout Virginia and up the East Coast. And the man suspected of the crime hails from much further away: the country of Romania in Europe. The incidents began on Feb. 26, when the Bedford Police Department said they received the report of a credit card skimming device recovered from the Wal-Mart in Bedford. The device was found by

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personnel checking the credit card kiosks for skimming devices. An investigation began after police heard about what happened. BPD said the trail led them to a male suspect matching the description of the suspected Bedford culprit. According to police, he had placed skimming devices at several other Wal-Marts through Virginia and several other states. BPD worked with other law enforcement to share the evidence they had; Wal-Mart Investigations, U.S. Secret Service, law enforcement from Lynchburg and Chesterfield County, and BPD worked together to locate the suspect in the Richmond area. "The suspect was subsequently taken into custody by law enforcement without incident," BPD said. "The suspect in this matter has been identified as Florin Doroiman, a citizen of Romania." [Editorial note: consult video at source link]

Yahoo! News: [SC] Twice-convicted Florence man facing 2 new counts of sexual exploitation of a minor

Yahoo! News [3/7/2025 12:24 PM, Dennis Bright, 52868K] reports that a 48-year-old Florence man is being held with bond on two counts of sexual exploitation of a minor. James Everette Nesbitt was booked into the Florence County Detention Center on Wednesday after his arrest by members of the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force investigators with the South Carolina Attorney General's Office. Nesbitt allegedly distributed and possessed files of child sexual abuse material, the attorney general's office said. He was arrested after authorities received a CyberTipline report from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. According to arrest warrants, Nesbitt distributed sexual sexual abuse materials using a social media app on Sept. 17, 2024. Authorities also found sexually explicit images on his electronic device on Wednesday during a search at his home. Nesbitt is charged with one count of second-degree sexual exploitation of a minor and one count of third-degree sexual exploitation of a minor. Each carries a prison sentence of up to 10 years if he is convicted. In addition to the attorney general's office, investigators with the Florence County Sheriff's Office, Florence Police Department, Homeland Security Investigations, U.S. Marshals Service, and U.S. Secret Service are a part of the task force and assisted in the investigation.

South Carolina Daily Gazette: [SC] Irmo man pleads not guilty to threatening President Trump, denied bond

South Carolina Daily Gazette [3/7/2025 3:16 PM, Shaun Chornobroff] reports an Irmo man accused of threating to kill President Donald Trump faces a federal charge punishable by up to five years in prison, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office in South Carolina. Travis Keith Lang, 47, pleaded not guilty Friday in his first appearance at the federal courthouse in Columbia and was denied bond. He will be back in court for a bond hearing March 14, said Veronica Hill, a spokesperson with the U.S. Attorney's Office. Lang did "knowingly and willfully make a threat to take the life of, to kidnap, and to inflict bodily harm upon the President of the United States," the indictment reads. It says Lang specifically said he "would kill Donald Trump." It's not the first time Lang has threatened the nation's chief executive, according to federal prosecutors. U.S. Assistant Attorney Scott Matthews told the judge that Lang made multiple threats to both Trump and former President Joe Biden. Secret Service agents visited Lang and warned him to stop making threats, but he didn't, The State newspaper reports Matthews said at Friday's hearing.

ABC News: [Russia] US seizes Russian crypto exchange websites, charges head of site with money laundering

ABC News [3/7/2025 1:12 PM, Luke Barr, 52868K] reports that the United States Secret Service said it has seized a Russian cryptocurrency exchange website, according to court documents unsealed on Friday. The Justice Department also charged the two administrators of that website with a multimillion-dollar money laundering scheme, court documents said. Between 2019 and 2025, Aleksej Besciokov, 46, a Lithuanian national and Russian resident, and Aleksandr Mira Serda, 40, a Russian national, allegedly controlled and operated Garantex, a cryptocurrency exchange based in Moscow. The two allegedly "operated Garantex to launder the proceeds of criminal activity, including ransomware, computer hacking, narcotics transactions, and sanctions violations, and profited from the laundering. Garantex offered its services to the public first through the website Garantex.io and then through Garantex.org. Garantex also misled law enforcement, including the Russian police, about the identities of its customers," the

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documents said. "The seizure of website domains associated with Garantex's operations and the freezing of over $26 million in cryptocurrency strikes a serious financial blow to cybercriminals worldwide," said Michael Centrella, assistant director of the Secret Service's Office of Field Operations. "Alongside our U.S. and international law enforcement partners, this coordinated action will prevent additional funds from falling into the hands of criminals."

Coast Guard

Yahoo! News: US Coast Guard infrastructure is quietly crumbling. It needs at least $7 billion to fix it.

Yahoo! News [3/7/2025 9:30 AM, Kelsey Baker, 52868K] reports that there's been a lot of talk about rusty US Navy warships and shipyard struggles lately, but the Navy's not the only maritime service with troubles. The US Coast Guard desperately needs shore infrastructure improvements, according to a new government watchdog report. The problems aren't just piers and lighthouses either. It's also airfields that need repaving, rundown family housing in remote locations, and shoddy centers that can oversee search and rescue operations. Part of the problem can be chalked up to years of deferred infrastructure maintenance, the Government Accountability Office report said, resulting in a painful backlog for the service that secures over 100,000 miles of US coastline and inland waters. The work backlog is at least $7 billion, more than twice what it was five years ago, signaling the problem is worsening. The Coast Guard did not immediately respond to request for comment from Business Insider. Budget requests for the Coast Guard have been insufficient since at least fiscal year 2019, the GAO said, adding that such gaps have plagued the service for years. It doesn't help that the service has not analyzed the trade-offs of foregoing infrastructure maintenance, the report noted.

Yahoo! News: [MD] Army Corps of Engineers gives green light for next step in Key Bridge replacement

Yahoo! News [3/8/2025 3:02 AM, Jimmy Alexander, 52868K] reports that the next step in replacing the Francis Scott Key Bridge happened Wednesday, thanks to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District. The corps issued a permit for the rebuild, which grants the Maryland Transportation Authority the ability to construct the bridge that will reconnect the Interstate 695 Beltway. The announcement came only three weeks before the one-year anniversary of the day the cargo ship Dali slammed into the Francis Scott Key Bridge and sent it collapsing into the Patapsco River on March 26, 2024. A total of six construction workers were killed in the incident. "Less than one year after the catastrophic collapse of the Francis Scott Key Bridge, Baltimore District is proud to have provided fair and efficient permitting efforts to enable the construction of a new bridge," Baltimore District Cmdr. Col. Francis Pera said. "To have both removed the bridge wreckage and issued relevant permits for its reconstruction on this timetable is a testament to our dedicated regulatory branch and our commitment to support an energetic economy across the Mid-Atlantic." In a press release from the USACE, the regulatory branch stated geotechnical investigations are ongoing, adding that test pile operations, pier demolition and trestle construction are expected to begin over the summer. In-water construction of the new bridge will begin by early fall 2025. The project will also require similar permit verification from the U.S. Coast Guard, according to USACE. Maryland Gov. Wes Moore spoke to WTOP about the bridge design, which is estimated to cost somewhere in the ballpark of nearly $2 billion and be completed by 2028. "This spring, we're going to finish the demolition for the parts of the bridge that were still standing and begin the construction," Moore said. He showed gratitude to the bipartisan congressional delegation, which he said "negotiated that 100% cost share." "We're already beginning the work," Moore said. "We plan on getting that bridge on time and on budget."

Yahoo! News: [WI] U.S. Coast Guard to begin ice breaking operations in Green Bay, reopen waters to commercial traffic

Yahoo! News [3/7/2025 10:49 AM, Ben Newhouse, 52868K] reports that the United States Coast Guard will officially begin ice-breaking operations in the bay of Green Bay starting next week. Officials with the

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U.S. Coast Guard stated on Friday that the schedule of operations will include all navigable waters in and around the ports of Green Bay, Sturgeon Bay, Marinette, Menominee, and Escanaba, Michigan. Crews will begin ice-breaking operations during the week of March 10, noting that efforts will expand and increase in frequency after March 15, as ice conditions and demands of commercial shipping require. The waters of southern Green Bay are scheduled to reopen to commercial vessel traffic at 8 a.m. Monday, March 10. In the Coast Guard's release, officials also reminded all recreational ice users to plan activities carefully, dress appropriately, and stay away from shipping channels. Members of the public that fish, snowmobile, use ATVs, ice boats, or otherwise recreate on the bay of Green Bay during periods of ice cover should be aware of this activity.

CISA/Cybersecurity

CyberScoop: CISA completed its election security review. It won't make the results public
CyberScoop [3/7/2025 1:41 PM, Derek B. Johnson and Colin Wood] reports that, when the Trump administration began sidelining and laying off personnel at the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, it started by targeting employees who worked on election security and disinformation. At the same time, the Department Homeland Security announced it would conduct a comprehensive review of CISA's election security mission. This week, the agency confirmed that it has completed the review, but said that its findings won't be released to the public. "The assessment that CISA has undertaken is internal and will help inform how the agency moves forward to best support critical infrastructure," a CISA spokesperson said. "This is an internal document that is not planned to be released publicly." A DHS spokesperson told CyberScoop in an email that the department had nothing else to share at this time. Critics argue that withholding the review and its conclusions creates broad uncertainty among election security stakeholders and jeopardizes the collaboration between the federal government, states and local governments, which relies on CISA's resources and technical expertise. Every year, CISA provides hundreds of vulnerability assessments and technology improvements to financially strained election jurisdictions. It also oversees sensors that can detect malicious attacks, trains thousands of state and local election workers, and shares the latest threat information. As the threats to election workers have increased over the past four years, CISA has also helped state and local officials shore up physical security at polling places and election offices and expanded de-escalation training. Meanwhile, the nonprofit Center for Internet Security, which manages the federally funded Election Infrastructure Information Sharing and Analysis Center, stated this week that "due to the termination of funding by the Department of Homeland Security, the Center for Internet Security no longer supports the EI-ISAC." The move was expected, as a Feb. 14 DHS memo obtained by StateScoop indicated the department intended to "partially" terminate its cooperative agreement with CIS, with the White House saying the EI-ISAC no longer aligns with DHS' mission. The order technically leaves the New York nonprofit free to provide services to state and local governments, but without its prior designation, a majority of states are now legally barred from accepting its services.

CBS News: Cybersecurity agency's top recruits decimated by DOGE cuts
CBS News [3/7/2025 10:13 AM, Nicole Sganga, 51661K] reports that for Kelly Shaw, unemployment is unfamiliar territory. "I've never been in this situation before. I've never been fired," Shaw said, suddenly quiet, while seated at her kitchen table in Northern Virginia. Nearly three years ago, the longtime senior intelligence analyst left the Navy, after being recruited by the nation's top cyber defense agency and rising up through the ranks. Eventually, Shaw helped establish a congressionally mandated program designed to continuously monitor and detect cyber breaches of the nation's power grid, pipelines and water system – installing sensors across critical infrastructure designed to detect insider threats and foreign adversaries like China, Russia and Iran. "It was all about the information we can get within networks to find the bad guys – any indicators of compromise, evidence of the adversary, moving through a network and attempting to do bad things. That's what we did," Shaw said, pausing. "Well, that's what some will still do." The former manager for the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Agency's "CyberSentry" program, Shaw was also among the 130 probationary CISA workers mass fired in the "Valentine's Day Massacre" during the

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holiday weekend last month. For his part, Thompson has started a hotline to encourage fired employees at the Department of Homeland Security and its components to share their stories.

Yahoo! News: [IL] CPS data breach: Cyberattack exposed personal information of current, former students

Yahoo! News [3/7/2025 11:00 PM, Cody King, 52868K] reports that a cyberattack on a Chicago Public Schools (CPS) technology vendor exposed personal data of current and former students, including names, birthdates, and student ID numbers, officials said. Late last year, Cleo, a CPS technology vendor, was attacked, compromising a server that stored student data. On Feb. 8, CPS was notified that student data had been accessed in the breach. The exposed data included students' names, birthdates, genders, and student ID numbers. For students enrolled in Medicaid, their program ID numbers and eligibility dates were also compromised, according to CPS. CPS said all current students and former students dating back to the 2017-2018 school year were likely affected. No Social Security numbers, financial details, health data, or staff information were involved. No Social Security numbers, financial information or health data were involved in the cyberattack. No staff information was accessed either. CPS encourages victims to request a free credit report and consider placing a fraud alert or security freeze with consumer reporting agencies. "CPS is deeply committed to the security of student information, and we expect the same level of care and commitment from our vendors. As an organization, CPS takes proactive measures to limit exposure by continuously strengthening our defenses and including strong provisions in vendor contracts to ensure our data is protected. Through ongoing diligence and improvement, we will continue to adapt our security posture to reduce the risk of future breaches," a statement from CPS Chief Information Officer Norman Fleming reads. "Please know that the protection of your child's personal information is a top priority, and we sincerely regret any concern or inconvenience that this matter may cause you."

MeriTalk: [China] White House Gearing Up China Cyber Fight Amid Talent Layoffs

MeriTalk [3/7/2025 9:42 AM, Jerry Markon, 45K] reports that the Trump administration is determined to mount offensive cyber operations to combat escalating threats from China, a leading House Republican said on March 5. Rep. John Moolenaar, R-Mich., chair of the House Select Committee on the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), said the new administration "has already shown a willingness to take a more aggressive stance in cyberspace." Top Trump advisors and the White House National Security Council, Moolenaar said, are "signaling that America is no longer only playing defense. We are actively engaging to erode our adversaries' cyber capabilities." His comments, which came at a committee hearing on deterring Chinese cyber threats, represented what Moolenaar called "one glimmer of good news" in an otherwise foreboding security landscape. "As we speak, the Chinese Communist Party is waging a full-scale cyber war against the American people, an attack on our security, our infrastructure, and our way of life," Moolenaar said. "The CCP has targeted the grids that power our homes, facilities that treat our water, and the hospitals that care for us."

Terrorism Investigations

Houston Chronicle: [TX] Harris County teen charged in alleged terrorism plot, accused of coordinating with ISIS fighter

Houston Chronicle [3/7/2025 5:06 PM, John Lomax V, Nicole Hensley, 1769K] reports a 17-year-old was indicted on a terrorism charge — the first of its kind in the county, based on a recent state law — allegedly plotting last year to carry out a mass shooting with an incarcerated ISIS fighter, according to officials and court documents. The teen, Laith Adil Shehzad, is accused of making a threat that led FBI agents to his home on Aug. 18, according to court records. A Harris County prosecutor, Cameron Calligan, said Friday that Facebook first alerted authorities to his plan last July, showing that a mass casualty attack was purportedly imminent. The social media website provided copies of Facebook messages between him and an ISIS fighter jailed in the Philippines. The Harris County District Attorney's Office announced a grand jury indictment against Shehzad late Thursday with few details then about the allegation. Shehzad was booked into the Harris County jail Friday morning. He claimed to be self-radicalized as early as 2021,

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according to court records. He was accused as a juvenile of possessing homemade explosives and plans to use them. Authorities also caught him with a journal with "extremist propaganda advocating the use of violence, " bail paperwork shows. The journal had diagrams and instructions on building explosives. The alleged plot was foiled when Shehzad could not hail an Uber ride to the scene of the planned attack because his account was suspended, the prosecutor said, without identifying the proposed locale of the attack. The charge, the first of its kind in Harris County, stems from a state law, written by a north Texas lawmaker, enacted in 2023 that allows prosecutors to accept charges related to terrorism. The offense carries a punishment range of 15 years to life imprisonment.

National Security News

AP: [OR] U.S. Army soldiers accused of selling military secrets, including to China
AP [3/7/2025 9:56 AM, Kerry Breen, 52868K] reports that two active-duty U.S. soldiers and one former soldier were arrested after being accused of selling state secrets to foreign countries, including China, the Department of Justice said Thursday. Active-duty soldier Li Tian and former soldier Ruoyu Duan were charged in Oregon with conspiring to commit bribery and the theft of government property. Active-duty soldier Jian Zhao was charged in Washington state for conspiring to obtain and transmit national defense information to an individual not authorized to receive it, and for bribery and theft of government property. Attorney General Pam Bondi said all three men are "accused of betraying our country, actively working to weaken America's defense capabilities and empowering our adversaries in China." "They will face swift, severe, and comprehensive justice," Bondi said. Duan and Tian, along with other conspirators, allegedly worked together to "surreptitiously gather sensitive military information related to the United States Army's operational capabilities" from late November 2021 until December 2024, the Justice Department said. The case was investigated by the FBI and U.S. Army Counterintelligence Command, the Department of Justice said.

CBS Minnesota: [Ukraine] Trump says he's considering Russia sanctions and tariffs until ceasefire is reached with Ukraine
CBS Minnesota [3/7/2025 1:01 PM, Melissa Quinn, 51661K] reports that President Trump said Friday that he is "strongly considering" imposing sanctions and tariffs on Russia until it agrees to a ceasefire and peace deal that would halt Moscow's three-year war with Ukraine. Mr. Trump's post on his social media platform, Truth Social, appears to be in response to drone and missile attacks launched on Ukrainian energy facilities Friday. The president said that because Russia is "absolutely 'pounding'" Ukraine, "I am strongly considering large scale banking sanctions, sanctions and tariffs on Russia until a cease fire and final settlement agreement on peace is reached." "To Russia and Ukraine, get to the table right now, before it is too late," Mr. Trump wrote. The president's threats of tariffs and sanctions are the first indication he is weighing adverse action against Russia since his tense meeting with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy at the White House one week ago. But Mr. Trump told reporters in the Oval Office on Friday that he is "finding it more difficult, frankly, to deal with Ukraine, and they don't have the cards." "I find that in terms of getting a final settlement, it may be easier dealing with Russia — which is surprising — because they have all the cards," he said.

Washington Post: [Ukraine] U.S. suspends commercial satellite imagery service to Ukraine
Washington Post [3/7/2025 8:18 PM, Alex Horton and Siobhán O'Grady, 31735K] reports Ukrainian commanders have relied on the service to have a technological edge against Russian forces. U.S. partners and allies use the system to access the imagery through its orbital imaging services known as Global Enhanced GEOINT Delivery. U.S. officials said the suspension affected multiple companies that deliver imagery through the program. The suspension was immediately felt by soldiers in the Ukrainian military, which relies on fresh imagery to plan attacks, study terrain and assess the efficacy of artillery strikes. Maxar, a leading U.S. provider of commercial satellite imagery, said it was part of that decision by the Trump administration. "Each customer makes their own decisions on how they use and share that data," said Gia DeHart, a spokesperson for Maxar Intelligence's U.S. government business. "We take our

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contractual commitments very seriously, and there is no change to other Maxar customer programs." Ukraine can still access such imagery with their own purchased accounts. The suspension follows a recent decision by President Donald Trump to pause intelligence sharing and halt future deliveries of weapons to Ukraine, with the intent of pressuring Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky into peace negotiations with Russia. Trump said Friday that he is also considering imposing "large scale" sanctions on Russia to further compel talks.

FOX News: [Ukraine] U.S. continues to share data to protect Ukrainians against Russian strikes, despite intel pause: sources
FOX News [3/7/2025 12:02 PM, Morgan Phillips, 46189K] reports that the U.S. is continuing to share some defensive intelligence with Ukraine to protect against incoming Russian strikes, despite an announced pause in intel sharing that raised alarm bells, Fox News Digital has learned. Three sources familiar with the decision confirmed that intelligence related to force protection and incoming threats would continue. Federal intelligence, the work of the CIA, FBI and human intelligence, has ceased, as has data that helps with offensive Ukrainian strikes against Russians. Another intelligence source said to expect the pause to be "very temporary in nature," and that the sharing of all data could resume in the coming days. The intelligence pause had prompted confusion and alarm from Ukraine and its allies, as its parameters were not entirely clear. However, U.S. intelligence has been a lifeline for Ukraine's forces: defense experts say that ceasing all data-sharing would be a bigger blow to Ukrainian forces than losing military aid from the U.S. "Ukraine had one single advantage on Russia: information superiority. With that gone, Kyiv would be in trouble," said Can Kasapoglu, a defense fellow at the Hudson Institute. "Europe does not have enough strategic enablers capacity to fill in the vacuum," said Kasapoglu. The National Security Council declined to comment on what military intelligence was still being shared, as did the Pentagon.

Washington Post: [Russia] Trump threatens 'large scale' sanctions on Russia after major attack on Ukraine
Washington Post [3/7/2025 3:43 PM, Michael Birnbaum, Sabrina Rodriguez, and Kostiantyn Khudov, 31735K] reports that President Donald Trump expressed understanding Friday for Russia's stepped-up attacks on Ukraine after the White House halted military and intelligence aid to Kyiv this week, saying that he would resume help for the beleaguered country only when Ukrainian leaders agree that "they want to settle." The U.S. cutoff of aid to Ukraine has made the country significantly more vulnerable to Russian attack. With Kyiv no longer able to depend on U.S. intelligence assistance to aid its targeting or give it warning about Russian attacks, the Kremlin unloaded a massive missile assault on Ukraine overnight Thursday into Friday. "I actually think he's doing what anybody else would do," Trump said in the Oval Office on Friday, when asked whether he was upset that Russian President Vladimir Putin was taking advantage of the U.S. halt in aid for Ukraine. "Probably anybody in that position would be doing that right now. He wants to get it ended. And I think Ukraine wants to get it ended, but I don't see. It's crazy. They're taking tremendous punishment. I don't quite get it." Trump was asked whether he would consider stepping up help for Ukraine in the face of the Russian assault by giving Kyiv more air defense munitions. That form of assistance would not enable further Ukrainian attacks on Russian positions but would be purely defensive.

Reported similarly:
New York Times [3/7/2025 7:01 PM, Erica L. Green, 145325K]
AP [3/7/2025 2:30 PM, Aamer Madhani and Chris Megerian, 5269K]
Newsweek [3/7/2025 6:27 PM, Barney Henderson, 52220K]

New York Times: [Iran] Trump Offers to Reopen Nuclear Talks in a Letter to Iran's Supreme Leader
New York Times [3/7/2025 10:14 PM, David E. Sanger, Farnaz Fassihi and Luke Broadwater, 145325K] reports President Trump said on Friday that he had sent a letter to Iran's supreme leader offering to reopen negotiations over the country's fast-advancing nuclear program, but warned that the country would have to choose between curbing its fast-expanding program or losing it in a military attack. Speaking on

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Friday in the Oval Office, Mr. Trump suggested that Iran's nuclear capabilities — which now include enough near-bomb-grade fuel to produce about six weapons — were reaching a critical point. "We're down to final strokes with Iran," he told reporters. "We can't let them have a nuclear weapon." Earlier on Friday on FOX News, Mr. Trump said: "There are two ways Iran can be handled: militarily, or you make a deal. I would prefer to make a deal, because I'm not looking to hurt Iran. They're great people." He said the letter was sent Wednesday and addressed to Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Iran's supreme leader. The White House did not provide the text or describe its contents with any specificity. It was unclear if it was sent through the Swiss — the traditional intermediary for communications between Washington and Tehran — or through Russia or another nation. Mr. Trump's offer echoes a similar message to Iran during his first term, after he announced in 2018 that he was pulling out of the Iran nuclear deal that had been negotiated three years earlier by the Obama administration. But he never got talks started, and an effort by President Joseph R. Biden Jr. collapsed. Now, the strategic environment has changed radically. The Justice Department has accused Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps of seeking to assassinate Mr. Trump last year; it issued indictments before Mr. Biden left office. Iran's nuclear facilities are now exposed to attack, after Israel destroyed almost all of the air defenses protecting them in October. And Iran's regional proxies, Hezbollah and Hamas, are in no condition to threaten Israel with retaliation should the Iranian facilities come under attack. Some senior Israeli officials have argued that there will never be a better moment to take out the major nuclear facilities, though American military officials believe that the Israelis would almost certainly require American equipment and support to do a thorough job. Mr. Trump's letter appears to be the opening bid to see if Iran's new vulnerability will make it open to negotiations.

Reported similarly:
Newsweek [3/7/2025 2:19 PM, Barney Henderson, Amir Daftari, and Tom O'Connor, 52220K]
Yahoo! News [3/7/2025 1:55 PM, Connor Stringer, 52868K]

CNN: [Afghanistan] US reviewing visa programs as official says Afghanistan could be included in Trump travel ban

CNN [3/7/2025 7:18 PM, Jennifer Hansler, 908K] reports the US State Department is "undertaking a full review of all visa programs," a department spokesperson confirmed amid reports of an impending new travel ban, and a US official familiar with the situation told CNN that Afghanistan could be among the countries included. The official said the ban could come as soon as next week but noted it was unclear if final decisions on countries and timing had been made. In an executive order issued on January 20, President Donald Trump directed cabinet members, including the Secretary of State, to compile a list of countries "for which vetting and screening information is so deficient as to warrant a partial or full suspension on the admission of nationals from those countries." The executive order calls for this to be done within 60 days. "The Department is undertaking a full review of all visa programs as directed under this EO and executing on administration priorities," the spokesperson said. The spokesperson would not give further details, saying they do "not comment on internal deliberations or communications." A White House official told CNN, "No decisions regarding possible travel bans have been made, and anyone claiming otherwise does not know what they are talking about." In his first term, Trump barred travelers from seven majority-Muslim nations from coming to the US, a policy that saw court challenges before President Joe Biden repealed it when he took office in 2021. If Afghanistan is included in the new travel ban, it could impact tens of thousands of Afghans who worked alongside the US during its two decades of war there, as it would block Afghan nationals from coming to the US. Tens of thousands of Afghans have already been caught in limbo due to other Trump administration executive orders suspending the US refugee admissions program and the suspension of foreign aid funding for flights of Afghan Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) holders. On Wednesday, AfghanEvac, a coalition of organizations that has been working to bring Afghan allies to safety since the end of the war in Afghanistan in 2021, urged "all Afghan nationals holding valid U.S. visas to travel as soon as possible amid credible indications that a travel ban affecting Afghan nationals may be imminent."

Yahoo! News: [China] China bans more US defense firms

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Yahoo! News [3/7/2025 9:01 AM, Leilani Chavez, 52868K] reports that China banned 25 more U.S. firms, the latest addition to a bourgeoning list of American defense firms barred from conducting economic activity there. The Ministry of Commerce stated in a press release this week that the ban aims to protect the country's "national sovereignty and security." It effectively halts existing export activities, blocks imports, and prohibits companies from making new investments in China. China's response comes as President Donald Trump's moves to increase trade tariffs against China take effect. The list was released by the commerce ministry a day ahead of President Trump's two-hour speech to Congress in Washington on March 4. In his speech, Trump pledged to impose "reciprocal tariffs" to take effect on April 2. "Whatever they tariff us – other countries – we will tariff them. That's reciprocal, back and forth. Whenever they tax us, we will tax them. If they give non-monetary barriers to keep us out of their markets, then we will do non-monetary barriers to keep them out of our market," Trump said. China's ban list includes some 25 American firms; 10 companies are listed in the unreliable entity list while 15 are added to the export control list. Companies in China's expanding unreliable entity list include Huntington Ingalls Industries Inc, America's largest military shipbuilder; S3 AeroDefense; Cubic Corporation; defense and space company ACT1 Federal; AI companies TextOre and Exovera; TCOM Limited Partnership; Stick Rudder Enterprises LLC; and Teledyne Brown Engineering Inc. The statement also included US biotech firm Illumina Inc. which was ushered into the unreliable entity list last month.

FOX News: [China] Congress exposes China's potential loophole for Trump tariffs: 'Drawing a line in the sand'

FOX News [3/7/2025 12:00 PM, Elizabeth Elkind, 46189K] reports that lawmakers on both sides of the aisle are coming together to crack down on Chinese-backed companies' ownership of land in the continental U.S. It comes as the Trump administration appears on the precipice of a trade war with Beijing, as China promises to retaliate against what its foreign minister called "arbitrary" tariffs from Washington. "It is in the interest of the United States to review purchases of American farmland by foreign entities to protect our farms and agricultural production from our foreign adversaries, especially China," Rep. Randy Feenstra, R-Iowa, the House Republican leading the bill, told Fox News Digital. "But for far too long, our government has repeatedly failed to enforce the laws on the books, monitor foreign purchases of our farmland, or assess financial penalties on those who break our laws." The bill is also being led by Rep. Kristen McDonald Rivet, D-Mich., and in the upper chamber by Sen. Joni Ernst, R-Iowa. The bill is also aimed at establishing a public database on foreign ownership of U.S. farmland through the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), and requires the Secretary of Agriculture to partner with the Secretary of Homeland Security on an annual threat assessment report on foreign ownership of U.S. farmland.

New York Times: [China] China Hits Canada With Tariffs in Indirect Riposte to Trump

New York Times [3/8/2025 4:12 AM, Keith Bradsher, 145325K] reports China announced tariffs of up to 100 percent on canola, pork and other foods from Canada on Saturday, in retaliation for Canada's decision last August to collect steep taxes on imports of Chinese electric vehicles, steel and aluminum. The Chinese tariffs, which take effect on March 20, were also a clear warning to Canada — and, indirectly, Mexico — not to cooperate with the United States on trade. The Trump administration, like the Biden administration before it, has been demanding that Canada and Mexico not serve as back doors for low-cost Chinese goods to enter the U.S. market under North American free trade agreements. China's State Council Tariff Commission announced on Saturday that it would impose tariffs of 100 percent on canola oil and canola meal, which are among Canada's largest exports to China, and on peas; and 25 percent on Canadian pork and seafood. The commission said the measures were in response to Canada's 100 percent tariffs on electric cars from China and its 25 percent tariffs on Chinese steel and aluminum, which took effect in October. China's Ministry of Commerce said in a separate statement that "China urges Canada to immediately correct its wrong practices, lift restrictive measures and eliminate adverse effects." The Canadian government had no immediate comment. The Chinese agencies' statements were carefully worded to comply with World Trade Organization rules and did not mention any effort to influence Canada or Mexico during their current trade discussions with the United States. But a commentary released by China's state television left little doubt that a key goal for China is dissuading

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officials in Ottawa and Mexico City from acceding to American pressure for higher Canadian and Mexican tariffs on Chinese goods.

AP: [North Korea] North Korea unveils nuclear-powered submarine for the first time
AP [3/8/2025 5:58 AM, Hyung-Jin Kim, 52868K] reports North Korea unveiled for the first time a nuclear-powered submarine under construction, a weapons system that can pose a major security threat to South Korea and the U.S. State media on Saturday released photos showing what it called "a nuclear-powered strategic guided missile submarine," as it reported leader Kim Jong Un's visits to major shipyards where warships are built. The Korean Central News Agency, or KCNA, didn't provide details on the submarine, but said Kim was briefed on its construction. The naval vessel appears to be a 6,000-ton-class or 7,000-ton-class one which can carry about 10 missiles, said Moon Keun-sik, a South Korean submarine expert who teaches at Seoul's Hanyang University. He said the use of the term "the strategic guided missiles" meant it would carry nuclear-capable weapons. "It would be absolutely threatening to us and the U.S.," Moon said. A nuclear-powered submarine was among a long wishlist of sophisticated weaponry that Kim vowed to introduce during a major political conference in 2021 to cope with what he called escalating U.S.-led military threats. Other weapons were solid-fueled intercontinental ballistic missiles, hypersonic weapons, spy satellites and multi-warhead missiles. North Korea has since performed a run of testing activities to acquire them. North Korea obtaining a greater ability to fire missiles from underwater is a worrying development because it's difficult for its rivals to detect such launches in advance. Questions about how North Korea, a heavily sanctioned and impoverished country, could get resources and technology to build nuclear-powered submarines have surfaced. Moon, the submarine expert, said North Korea may have received Russian technological assistance to build a nuclear reactor to be used in the submarine in return for supplying conventional weapons and troops to support Russia's war efforts against Ukraine. He also said North Korea could launch the submarine in one or two years to test its capability before its actual deployment. [Editorial note: consult video at source link]

{End of Report} RETURN TO TOP

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DHS MORNING BRIEFING

Prepared for the Office of Public Affairs (OPA)
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

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Editorial Note: The DHS Daily Briefing is a collection of news articles related to Department's mission. The inclusion of particular stories is not intended to reflect their importance, nor is it intended to endorse the political viewpoints or affiliations included in news coverage.

TO: Homeland Security Secretary & Staff

DATE: Saturday, March 8, 2025 8:00 AM ET

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Top News

New York Times/Washington Post/AP/CBS News/Washington Examiner: Trump administration ends collective bargaining for TSA officers

The New York Times [3/7/2025 12:01 AM, Tim Balk, 145325K] reports the Department of Homeland Security said Friday that it was ending its collective bargaining agreement with workers in the Transportation Security Administration, claiming that the union contract was imperiling the safety of travelers. The move was the latest step by President Trump's administration to undermine labor protections for federal workers, and prompted an outraged response from the American Federation of Government Employees, a union that represents some 47,000 at the T.S.A., along with hundreds of thousands of other federal workers. The union vowed to fight the action, saying that it had little do with safety and appeared to be illegal. The move could lay the groundwork for the government to fire T.S.A.

workers and perhaps even privatize the agency, according to labor experts. Project 2025, a conservative policy playbook that Mr. Trump distanced himself from during the presidential campaign but has since followed, called for privatizing the T.S.A. The T.S.A., which has about 50,000 workers in the field and makes up about a quarter of the Homeland Security Department's work force, is tasked with securing the nation's airports, highways and passenger rail system. It was created in 2002 in response to the Sept. 11 attacks and folded into the Homeland Security Department in 2003. In a statement on Friday, the Homeland Security Department claimed that a "select few poor performers" in the T.S.A. were exploiting benefits and suggested that too many employees were devoting time to union matters rather than security work. "Eliminating collective bargaining removes bureaucratic hurdles," the statement said, adding that the union had "constrained" efforts to keep Americans safe. Everett Kelley, the union's president, said in a statement that "this action has nothing to do with efficiency, safety or homeland security." "This is merely a pretext for attacking the rights of regular working Americans across the country because they happen to belong to a union," he added. The Washington Post [3/7/2025 6:18 PM, Lori Aratani, 31735K] reports that in making the unilateral decision, Homeland Security Secretary Kristi L. Noem cited provisions in the original legislation, enacted during the Bush administration, that created TSA, giving agency management the power to set personnel rules, including for collective bargaining. "Eliminating collective bargaining removes bureaucratic hurdles that will strengthen workforce agility enhance productivity and resiliency, while also jump-starting innovation," the agency said in a statement. Everett Kelley, national president of the American Federation of Government Employees, which represents TSA officers, called the administration's actions an attack against workers aimed at punishing unions that have fought efforts to shrink the federal workforce. "Our union has been out in front challenging this administration's unlawful actions targeting federal workers, both in the legal courts and in the court of public opinion," he said. "Now our TSA officers are paying the price with this clearly retaliatory action." Kelley vowed to challenge the action. Whether the union will prevail is an open question given the broad leeway that was given to the agency in the wake of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks to set pay, hiring and work rules at the department. The AP [3/7/2025 8:55 PM, Rebecca Santana and Michael R. Sisak, 5269K] reports that it came amid a push by Homeland Security to improve the pay of frontline workers, which has historically lagged behind other government employees. Pekoske credited the pay increases with improving employee retention and morale. The union said the order would strip collective bargaining rights from roughly 47,000 transportation security officers, or TSOs. Those are the people responsible for staffing airports and checking to make sure passengers do not have weapons or explosives. The decision comes at a time of increasing passenger travel — screeners see an average of 2.5 million passengers a day. The union said the department and the Trump administration were violating the right of staffers to join a union. It also said that the reasons the Republican administration had given for the decision — specifically the criticisms of union activity — were "completely fabricated." CBS News [3/7/2025 2:55 PM, Staff, 51661K] reports that the decision is "terrible for aviation security and everyone who depends on safe travel," the Association of Flight Attendants said. The group added, "This will take us back to the days of security at the lowest price with the highest costs for our country." The American Federation of Government Employees, the union representing the TSA workers, said in a statement that the order would strip collective bargaining rights from roughly 47,000 transportation security officers, or TSOs. Those are people responsible for staffing airports around the country and checking to make sure that hundreds of thousands of passengers a day do not carry any weapons or explosives into the secure areas of airports. The union said Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem and President Donald Trump's administration were violating the right

of staffers to join a union. It also said that the reasons the Republican administration had given for the decision — specifically the criticisms of union activity — were "completely fabricated." The Washington Examiner [3/7/2025 1:00 PM, Annabella Rosciglione, 2296K] reports that the DHS public affairs office characterized the move as DHS increasing efficiency, safety, and "organizational agility." DHS said that a "select few poor performers" had been taking advantage of the agreement's family and sick leave policy. DHS's press release also claimed that nearly 200 officers, out of TSA's screening workforce of approximately 47,000, work "full time" on union matters. "Thanks to Secretary Noem's action, Transportation Security Officers will no longer lose their hard-earned dollars to a union that does not represent them," a DHS spokesperson wrote in the press release. "The Trump administration is committed to returning to merit-based hiring and firing policies. This action will ensure Americans will have a more effective and modernized workforce across the nation's transportation networks. TSA is renewing its commitment to providing a quick and secure travel process for Americans," the spokesperson continued.

Reported similarly:
The Hill [3/7/2025 12:27 PM, Rebecca Beitsch, 12829K]
Reuters [3/7/2025 12:02 PM, David Shepardson, 41523K]
CBS Austin [3/7/2025 11:44 AM, Jamel Valencia, 602K]
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Axios: Nearly 100 immigration court staff retiring, resigning amid backlog
Axios [3/7/2025 12:55 PM, Russell Contreras, 13163K] reports that nearly 100 U.S. immigration court professionals are resigning or retiring, on top of the around 30 immigration judges and senior staff recently fired by the Trump administration, a union for immigration judges said Friday. Why it matters: The staff reduction will likely add to the historic backlog of cases and slow President Trump's mass deportation plan, even as he asks Congress for more resources. The nation's immigration court system is how immigrants can make their case to stay in the U.S. The big picture: The Department of Justice said in a memo last month it is moving to consider all immigration judges at-will employees without any federal employee protections. That's putting immigration judges and the Trump administration on a collision course likely to slow down the record pace of cases immigration courts heard as President Biden left office. Zoom in: About 85 immigration court professionals are resigning or retiring, the International Federation of Professional Engineers (IFPTE), the union representing the country's roughly 700 immigration judges, says. This follows the firing of 29 judges and senior staff by the Trump administration. The union said no cause was given for the firing of judges.

Washington Examiner: Judge layoffs complicate Trump's deportation plans
Washington Examiner [3/7/2025 11:06 AM, Annabella Rosciglione, 2296K] reports that more than 100 high-level immigration officials across the United States have been fired or taken the Trump administration's resignation offers, which could complicate its plans to execute "mass deportations" in an already overwhelmed system. In total, 85 employees, including 18 judges, at the Justice Department's Executive Office for Immigration Review accepted the government's deferred resignation or early retirement offer, and more than 29 judges were fired by the Trump administration. These judges are part of the administrative court system under the Justice Department, not the judicial branch, and they have the

authority to make decisions about asylum claims and could order that someone be removed from the country. Losing this high volume of immigration judges is likely to cut into President Donald Trump's efforts to deport millions of immigrants. Delays in adjudicating immigration claims are part of what contributes to the number of undocumented immigrants living in the U.S. while they wait for their cases to be resolved. Each immigration judge handles, on average, 500 to 700 cases a year. According to data collected by the Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse at Syracuse University, the court already has a massive backlog of more than 3.7 million cases.

The Hill/FOX News/USA Today: Noem says DHS has ID'd, will seek prosecution of 'criminal leakers'

The Hill [3/7/2025 4:46 PM, Ailia Zehra, 12829K] reports Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem said Friday that the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has identified two "criminal leakers" within its ranks and will refer them to the Department of Justice for felony prosecutions. The names of the individuals have not been revealed. Last month, Tom Homan, President Trump's "border czar," said Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) actions in Colorado were hindered after a raid was "leaked," allowing the targets to escape. ICE officers were still able to carry out some arrests. FOX News [3/7/2025 3:14 PM, Louis Casiano, Bill Melugin, 46189K] Video: HERE reports that the names of the two alleged leakers were not disclosed. DHS spokeswoman Tricia McLaughlin told Fox News that they are expected to face charges. Earlier this week, Noem said her agency wasn't deterred by leaks after a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) raid was leaked ahead of time. The leaks drew anger from ICE, with one official telling Fox they feared the result of an ICE agent being killed. Previous leaks to the news media have involved raids in Los Angeles and Aurora, Colorado. Last month, Border czar Tom Homan said the administration was closing in on the individual responsible for the leak of the Aurora raid. Noem had pointed the finger at the FBI. USA Today [3/7/2025 5:12 PM, Lauren Villagran, 75858K] reports Noem didn't say what statute the leakers are accused of violating. High-level Trump administration officials are under enormous pressure to carry out the president's "mass deportation" effort. Last month, several top officials began complaining that immigrant round-ups, including of alleged gang members, weren't delivering the results expected. They alleged that people with knowledge of law enforcement plans have been leaking sensitive details ahead of the raids. The Aurora operation targeted more than 100 people, but an immigrant rights group told USA TODAY it was only able to track five detentions. In a video statement on X, Noem appeared to indicate the alleged leakers were working for the Department of Homeland Security, which is the parent of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

FOX News: Noem team demands end to 'fake news' reports she spent $650K as governor on credit card — it was $2K

FOX News [3/7/2025 6:00 AM, Emma Colton, 52868K] reports that Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem's legal team hit a South Dakota media outlet with a cease-and-desist letter demanding that it correct and end its knowingly "false and misleading" reporting that Noem allegedly racked up hundreds of thousands of dollars on a government-issued credit card when she served as governor, Fox News Digital has learned. "On behalf of former South Dakota Governor Kristi Noem in her personal capacity, I write out of concern that your website continues to publish false and misleading information about my client that you have known to be false since at least July 2024," an attorney representing Noem in her personal capacity said in a letter to the co-founders of a South Dakota outlet called The

Dakota Scout. The letter was obtained by Fox News Digital on Thursday. "Specifically, your website repeatedly, and inaccurately, refers to all charges on credit cards used by the Office of the Governor of South Dakota as charges of my client—allowing a conclusion by multiple commenters on the site and other news outlets that my client violated the laws of South Dakota or stole taxpayer funds for her personal use," it continued. "We demand that The Dakota Scout immediately cease spreading these false, misleading, and inaccurate statements and take immediate and significant steps to correct past inaccuracies."

Newsweek: Trump Administration Moves Offices from Six Sanctuary Cities

Newsweek [3/7/2025 2:08 PM, Sonam Sheth and Gabe Whisnant, 52220K] reports the Small Business Administration (SBA) announced it will relocate six regional offices from so-called "sanctuary cities" as part of the Trump administration's broader effort to crack down on cities with immigrant-friendly policies. President Donald Trump made immigration and border security a central theme of his successful 2024 campaign and pledged to start carrying out mass deportations of migrants on "day one." Trump has since taken a number of steps to deliver on his promises, including taking legal action against sanctuary cities and revoking federal funding. More than 200 cities and counties across the U.S. consider themselves sanctuaries. In a Thursday statement, SBA Administrator Kelly Loeffler said the agency's offices in Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Denver, New York City and Seattle will be moved to "less costly, more accessible locations that better serve the small business community and comply with federal immigration law." The SBA's announcement comes after a heated congressional hearing on sanctuary cities earlier this week, during which Republican Representative James Comer, chairman of the House Oversight Committee, engaged in a shouting match with Democratic Representative Ayanna Pressley of Massachusetts. The confrontation occurred when Comer tried to block Pressley from introducing data into the Congressional Record showing that Texas-born citizens have a higher rate of violent crime than migrants.

New York Times: Trump Seeks to Bar Student Loan Relief to Workers Aiding Migrants and Trans Kids

New York Times [3/7/2025 10:16 PM, Stacy Cowley, 145325K] reports President Trump signed an executive order instructing administration officials to alter a student loan forgiveness program for public servants to exclude nonprofit organizations that engage in activities that have what he called a "substantial illegal purpose." His order to restrict the program appears to target groups supporting undocumented immigrants, diversity initiatives or gender-affirming care for children, among others, as the Trump administration has sought to eliminate federal support for efforts that have drawn right-wing ire. The order, made public on Friday, is the latest of many attempts to overhaul the loan forgiveness program, which has often whipsawed borrowers with rule changes and bureaucratic obstacles. The program, known as Public Service Loan Forgiveness, was created by Congress in 2007 and cannot be eliminated without congressional action, but the Education Department has some leeway to determine how it operates. Mr. Trump's executive order directed the secretaries of education and the Treasury to amend the program to exclude workers for organizations supporting illegal actions, listing several categories of examples, including "aiding or abetting" violations of federal immigration law. The Trump administration has taken a broad view of what it considers to be support of illegal activities. The order cited as examples organizations that support "illegal discrimination," which the administration has previously said includes diversity and inclusion initiatives.

CBS News: [DC] Son of ruthless cartel leader gets life in U.S. prison for trafficking drugs

CBS News [3/7/2025 3:18 PM, Staff, 51661K] reports the son of a Mexican drug cartel boss was sentenced to life in a U.S. prison for his leadership role in one of the country's largest and most violent narcotics trafficking organizations. Rubén Oseguera, known as "El Menchito", is the son of Nemesio "El Mencho" Oseguera, the fugitive cartel boss of the Jalisco New Generation cartel, which U.S. officials have described as "one of the world's most violent and prolific drug trafficking organizations." The son served as the CJNG cartel's second-in-command before his extradition to the U.S. in February 2020. The younger Oseguera faced a maximum sentence of life in prison and a mandatory minimum of 40 years in prison when U.S. District Judge Beryl Howell sentenced him in Washington, D.C. Howell also ordered a forfeiture of over $6 billion as part of the sentence. In September, a federal jury convicted the younger Oseguera of conspiring to distribute cocaine and methamphetamine for U.S. importation and using a firearm in a drug conspiracy. Ruben Oseguera ordered the killings of at least 100 people, personally shot and killed at least two people and ordered subordinates to shoot down a Mexican military helicopter, killing at least nine people in 2015, prosecutors said.

Chicago Tribune: [IL] Chicago observers relieved a reserved Mayor Brandon Johnson achieved 'a draw' with congressional Republicans

Chicago Tribune [3/7/2025 1:38 PM, Alice Yin and Jake Sheridan, 5269K] reports that during his first year in office, Mayor Brandon Johnson infamously went on the offensive when pressed on his plans to visit the southern U.S. border. Instead of answering or brushing off questions, the rookie mayor chided reporters: "I have children who attend schools who have soccer games, y'all." "Do you understand that you have not had a mayor like me?" Johnson said in the October 2023 City Hall news conference. "I still have a budget that I have to address. And I'm doing all of that with a Black wife raising three Black children on the West Side of the city of Chicago. I am going to the border as soon as possible." The anxiety many Chicagoans felt when he accepted an invitation to testify Wednesday before U.S. Congress on the city's sanctuary policy — and the relief once he finished — can be traced to earlier interactions like that. If he reacted as antagonistically to Republican congressmen hoping to goad him into an argument on Wednesday, the mayor's appearance at the House Oversight Committee could have gone south fast. But a different Johnson appeared on Capitol Hill to testify in the hotly anticipated hearing on sanctuary policies for immigrants.

Newsweek: [TX] Greg Abbott Won't Rule Out Bounty Hunters to Apprehend Illegal Immigrants

Newsweek [3/7/2025 1:51 PM, Billal Rahman, 52220K] reports Texas Governor Greg Abbott has not ruled out the possibility of deploying bounty hunters to assist law enforcement in apprehending suspected undocumented immigrants. When asked by Newsweek whether he would support such a policy, Abbott's office indicated the governor is open to various enforcement measures. "Governor Abbott fully supports law enforcement using every tool and strategy to aid in the Trump administration's deportation of illegal immigrants," Abbott's press secretary, Andrew Mahaleris, said. Republican lawmakers in Mississippi and Missouri have proposed expanding powers for bounty hunters to carry out immigration enforcement, while Arizona has proposed offering law enforcement agencies incentives for catching migrants without legal status. It is part of a broader push by Republicans to expand the role of bounty hunters in immigration enforcement. Supporters

argue that the measure strengthens border security, particularly as local police forces struggle with staffing shortages. The legislation has sparked fierce debate, with proponents arguing it strengthens immigration enforcement policy while critics warn it could lead to racial profiling and civil rights violations.

FOX News: [CO] Venezuelan gangs are far from a 'fake' problem, Colorado DA says: 'Giant issue'

FOX News [3/7/2025 9:00 AM, Michael Lee Fox, 46189K] reports that a Colorado district attorney is arguing that those who are trying to dismiss the issue of Venezuelan gangs in the state have been taking an "ignorance-is-bliss approach to the law." "There were the two extreme positions. One was, 'Hey, they'd taken over the city'... then you'd have the people on the far left in the mainstream media saying 'there's no such thing as a country of Venezuela. Venezuelans don't exist. It's all made up. It's a figment of your imagination,'" Colorado's 23rd Judicial District Attorney George Brauchler told Fox News Digital. "The truth is, Venezuelan gangs did take over the running of about 2 to 3 different apartment complexes… so to suggest that this isn't an issue is fake. It is a giant issue. It is a growing issue. And this sort of ignorance is bliss approach to the law." The comments come as Colorado has recently entered the national spotlight as a result of the state's sanctuary laws, which have limited local jurisdictions from being able to cooperate with federal immigration authorities. The issue became even more controversial in the last few months after reports of the spread of the violent Venezuelan immigrant gang Tren de Aragua, which had taken over multiple apartment complexes in the Colorado city of Aurora.

AP: [CA] Federal judge won't order immigration officials to change school arrests policy

AP [3/7/2025 8:05 PM, Colleen Slevin, 1682K] reports that Immigration authorities don't need to revert to a Biden-era policy limiting arrests at schools after officials in Denver challenged new policies from the Trump administration, a federal judge ruled Friday. U.S. District Judge Daniel Domenico said Denver Public Schools failed to prove that a drop in attendance was due to the Trump administration's new policy. It wasn't clear how much of the fear surrounding possible enforcement actions in schools was really due to the new rules as opposed to broader concerns of increased immigration actions, he said. The new policy has not yet been acted upon, according to a group representing large urban school districts across the U.S. Besides a drop in attendance, Denver Public Schools says it has had to divert resources to respond to fear among students and families over the lifting of longtime rules restricting immigration enforcement near schools, churches and other sensitive locations. "This includes providing mental health support to students, diverting administrator attention from academics to immigration issues, and assisting students who miss school to catch up," lawyers for the school district said in their request to block the new rules.

Miami Herald: [Haiti] JetBlue to extend flight ban on a country after plane hit with gunfire

Miami Herald [3/7/2025 1:21 PM, Veronika Bondarenko, 3973K] reports that with Haiti rocked by ongoing gang fights and different militant groups trying to seize control of the government, several U.S.-based airlines recently witnessed the violence in the most direct way. On Nov. 11 a Spirit Airlines (SAVE) plane flying into Port-au-Prince's Toussaint Louverture International Airport from Fort Lauderdale was hit with gunfire while attempting to land. While the gunfire only grazed the surface of the planes and did not result in any

injuries, JetBlue Airways (JBLU) and American Airlines (AAL) also found bullet grazings on some of their aircraft before both airlines and the FAA issued an emergency stop on all flights into Haiti. While the FAA ban for U.S. airlines is set to expire on March 12, JetBlue just confirmed that it would not be resuming its Haiti flights until at least midyear. "Our top priority remains the safety and well-being of our customers and crew members," a JetBlue spokesperson confirmed to the Miami Herald on March 5. "Due to the ongoing civil arrest in Haiti, we have made the decision to suspend all flights to and from the country through at least June 11, 2025." As is typical in such situations, the airline added that it "will continue to monitor the situation closely and update [its] plans as necessary."

New York Times: [Panama] Panama Says It Will Release Migrants From Detention Camp

New York Times [3/7/2025 1:48 PM, Genevieve Glatsky, Julie Turkewitz, Annie Correal and Farnaz Fassihi, 145325K] reports Panama will release 112 migrants who had been deported from the United States last month and were being held in a remote jungle camp, a minister said on Friday, after lawyers and advocates said the conditions violated Panamanian and international laws. The migrants come from countries that the United States cannot easily return deportees to, often because those nations will not receive them. Panama was issuing 30-day temporary humanitarian passes to the migrants to give them time to arrange their return to their homelands, or to other countries willing to take them, Panama's security minister, Frank Ábrego, told reporters on Friday. He said the passes have a possible extension of up to 90 days. The decision to release the migrants could represent another challenge to President Trump's efforts to deport millions of migrants from the United States. In mid-February, when the United States began sending planeloads of people from Asia, Africa and the Middle East to Panama and Costa Rica — and then those countries began locking up the deportees — it appeared that he had enlisted two pliant nations to help with his ambitious deportation plans. The images of people locked in a hotel in Panama seemed a potentially powerful deterrent for those thinking about migrating to the United States. But the decision by Panama to release the migrants suggests that it may be harder than the Trump administration had hoped to press other nations into helping carry out mass expulsions. The decision to release the migrants did not involve the United States and was made solely by Panamanian officials, according to a person familiar with the discussion among those officials, who was not authorized to speak publicly. The release amounted to offering the migrants a form of temporary protected status, the person said. While the government would not offer the migrants hotels or other lodging after they left the camp, known as San Vicente, the migrants would be directed to options for shelter and other assistance, including petitioning for asylum in countries other than their own, the person said. He did not provide further details. The U.S. State Department did not immediately respond to a request for comment. "It's hard to outsource immigration policy because other countries have their own constraints," said Andrew Selee, the president of the Migration Policy Institute, a nonpartisan research organization. "This was a bid by the Panamanian government to buy some good will with the Trump administration," he added. "But it was not yet a developed strategy."

Reported similarly:
AP [3/7/2025 3:50 PM, Alma Solís and Megan Janetsky, 10355K]

Wall Street Journal: [Venezuela] Trump Deportation Plans Hit New Obstacle in Venezuela

Wall Street Journal [3/7/2025 1:41 PM, Kejal Vyas and Vera Bergengruen] reports President Trump's plan for mass deportations faces a new hurdle: The Venezuelan government has privately warned the administration that it won't accept migrants after the White House rescinded Chevron's license to pump oil there, said people familiar with the matter. Early last month, Trump touted a deal an envoy reached with Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro to accept tens of thousands of migrants who had fled the strongman's regime because of economic upheaval and political repression. The deal would have smoothed the way for Trump's deportation plans because Venezuelans are one of the biggest groups of unauthorized migrants in the U.S., and Maduro had long refused to accept them. But signs of difficulty emerged almost immediately, as Trump allies jockeyed over whether to engage with an authoritarian regime the U.S. has deemed illegitimate or take a more-hawkish stance. Caracas accepted about 360 returning Venezuelans in the weeks after the deal was announced, but no flights have taken place since Feb. 20. Now the deal appears to be unraveling after the Trump administration gave Chevron 30 days to wind down its operations in Venezuela, which Secretary of State Marco Rubio has said "shamefully bankrolled the illegitimate Maduro regime." The move is expected to heighten the economic pressure on Maduro and lead more people to consider fleeing the country. "The people on the street are going to feel this fast," said José Martínez, an accountant in Caracas. The move led to the recent Venezuelan warning, which could make it more difficult for Trump to deliver on his pledge of mass deportations of migrants. His deportation plans have faced legal and logistical challenges in recent weeks, as U.S. courts temporarily blocked the transfer of Venezuelan detainees to Guantanamo Bay and military deportation flights were paused because of cost concerns. The abrupt shift in the Trump administration's approach to Venezuela has fostered uncertainty in both Washington and Caracas about which direction it will ultimately take. Other international oil companies are awaiting Treasury Department guidance on whether they need to leave Venezuela, too.

Opinion – Op-Eds

The Hill: Trump's 'golden visa' will drive up housing prices as foreign oligarchs swoop in

The Hill [3/7/2025 2:30 PM, John Mac Ghlionn, 12829K] reports President Trump's announcement of a new $5 million "gold card" residency permit has raised eyebrows, and for good reason. At first glance, the proposal seems simple enough: foreign investors prepared to invest a significant amount secure access to the U.S. citizenship. But look closer, and the problems start piling up — from money laundering to soaring housing prices that push ordinary Americans out. Although golden visa programs bring in money, they have a messy track record. They let the wealthy buy their way in, often hurting the country more than helping it. Trump is pitching this as an economic win, but if history is any guide, it could lead to scandals, public outrage and eventual collapse — just like similar programs in Europe. But before looking overseas, consider the EB-5 visa, the very program Trump's plan would replace. It was supposed to create jobs in struggling areas but ended up fueling luxury real estate booms in places like Manhattan and Beverly Hills. Instead of lifting up small towns, it became a loophole for billionaires to buy green cards, leaving working-class communities with empty promises and shattered dreams. Worse, the EB-5 was riddled with schemes and abuse. Investors and developers manipulated the system, fabricating job numbers or misusing funds. Some cases made national headlines, like the developers at Vermont's Jay Peak ski resort who siphoned off millions for personal gain. Even with these

scandals, the program dragged on for years, kept alive by deep-pocketed real estate interests.

The Hill: The SAVE Act would make it harder to vote — and not just for noncitizens
The Hill [3/7/2025 11:00 AM, Elizabeth C. Matto, 12829K] reports that given the volume and magnitude of actions taken by the White House since Inauguration Day, it is understandable that most of America's attention has been focused on the executive branch. What should not be lost in this flurry of activity, however, is legislation being advanced by the 119th Congress that could be just as consequential to the institution most fundamental in a representative democracy: the vote. The Safeguard American Voter Eligibility Act, or the SAVE Act, would require individuals to provide documentary proof of U.S. citizenship to register to vote in federal elections. It passed in the House in July of 2024 but did not advance in the Senate. Recently reintroduced by Rep. Chip Roy of Texas, the bill now has a heightened chance of success given partisan unity within government. The consequences of the SAVE Act belie its name by compromising access to the ballot for large swaths of the populace and complicating an already overly complicated process. Moreover, the act undermines the ideals of the "democratic experiment" begun nearly 250 years ago of a republican form of government — an experiment that, until recently, has trended toward expanding rather than restricting suffrage. The ostensible purpose of the SAVE Act is to curb voting in our federal elections by those who do not hold American citizenship.

US News & World Report: Trump Is Right To Target Fentanyl. But Tariffs Won't Do the Trick.
US News & World Report [3/7/2025 4:54 PM, Leah Wread DeVere, 24727K] reports President Donald Trump has vowed to combat the drug overdose crisis in the United States, and he has demanded that Mexico, Canada and China crack down on fentanyl smuggling, citing the deadly drug as a key reason for imposing tariffs this week on our three biggest trading partners. I agree with Trump that we are facing a fentanyl crisis, with tens of thousands of people in the U.S. dying from drug overdoses each year, but there's a much better way to fight this scourge. The obscure de minimis trade rule allows packages valued at $800 or less – everything from clothing and jewelry to electronics and prescription medication – to enter the U.S. with "expedited clearance processing" and minimal customs scrutiny, without paying import taxes. Unfortunately, this loophole has become a pipeline for drug smugglers to ship fentanyl, pill presses and precursors – substances used to manufacture illegal drugs – directly to the doorsteps of people like my son.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement

Newsweek/NPR: President Trump brings back practice of detaining families together
Newsweek [3/7/2025 11:05 AM, Billal Rahman, 52220K] reports that Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents are preparing a new operation to detain migrant families with children, according to multiple reports. The raids are expected to focus on tracking down adults and minor children who entered the U.S. together and have deportation orders, according to NBC News. Another operation is also underway to track down children who entered the country unaccompanied and were released without court dates, the network said. Newsweek has contacted the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and ICE for comment. It comes after Karoline Leavitt, the White House press secretary, confirmed in January that the Trump administration sees all migrants without

legal status as "criminals." President Trump in January also granted ICE the authority to detain migrants suspected of being in the country illegally in or near sensitive locations such as schools, hospitals, and churches. ICE lawyers are reportedly now working to obtain warrants to enter the homes of migrants with children across the U.S. in order to carry out arrests and deportations, NBC reported. A DHS spokesperson said in a statement, according to Fox News: "These individuals have final deportation orders from a federal judge. This administration will not ignore the rule of law." NPR [3/7/2025 5:15 PM, Ximena Bustillo] reports the Trump administration has brought back the practice of detaining families with children as a part of an effort to crack down on immigration. The Department of Homeland Security is reopening the Karnes and Dilley detention centers in Texas and retrofitting them for families. Families have already been sent to the detention center in Karnes City, in southeastern Texas, DHS said. The Biden administration largely ended the practice of family detention, using the facilities to hold adults instead. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the DHS agency that processes people for deportation, has been particularly constrained since the start of the administration in finding enough people to arrest and detain those without legal status. Its 20 field offices have been tasked with a quota of at least 75 arrests per day, despite limited staffing – even as the agency struggles to find space to hold those placed in detention.

Washington Post: [DC] ICE's acting director was demoted two weeks ago. He's still in the job.

Washington Post [3/8/2025 6:00 AM, Maria Sacchetti and Marianne LeVine, 31735K] reports that, two weeks ago, as White House officials complained about lagging immigration arrest numbers, the homeland security secretary demoted the acting director of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Caleb Vitello. The department spokeswoman said in a statement that Vitello "is no longer in an administrative role," and his hometown paper in New York reported: "Kenmore native out at top ICE job after a month." Some of his employees said they learned of the change from news reports, not an internal announcement. But a replacement has yet to be named, and Vitello is still listed at the top of the leadership chart on ICE's website. He has continued to appear at immigration raids wearing a ballistic vest and has been featured in agency news releases. After his public demotion, he celebrated ICE's 22nd anniversary with a post on LinkedIn: "I'm so honored to be leading the proud men and women of the only professional home I've ever known this many years later." Days later, he posted a photo of himself on the job and wrote: "Love being in the field with my people." The leadership reshuffle — on paper, if not in reality — has puzzled many workers at the 20,000-employee agency and baffled lawmakers on Capitol Hill, who are unsure whether they should still send Vitello their official correspondence. Current and former colleagues say the uncertainty is injecting chaos into an agency that is under pressure to dramatically increase enforcement without additional funding. "We don't even know who to direct our inquiries to," said Rep. Bennie G. Thompson (Mississippi), the ranking Democrat on the House Homeland Security Committee. "Maybe that's by design, but it reeks of incompetence." An ICE spokesman referred questions to the Department of Homeland Security. DHS spokeswoman Tricia McLaughlin, who initially said that Vitello was reassigned to a senior role overseeing daily enforcement operations, did not answer questions about why he remains in the top job. President Donald Trump's "border czar," Tom Homan, a former acting ICE director, also did not respond to questions. A White House official said Vitello is expected to serve as the acting director until the administration finds a new one. Trump named Vitello to the position in December, in a glowing announcement that commended Vitello's "exceptional leadership, extensive experience, and commitment to ICE's mission." Vitello previously held

several leadership roles, including chief of staff for ICE's Enforcement and Removal Operations. During Trump's first term, Vitello served on the White House National Security Council as the director for interior immigration enforcement, a priority of Trump adviser Stephen Miller. But frustrations simmered as immigration arrest numbers underwhelmed some Trump officials, even as they frightened immigrant communities nationwide.

Newsweek: [VA] Trump Supporter Wrongly Detained by ICE Now Questions His Vote
Newsweek [3/7/2025 1:37 PM, Dan Gooding, 52220K] reports that a United States citizen detained by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers in northern Virginia says he is now questioning his vote for President Donald Trump last November. Jensy Machado, a naturalized citizen, said he was in a car stopped by agents while on his way to work in Manassas, in the D.C. suburbs, where a large-scale immigration enforcement operation took place earlier in the week. "They just got out of the car with the guns in their hands and say, turn off the car, give me the keys, open the window, you know. Everything was really fast," he told Telemundo 44 and NBC 4 Washington. Newsweek reached out to ICE for comment via email Friday afternoon. ICE has been empowered to conduct increased enforcement action across the country, including the raids in Virginia earlier this week, attended by Secretary of Homeland Security Kristi Noem. With promises of mass deportations from President Trump, agents are coming under increasing pressure to deliver, with other reported incidents of U.S. citizens arrested. Machado, who said he voted for Trump in November, told NBC he was on his way to work with two other men when ICE agents stopped them Wednesday morning. Secretary Noem, on X following raids Tuesday: "Northern Virginia is safer this morning after a successful operation getting criminal aliens and gang members off our streets. Thank you to our brave enforcement officers." It was unclear at time of publishing if an investigation was underway into Machado's temporary detention. Increased ICE activity continues to be reported across the country.

Reported similarly:
The Hill [3/7/2025 3:55 PM, Ashleigh Fields, 12829K]
NBC News [3/7/2025 4:26 PM, Jackie Bensen, 44742K]

WSOC: [NC] Bill requires sheriffs to notify ICE before certain suspects are released
WSOC [3/7/2025 5:36 PM, Joe Bruno] reports House Speaker Destin Hall introduced a bill he says will close a loophole that he says some sheriffs are using to not notify ICE before suspects subject to a detainer are released. The bill was introduced, in part, because of a continued dispute between ICE and the Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office. Last month, Channel 9 was with ICE agents as they arrested Jose Napoleon Serrano. The twice-deported Honduran national was subject to a detainer. But ICE says the agency wasn't notified before he was released, and that's why they had to arrest Napoleon Serrano when he was on his way to work. Speaker Hall's new bill would make that phone notification mandatory. Speaker Hall's bill says the 48 hour detainer hold starts when the prisoner would otherwise be released from jail. Currently, the 48 hours start when the jail gets the detainer. It also says the jail has to give ICE a two-hour warning before that person is released. Speaker Hall says this closes a loophole being used by a handful of sheriffs in the state.

Yahoo! News: [NC] ICE fails to detain suspect in Charlotte shooting, sheriff says
Yahoo! News [3/7/2025 7:32 PM, Staff, 52868K] reports Mecklenburg County Sheriff Garry McFadden has released a detailed timeline regarding the arrest of Erick Lopez-Hernandez.

Lopez-Hernandez was arrested on February 20, following a shooting incident involving the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department. He is charged with attempted murder and assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill. Despite an initial inquiry to the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, no detainer was issued until February 28, which later expired on March 2 without any action from ICE. “I’ve been saying it repeatedly. This case is a clear example that the current deportation process is failing,” Sheriff McFadden said. On February 20, after being hospitalized due to a shooting involving CMPD, Lopez-Hernandez was arrested on outstanding warrants. An initial arrest query was sent to ICE at 1:43 p.m., and ICE confirmed his previous deportation in 2023 but did not issue a detainer at that time. On February 28, ICE issued a detainer at 7:35 a.m., and later that day, Sheriff McFadden received an email from ICE’s Atlanta Field Office requesting notification upon Lopez-Hernandez’s release. The detainer expired on March 2 at 7:35 a.m., with no pickup attempt by ICE. Sheriff McFadden suggested ICE charge Lopez-Hernandez with Re-Entry After Deportation, a federal crime under 8 U.S.C. 1326. On March 6, ICE informed MCSO that the case was being presented to the Assistant U.S. Attorney for criminal prosecution. Despite the outcome, ICE expected notification upon any release. By March 7, Sheriff McFadden checked for any new detainer or federal warrant but found none. He reiterated that MCSO would not hold detainees without proper judicial authorization, citing the need for a new detainer or warrant to comply with state law.

NPR: [FL] Florida says its cops are ready to help ICE with deportations
NPR [3/7/2025 4:51 PM, Greg Allen] Audio: HERE reports Florida is going all-in on President Trump’s crackdown on illegal immigration. Gov. Ron DeSantis has ushered in a new law that formalizes agreements between all 67 Florida sheriffs and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). The move enables local officers to enforce federal immigration laws. Florida has also imposed harsher penalties for offenses committed by people illegally in the U.S. than for everyone else.

Yahoo! News: [MI] Michigan immigrant father arrested by ICE outside school after dropping off child
Yahoo! News [3/7/2025 7:55 PM, Niraj Warikoo, 52868K] reports that, on Wednesday morning, Jose Guadalupe Jaimes dropped off his son at a middle school in Trenton, his children said. Moments later, the immigrant father driving a work van was approached by three vehicles with their lights flashing. Agents with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, some with guns drawn, hopped out to arrest Jaimes, 55, who now sits in St. Clair County Jail, the latest ICE arrest in Michigan that has unnerved immigrant advocates. Born in Mexico, Jaimes has lived for 30 years in the U.S., starting his own painting business that supports his wife and five children. Now, they’re scrambling to find out what may happen to him and how they will continue their lives without his support, both emotionally and financially. Records show Jaimes was booked in St. Clair County Jail, but with no criminal charges and an immigration hold. He appears to have no criminal record or cases pending in Wayne County courts, records show. "We just want him back home," one of his sons, Hector Jaimes, told the Free Press. Hector is a junior at a college in Tennessee, who drove eight hours back home Wednesday after hearing of his dad’s arrest from a Facebook post. "We’re worried about him.” The arrest was made outside Arthur Middle School in Trenton after Jaimes had dropped off his eighth grade son, who was diagnosed with Asperger’s syndrome, a type of autism. Hector said his father had a work permit obtained a few years ago and documentation to live in the U.S. A spokesman for ICE told the Free Press that he had been "ordered removed by an immigration judge in 2014." The

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spokesman said that ICE officers arrested Jaimes on Wednesday, describing him as an "an illegal alien from Mexico." He "remains in ICE custody pending the outcome of his immigration proceedings," the ICE spokesman said. The case will now be handled by federal immigration courts.

Chicago Tribune: [IN] Indiana AG: Lake County sheriff didn't comply with ICE until February

Chicago Tribune [3/7/2025 5:17 PM, Maya Wilkins, 5269K] reports after the Lake County Sheriff's Department said it always cooperated with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, representatives from the Indiana attorney general's office say the claim is inaccurate. In a Friday email to the Post-Tribune, Press Secretary Slayde Settle said a June 2024 report "clearly identified Lake County as a jurisdiction that does not honor ICE detainers." The Lake County Sheriff's Department did not comply until February, Settle said ICE confirmed. Hammond City Jail was another jurisdiction listed as non-cooperative with ICE, according to the report.

Newsweek: [IL] Landlord Made to Pay $80,000 for Threatening to Call ICE on Tenants

Newsweek [3/7/2025 6:48 PM, Billal Rahman, 3973K] reports that a judge ordered a Chicago landlord last month to pay $80,000 to former tenants after the landlord threatened to call ICE agents on them during a verbal dispute in June 2020, according to court documents. According to the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF), which filed the suit on behalf of the tenants, this marks the first judgment issued under Illinois's 2019 Immigrant Tenant Protection Act. On February 19, Cook County Circuit Judge Catherine A. Schneider ruled that former landlord Marco Antonio Contreras and his wife, Denise Contreras, must pay over $80,000 in damages, along with attorneys' fees and legal costs, for violating state law. The judge also ordered a smaller payment to compensate the tenants for being denied access to their belongings. The former tenants made a statement through their attorney. "We decided not to stay silent because our landlords threatened us with calling immigration, and we do not believe that anyone has a right to threaten us," the couple said. "No one should feel or act superior to others. We are all equals and deserve respect. Just because someone is your landlord does not mean that they get to do whatever they want to you."

Border Report: [TX] ICE deports Mexican national wanted in disappearance of 43 Mexican students

Border Report [3/7/2025 3:44 PM, Sandra Sanchez, 117K] reports U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers have sent back to Mexico a Mexican national wanted for kidnapping and organized crime in connection with the disappearance and abduction of 43 students in Mexico in 2014, the agency said Friday. Ariel Nuñez Figueroa, 30, was transported Thursday from the Montgomery Processing Center in Conroe, Texas, to the Juarez-Lincoln Bridge Port of Entry in Laredo, Texas, and turned over to Mexican authorities, ICE says. ICE fugitive operations officers located Nuñez after receiving information that he was potentially residing in the Houston area. They took him into custody on Sept. 9 after they say he illegally entered the United States on an unknown date and at an unknown location. A U.S. immigration judge on Jan. 22 ordered him sent back to Mexico.

Yahoo! News: [TX] 20 migrants in custody after ICE operation at Spring business

Yahoo! News [3/6/2025 11:53 AM, Terrian Spurs, 52868K] reports that in an operation on Tuesday, the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) took 20 undocumented

migrants into custody in Spring. ICE reports they discovered discrepancies during an I-9 audit for a local business and were investigating. 20 migrants in custody after ICE operation in Spring. According to the agency, officials conducted a worksite enforcement operation at Texas Couplings LLC for alleged violations of US employment law. The operation followed the discovery of substantial discrepancies during an I-9 audit. At the location, they found 20 migrants and took them into custody for administrative immigration violations. They were taken to Montgomery Processing Center in Conroe. ICE Homeland Security Investigation's worksite enforcement strategies. The Immigration Reform and Control Act (IRCA) of 1986 requires employers to verify the identity and work eligibility of all individuals they hire, and to document that information using the Employment Eligibility Verification Form I-9. Part of ICE Homeland Security Investigation's (HSI) strategy is using the I-9 inspection program to promote compliance with the law and prevent illegal employment, the agency stated. ICE HSI focuses on looking into employers who knowingly break the law. They use I-9 audits and civil fines to encourage compliance. [Editorial note: consult video at source link]

Yahoo! News: [WI] Washington and Winnebago county sheriff's departments sign agreements to work with ICE

Yahoo! News [3/7/2025 6:07 AM, Claudia Levens, 52868K] reports that the Washington County Sheriff's Office has agreed to work with Immigration and Customs Enforcement in an agreement that immigrants' rights groups have been and continue to be critical of. It's not the only Wisconsin agency looking to work with ICE to crack down on immigration. According to data kept by the Department of Homeland Security webpage, both the Washington County and Winnebago County sheriff's departments entered into agreements on March 3 to participate in what is known as the 287(g) program, which authorizes certain local law enforcement officers to serve and execute administrative warrants to noncitizens in their jails. The agencies are joining seven others in Wisconsin and 300 others across the country which have signed onto the program since 2019. The Journal Sentinel made three attempts to reach each county's sheriff March 5 and 6 to ask about how this program would alter their activity but were unsuccessful. The decisions by the two agencies to join the program come as President Donald Trump has been taking action on his promises to crack down on immigration and ramp up deportations. Wisconsin's American Civil Liberties Union condemned local law enforcement agreements with ICE.

Yahoo! News: [AZ] Mexican citizen arrested by ICE agents using armored vehicle pleads guilty to felony

Yahoo! News [3/7/2025 7:06 AM, Daniel Gonzalez, 52868K] reports that a 61-year-old man arrested by ICE agents using an armored vehicle in February during the start of President Donald Trump's immigration crackdown has pleaded guilty to a felony charge of illegally re-entering the U.S. after previously being deported, court records show. Alfonso Garcia Vega was arrested Feb. 2 after a large contingent of federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers showed up in a quiet residential neighborhood in north Phoenix and used an armored vehicle and stun grenades to get him to surrender when he refused to come out of his home. Garcia Vega's arrest was among a number of attention-grabbing arrests by ICE officers around the country as the Trump administration ramped up an immigration crackdown within days of Trump's Jan. 20 inauguration. ICE's use of force to arrest Garcia Vega was condemned as excessive by a family member who downplayed his criminal history and by immigrant advocates. Garcia Vega faces a sentence of up to two years in prison after he pleaded guilty Wednesday in federal court to a felony charge of re-entering the U.S. after previously being deported, according to court documents. Garcia

Vega remains in custody. He is scheduled to be sentenced on May 22, according to the Office of the U.S. Attorney for Arizona.

Citizenship and Immigration Services

NPR/NBC News: Freeze on funding to help green card holders get citizenship stirs uncertainty

NPR [3/8/2025 12:01 AM, Jennifer Ludden, 29983K] reports that on his first day in office, President Trump issued an executive order suspending the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program, citing concerns over the country's ability to absorb large numbers of refugees. That stranded about 10,000 people who were barred from boarding flights to the U.S., including Afghans who had risked their lives working for the American government or military. A few days later, the administration issued a stop work order that ended services for refugees already in the U.S. That, along with the funding freeze, has hobbled resettlement agencies nationwide, forcing them to lay off hundreds of staff and even shut down offices. Refugee resettlement agencies have filed multiple lawsuits challenging the Trump administration actions. A U.S. Supreme Court decision on Wednesday could lead to reimbursement for some services already rendered. But the State Department also has terminated all contracts with resettlement groups. For now, those groups are scrambling to help recently arrived refugees most in need. NBC News [3/7/2025 3:38 PM, Nicole Acevedo, 44742K] reports the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights in Los Angeles, or CHIRLA, is one of a number of organizations that serve immigrants by helping lawful permanent residents earn U.S. citizenship. But those services were jeopardized last month, when the coalition got a notification from U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) stating that their congressionally approved funding had been put on hold. The funding freeze meant disruptions to students receiving civics instruction, taking classes to learn English and getting ready for citizenship interviews and exams. On Friday, 35 Democratic members of Congress sent a letter to USCIS Acting Director Kika Scott and DHS Secretary Kristi Noem seeking answers on the funding freeze. If USCIS funding is not reinstated to this program, it will erase the progress made in reducing naturalization backlogs in recent years, the lawmakers said in the letter, spearheaded by Rep. Jimmy Gomez, D-Calif., whose parents immigrated from Mexico. If backlogs grow, the time it takes to process citizenship applications will likely double.

FOX News: New report reveals illegal immigrant population hit new high during Biden-era crisis

FOX News [3/7/2025 12:50 PM, Adam Shaw, 46189K] reports that the number of illegal immigrants in the U.S. is estimated to have surged to more than 18 million after the Biden-era border crisis, according to a new research report by a hawkish immigration group, which also found an 11% increase in less than two years. The report was produced by the Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIR), which argues for lower levels of immigration overall. It estimates that, as of March 2025, there are approximately 18.6 million illegal immigrants living in the U.S. That is 11% higher than an estimate the group published in June 2023, when it found that there were 16.8 million illegal immigrants. Overall, it estimates that the population has grown by 4.1 million or 28.2% since December 2020. "As of 2025, American population growth comes almost entirely from unsustainably high levels of immigration, both legal and illegal," the report says. FAIR estimates that there were around 11.7 million illegal immigrants in 2013. The group includes, as an illegal immigrant, anyone who does not have legal status like a visa or permanent residency, and notably also

includes those who may be in the country illegally but given a lawful presence, like Temporary Protected Status or humanitarian parole.

Yahoo! News: Tech, GOP scuffle ensues over H-1B visa program
Yahoo! News [3/7/2025 1:42 PM, Reed Albergotti, 52868K] reports key figures in the US tech industry have softened their support for the H-1B program that brings up to 85,000 skilled workers to the US every year after a revolt from President Donald Trump's anti-immigration MAGA political base. Now calls for reform of the program include tech titans like Elon Musk and Marc Andreessen, as well as their Democratic ally Rep. Ro Khanna of California and a broad coalition that includes Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders. The shift began in December, when the Trump administration hired an Indian American venture capitalist, Sriram Krishnan, to a key AI policy position, drawing a vitriolic and sometimes racist backlash on Musk's X. Former Trump aide Steve Bannon called the program "a total and complete scam to destroy the American worker" and demanded "reparations for tech workers." A wave of tech industry figures immediately showed support for immigrant tech workers, many of whom have founded or now run the industry's most successful companies. But after saying he'd go to war for the H-1B program, Musk tweeted, "I've been very clear that the program is broken and needs major reform." Andreesen, whose iconoclastic views are often a leading indicator of Silicon Valley thinking, said on the Lex Fridman podcast last month that the social media controversy prompted him to think deeply about the issue. The venture capitalist has long expressed unequivocal support for the H-1B program, even visiting Washington to inform lawmakers. "We have been in a 60-year social engineering experiment to exclude native-born people from the educational slots and jobs that high-skill immigration has been funneling foreigners into," he concluded.

Telemundo52: [CA] USCIS proposes to review social networks of applicants for residency, citizenship and asylum in the U.S.
Telemundo52 [3/7/2025 9:24 PM, Luis Zaragoza, 101K] reports U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) unveiled Wednesday, a proposal that seeks to access the social media accounts of anyone applying for citizenship, permanent residency or asylum, a move necessary to align with President Donald Trump's executive orders on immigration. "If this happens they can review applicants' social networks in a subjective and discretionary manner, as there is currently no clear process on what type of content could be considered grounds for denial of an application," said Jazmín Mercado, legal representative for Justice for Immigrants. According to USCIS data some 3.5 million people are going through some immigration process. The agency also made changes to several immigration forms, such as the I-485. "In my opinion, this administration is going to look for a reason to deny an application, those immigration agents who are interviewing us to make the decision of a legalization or immigration benefit," said Rosa Elena Sahagún, immigration attorney. Jaime Jáuregui said he is concerned about the proposal, since next year he will apply for his citizenship, and he considers that he would not like to share that information. "It has nothing to do with an immigration process, I just don't see it right on the part of the government and the administration," said Jáuregui. Although there are those who agree with the measure that requires social networks to be reviewed. "If you have nothing to hide or nothing wrong you would have to show your networks, if you really want to be here," said Victor Barrios, a resident of Los Angeles. However, the measure to request the review of social networks for those who wish to apply for a visa from abroad to enter the United States, already exists at the consular level since May 31, 2019. This proposal will be open for public comment for 60

days, and if approved, applicants who object to showing their social media accounts could be denied their immigration petition.

The Hill: [South Africa] Trump offers pathway to citizenship for South African farmers, families

The Hill [3/7/2025 10:49 AM, Elizabeth Crisp, 12829K] reports that President Trump is offering an expedited pathway to U.S. citizenship to some South African farmers, calling their treatment in the country "terrible." "They are confiscating their LAND and FARMS, and MUCH WORSE THAN THAT," he wrote in a Friday morning post on Truth Social. Trump signed an executive order last month halting federal aid to South Africa over property laws he said impose "unjust racial discrimination" against white Afrikaner farmers. "To go a step further, any Farmer (with family!) from South Africa, seeking to flee that country for reasons of safety, will be invited into the United States of America with a rapid pathway to Citizenship," he wrote Friday. "This process will begin immediately!" He didn't provide additional details about the immediate plan, but Trump wrote in his February order that the U.S. would "promote the resettlement of Afrikaner refugees escaping government-sponsored race-based discrimination, including racially discriminatory property confiscation" and directed his Secretaries of State and Homeland Security to prioritize their resettlement through the United States Refugee Admissions Program." The South African government has rejected claims of racial discrimination and accused Trump of having a distorted take on its land law that went into effect in January.

Yahoo! News: [Ukraine] Trump to consider extension of temporary stay rights for Ukrainians in US

Yahoo! News [3/7/2025 5:26 AM, Staff, 52868K] reports that US President Donald Trump confirmed on 6 March that he plans to consider whether to extend or revoke the legal status of Ukrainians in the United States who fled Ukraine due to the war. Quote: "We're not looking to hurt anybody, we're certainly not looking to hurt them [Ukrainians in the US – ed.], and I'm looking at that... There were some people that think that's appropriate, and some people don't, and I'll be making the decision pretty soon." Details: Four sources cited by Reuters – an administration official and three other sources – say that a decision on Ukrainians could be made in April. The issue was raised even before the US leadership met with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in the Oval Office, a meeting that ended in a dispute. The issue arises amid one of Trump's key campaign promises, which was cracking down on illegal immigration and deporting migrants who are in the US without proper legal grounds, including those admitted under temporary humanitarian programs introduced by the Biden administration.

NPR: [Pakistan] Afghans in Pakistan awaiting U.S. resettlement are stuck in a treacherous limbo

NPR [3/7/2025 5:00 AM, Betsy Joles, 29983K] reports that around midday one recent Wednesday, in a drab apartment block on the outskirts of the Pakistani capital, neighbors rushed to warn each other they'd seen police nearby. The building is inhabited almost entirely by Afghan families, and the alarm sent children who were playing in the hallway dashing into their apartments. A woman discreetly pulled her door shut, letting a neighbor padlock it from the outside. Another urged visitors to come in and told them to stay quiet. Several minutes later, word spread that the coast was clear. Doors were unlocked and people reemerged from hiding. But for many Afghans like these, who fled across the border to Pakistan after the Taliban took power in August 2021, now is an especially precarious

time. The Trump administration has halted the U.S. refugee program, Pakistan wants them out, and their lives may be at risk if they return to their own country. Pakistan issued an internal directive in late January ordering the deportation of Afghans awaiting resettlement to third countries if their cases are not processed by March 31, according to an official document from the prime minister's office shared by a Pakistani official and reviewed by NPR. The official did not want to be identified because he was not authorized to share the document, which specifies that "no public announcements shall be made" about the new policy.

Washington Post: [Pakistan] Afghans promised a future in the U.S. now fear deportation from Pakistan

Washington Post [3/8/2025 2:00 AM, Rick Noack, 31735K] reports that after 2½ years of anxious waiting, 36-year-old Shirzad and his family were booked on a Feb. 3 resettlement flight from Pakistan to the United States. Two weeks before they were due to depart, President Donald Trump signed an executive order suspending America's refugee program. "Now, we're living as if we're under house arrest — we don't leave our home anymore for fear of being detained," said Shirzad, a former Afghan aid worker for a U.S.-founded organization. Thousands of Afghans who were set to be relocated to the United States before Trump halted refugee admissions are at risk of being forced out of their homes in Pakistan — and potentially sent back to Taliban-run Afghanistan. Pakistani authorities were already gearing up for a major deportation campaign targeting hundreds of thousands of Afghans with no path to resettlement in Europe or the United States. Now, even those who had been promised a new life in America have been told they must leave Pakistan's capital region by the end of the month, which they fear is a pretext for arrest and deportation. While Pakistan has long respected Western requests to spare Afghans with ties to NATO countries, the upcoming campaign is expected to target anyone without a valid visa — including many like Shirzad, who, after being in limbo here for years, have recently been unable to pay surging visa extension fees. Hiding inside their cramped apartment on the outskirts of Islamabad has been particularly hard on his two children, Shirzad said. But going back to Afghanistan is not an option: "It's like inviting death into your home," he said. Like others in this story, he spoke on the condition that he be identified by his last name, fearing unwanted scrutiny from the Taliban. Afghans interviewed for this story said the uncertainty has taken a growing mental toll. Some said they were battling depression and suicidal thoughts.

Customs and Border Protection

CBS News: Some migrants hoping to cross U.S. border consider turning back due to Trump crackdown

CBS News [3/7/2025 2:12 PM, Camilo Montoya-Galvez and Suvro Banerji, 51661K] reports on a recent afternoon, CBS News accompanied U.S. Border Patrol agent Claudio Herrera along this rugged stretch of the U.S. southern border. Herrera said the area, located within Border Patrol's sprawling El Paso sector, has long been a hotspot for the illicit movement of people and drugs. But the situation there has changed markedly in recent weeks. "The activity is very slow," Herrera said along the New Mexico border, which is patrolled by El Paso sector agents. "There's multiple factors attached to why we have seen a significant drop in apprehensions recently." He continued: "One of them, of course, is consequences," referring to deportations of those entering the U.S. unlawfully. President Trump has moved aggressively to carry out the large-scale crackdown on illegal immigration he promised on

the campaign trail. Since his inauguration, illegal border crossings, which were on the decline during the last year of the Biden administration, have plunged even further. In February, Border Patrol recorded roughly 8,500 apprehensions of migrants who crossed the U.S.-Mexico border illegally, the lowest level in at least 25 years, according to government figures obtained by CBS News. At a shelter in the Mexican border city of Ciudad Juárez, Eduardo Medina and his wife Joanna Cortes described how they had brought their three children to northern Mexico last year after fleeing the high levels of crime and violence in the southern state of Michoacán. The young family said they had been staying in a small room for six months, hoping to get an appointment to enter the U.S. with the government's permission. But the app the Biden administration set up to distribute entry appointments to migrants in Mexico, known as CBP One, was quickly terminated after Mr. Trump returned to the White House. While her dream involved opening a restaurant in the U.S. and enrolling her children in American schools, Cortes said her family is thinking of "returning to the land where we were born" due to the suspension of the CBP One system. Breaking down in tears, Cortes said she and her husband "sold everything" to ensure their children could have a "different life" away from the "hell" in Michoacán. But that dream, she said, has "ended."

FOX News: Border state lawmaker demands Border Patrol agents be paid during pending shutdown: 'Above and beyond'

FOX News [3/7/2025 10:16 AM, Adam Shaw, 46189K] reports that a border state lawmaker is pushing to ensure that Border Patrol agents are paid in the case of a government shutdown -- just as funding deadlines are looming in Washington, D.C. Rep. Monica De La Cruz, R-Texas, is reintroducing the Pay Our Border Patrol and Customs Agents Act, which would ensure that the salaries of Customs and Border Protection (CBP) employees are paid in the case of any government shutdown in FY 2025. Specifically, it would cover the salaries and expenses of any Border Patrol agents and the Office of Field Operations, which staffs ports of entry. "Border Patrol Agents go above and beyond to ensure our communities are protected and our border is secure," De La Cruz said in a statement. "Under President Trump's leadership, Border Patrol Agents can fully carry out their duties and, as a result, are reporting historically low numbers of illegal crossings. We cannot let politics jeopardize their hard-earned paycheck," she said. The bill has 16 co-sponsors, including lawmakers from states along the border. The bill's reintroduction comes amid concerns about whether there could be a government shutdown in the coming weeks. Congressional negotiators punted FY 2025 funding twice since October by passing a continuing resolution.

FOX News: Along the southern border, 'the nonsense has ended': CBP's Ronald Vitiello

FOX News [3/7/2025 11:51 AM, Staff, 10702K] reports that U.S. Customs and Border Protection senior advisor Ronald Vitiello on military 'heroes' helping to secure the southern border and plan to finish building the border wall. [Editorial note: consult video at source link]

UPI: U.S. Customs and Border Protection unit renamed to honor slain agent

UPI [3/7/2025 1:52 PM, Ian Stark, 3973K] reports the U.S. Customs and Border Protection renamed one of its Air and Marine Operations units Thursday in honor of an agent who died in the line of duty. In a press release, the federal law enforcement agency announced that its now-formerly named Mayagüez Marine Unit has been dedicated the Michel O. Maceda Marine Unit. Agent Michel Maceda was one of three agents who stopped a vessel off

Puerto Rico in November of 2022, and allegedly discovered the people onboard were attempting to smuggle drugs into the United States. The traffickers opened fire on Maceda and his fellow agents, striking all three. Of the three agents, Maceda's life couldn't be saved. The Michel O. Maceda Memorial Act was passed by Congress in September of 2024, which designated the renaming of the Mayagüez Marine Unit as the Michel O. Maceda Marine Unit, and the dedication was made official in Puerto Rico at the San Juan Custom House. Department of Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem was present and bestowed the two agents who survived the incident, Customs and Border Protection agents Jorge Santiago and Mark Lamphere with the Medal of Valor and Purple Cross awards.

Yahoo! News: Nearly 300 Fort Campbell soldiers deploy to US-Mexico border for 2nd time this year

Yahoo! News [3/7/2025 2:10 PM, Kenya Anderson, 52868K] reports for the second time within a couple of months, Fort Campbell soldiers have been deployed to the U.S. Southern border. On Thursday, March 6, about 300 Fort Campbell soldiers assigned to the 101st Division Sustainment Brigade were deployed to the southern border as a part of the U.S. Northern Command's mission. The soldiers were deployed to three locations: Fort Huachuca, AZ, Fort Bliss, TX and Joint Base San Antonio, TX. On Saturday, Jan. 25, the 716th Military Police Battalion, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) were deployed to California following President Donald Trump's executive order declaring a national border emergency at the U.S.-Mexico border. Soldiers will support the Joint Task Force for southern border operations by managing sustainment units, coordinating logistics, providing field feeding and controlling logistical movement. "The Soldiers of the 101st Division Sustainment Brigade are always ready to answer the call, and this mission is no different," said Col. Josh Porter, 101 DSB Commander. "Their expertise in logistics and support operations will be critical in ensuring the success of border security efforts. I have full confidence in their professionalism, dedication, and ability to execute this mission with the highest standards of excellence in service to the American people." In February, soldiers assigned to the 716th Military Police Battalion and 101st Airborne Division deployed to the U.S. southern border in California, following President Donald Trump's executive order and deportation plan. Those soldiers are working with the Department of Homeland Security and Customs and Border Protection and military forces already present at the border.

Newsweek: How Much Fentanyl Comes Into the US From Canada, Really?

Newsweek [3/7/2025 12:03 PM, Jesus Mesa, 3973K] reports that for weeks, President Donald Trump has blamed Canada and Mexico for failing to curb the flow of fentanyl into the U.S., vowing to impose sweeping tariffs on both neighbors as a way to induce them to do more to stop the movement of the lethal synthetic opioid that has devastated American communities for years. "They've allowed fentanyl to come into our country at levels never seen before, killing hundreds of thousands of our citizens," Trump said during his joint address to Congress on Tuesday. He highlighted the "extraordinary threat" posed by the drug, which has contributed to more than half-a-million American overdose deaths since 2012. On Thursday, Trump postponed the tariffs for the second time since first announcing them in early February. While Canada and Mexico have scrambled to show cooperation, the threat of economic penalties still looms. And while Trump continues to focus on foreign suppliers, analysts argue that the U.S. plays a much larger role in the fentanyl trade than it admits. Although the U.S. has cast Canada as a major supplier of fentanyl, accusing Canadian enforcement agencies of failing to stop illicit opioids from crossing the border, the situation is far more nuanced. According to U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP)

data, around 43 pounds of fentanyl were intercepted coming from Canada into the U.S. last year, whereas Canadian authorities intercepted about 11 pounds going the opposite way during the same period. The Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) reported six fentanyl seizures last month alone, all originating from the U.S. In one of the seizures, 56.1 grams of fentanyl were discovered by agents at the Windsor-Detroit Tunnel port of entry, including 20 fentanyl pills and 23 grams of a substance suspected to be fentanyl, all brought in by a pair U.S. citizens.

Yahoo! News: [MA] Pilot previously arrested at Logan Airport shoots himself in parking lot of MBTA station, police say

Yahoo! News [3/7/2025 10:21 AM, Frank O'Laughlin, 52868K] reports that a JetBlue pilot who was arrested on sex charges last month at Boston's Logan Airport fatally shot himself outside of an MBTA station on Friday morning, officials said. The Massachusetts State Police Violent Fugitive Apprehension Section found 33-year-old Jeremy Gudorf, of Ohio, in his parked car at the Wonderland station garage in Revere, according to a state police spokesperson. When troopers approached him, state police say Gudorf pulled out a gun and "abruptly shot himself." Troopers entered Gudorf's vehicle and rendered aid before he was rushed to a local hospital, where he was pronounced dead. "Pending official identification by the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, state police believe the identity of the individual to be Jeremy Gudorf," the spokesman added. Suffolk Assistant District Attorney Kyle Neyman said during the arraignment that Gudorf was wanted in Huntersville, North Carolina, on charges related to the sexual exploitation of a minor for service. U.S. Customs and Border Protection learned of the warrant for Gudorf's arrest while conducting a standard review of the manifest of a Boston-to-Paris flight and requested help from troopers assigned to the airport, state police said.

Yahoo! News: [KY] Soldiers from Fort Campbell deployed to southern border

Yahoo! News [3/7/2025 7:57 PM, Corey Elam, 52868K] reports that nearly 300 soldiers from the 101st Airborne Division have been deployed to the U.S. southern border. According to an announcement on Thursday, the soldiers will reportedly join military forces there and work with the Department of Homeland Security as well as customs and border protection agencies. In January, several soldiers stationed at Fort Campbell had been deployed following an executive order from President Trump declaring a national emergency. The division posted on Facebook that soldiers will be based in three locations: Fort Huachuca, Arizona; Fort Bliss, Texas; and Joint Base San Antonio, Texas. "The Soldiers of the 101st Division Sustainment Brigade are always ready to answer the call, and this mission is no different," said Col. Josh Porter, 101 DSB commander. "Their expertise in logistics and support will be critical in ensuring the success of border security efforts. I have full confidence in their professionalism, dedication, and ability to execute this mission with the highest standards of excellence in service to the American people."

Border Report: [TX] Cartel spy drones monitoring US Border Patrol agents

Border Report [3/7/2025 5:53 PM, Julian Resendiz, 117K] reports transnational criminal organizations are using drones to track the movement of U.S. Border Patrol agents near the border wall on a daily basis, according to a federal official in El Paso. The practice was first disclosed to the public last September, when Mexican authorities acting on a tip from U.S. officials arrested two drone operators near the border wall in Juarez, Mexico. Slosar said agents in El Paso are working with partner agencies in Mexico to tighten security on the ground, in the air and under the ground. Federal officials and security experts also have

expressed concern about the possible existence of additional cross-border tunnels in the region following the Jan. 9 discovery of a quarter-mile long structure leading from Juarez to Gate 28 of the U.S. border wall. In El Paso, Mexican and U.S. law enforcement have confirmed to Border Report drones have been used by local gangs to air drop drugs in El Paso neighborhoods.

The Hill: [TX] Buoy barriers on Rio Grande have doubled in size

The Hill [3/7/2025 8:01 AM, Ali Bradley, 52868K] reports that aiming to prevent more people from crossing the border illegally, Texas Gov. Greg Abbott (R) has doubled the size of a buoy barrier in the Rio Grande in the last couple of years. Around 1,000 feet has been added to the barrier, which has previously been challenged in court. It was created in July 2023. Border crossings can be dangerous. In November 2023, hundreds of migrants attempted to cross the border in Eagle Pass, Texas. Several people, even babies, were swept away. NewsNation witnessed one man who was unconscious and required CPR to resuscitate him. Crossings have dropped this year, reportedly by 94 percent compared to 2024. Officials have attributed this to several factors, including mass Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) deportations done under President Trump's administration. Federal officials, including Vice President Vance, made a stop in South Texas on Wednesday at a location that was once a hot spot for migrant crossings. NewsNation went out on a boat with Border Patrol during Vance's trip. During his visit, Vance urged people in the U.S. without authorization to return to their countries voluntarily and return only through legal pathways to avoid deportation. He also said the administration hopes to build the entire border wall by the end of the term.

Washington Examiner: [TX] Abbott's border buoys scheme pays off after nearly sinking under Biden

Washington Examiner [3/8/2025 6:00 AM, Anna Giaritelli, 2296K] reports the water buoys that Texas installed at the Mexico border, once a major legal headache for the Biden administration, could soon be a welcome gift to the Trump administration. The state government of Texas is in the process of shifting control of a line of buoys that divide the United States and Mexico in the Rio Grande to be under federal control by the Trump administration. The change of command reflects the positive partnership between the state and President Donald Trump, according to the office of Gov. Greg Abbott (R-TX). "The floating marine barriers deployed by Texas were originally designed by Border Patrol to deny illegal entry. When former President Biden refused to use them, Texas stepped up and deployed the barriers to deter and repel illegal river crossings — these have been so successful that not a single migrant has attempted to cross over them," Abbott press secretary Andrew Mahaleris said in a statement to the Washington Examiner Friday. "President Biden was hostile to these border security efforts, but now we finally have a partner in the White House who is working with Texas to protect our state and nation." The Texas Department of Public Safety, the police force that has overseen the installation and management of the buoys, recently declared that the 2,000-foot floating barrier will soon be entrusted to the Trump administration. "In a conversation with the federal government, just in the last couple of days, they love the idea, and they're going to make a large investment and take over the buoy barrier operations in Texas, which is going to be a huge benefit to us," said Texas DPS Director Freeman Martin in a statement on Feb. 28. The idea of using buoys as a barrier was developed by the Border Patrol but was not supported by officials in the Biden administration. Shortly after, Texas latched on to the buoy idea and developed the red balls that now float between Eagle Pass and the Mexican border city of Piedras

Negras. White House border czar Tom Homan touted Friday that Abbott had been a "great governor," "great partner," and "great friend" through the Biden years and proven to be aligned with Trump's border policies. "Governor Abbott did more to secure the border than the entire Biden administration did. He had illegal immigration in Texas down, what, 76%? And that's just the state of Texas working," said Homan to reporters outside the White House. "What Governor Abbott did not only saved the citizens of Texas but all the fentanyl that comes across. I look forward to working with Governor Abbott."

CBS Austin: [TX] 'A chess match': Ranchers on Texas border test new solutions in battle against smugglers

CBS Austin [3/7/2025 12:12 PM, Jordan Elder, 602K] reports that Bill Martin's family has been ranching in Carrizo Springs for generations, but his morning routine around the ranch is very different from that of his ancestors. Martin still checks on the cattle and completes the usual ranch tasks, but he also picks up trash left behind by migrants. He ensures no structures have been broken into. As he drives his truck around the property, he checks gates and fences for holes left by people trying to sneak across the land. Ranchers along the Texas border, including Martin, are trying to keep smugglers, drug mules, and migrants off of their properties. They're constantly having to evolve their security measures to do it. "This is the holy grail of gates now. This is the template or the blueprint everybody's gonna follow," Martin said, showing us a grey gate with orange spike mechanisms meant to take out a radiator if a vehicle tries to push it open. It also has a specially designed lock, too small for bolt cutters. "It looks like something out of a Mad Max movie," Martin joked. "I refer to this as like a chess game, and this is just the last move on our side. There will be a countermove on the other side." "How long has that chess match been going?" reporter Jordan Elder asked. "Probably about 20 years," Martin said. It's an expensive and dangerous game. He says he still needs to upgrade four gates on his property to this latest model, which could cost up to $15,000 out of his pocket. [Editorial note: consult video at source link]

KFOR: [TX] Missing Oklahoma 2-year-old child found safe in El Paso, says OHP

KFOR [3/7/2025 6:21 PM, Terré Gables] reports the Oklahoma Highway Patrol announced on Friday, that 2-year-old Anthony Stroder has been found and is set to be reunited with his father. OHP says Stroder was located at 10:30 a.m. on Friday while crossing into the United States from Mexico with his mother, Katelyn Thornton. Previously, Stroder was the subject of an Endangered Missing Advisory issued on February 8. According to OHP, 2-year-old Anthony Stroder was with his non-custodial mother, Katelyn Thornton, and her boyfriend, Aurelio Cardenas. Thornton and the child were stopped by Customs and Border Patrol at a border crossing station in El Paso, says OHP officials. Thornton is currently detained by the El Paso Police Department. The child's father is headed to El Paso to reconnect with his son. Authorities say Cardenas is a registered sex offender according to the Texas Public Sex Offender Registry. Cardenas, who was also included in the advisory, is wanted out of Potter County, Texas.

San Diego Union Tribune: [CA] Nighttime smuggling attempt stopped after shots disable panga engine

San Diego Union Tribune [3/7/2025 1:09 PM, Caleb Lunetta, 1682K] reports that a boat carrying nine undocumented immigrants near the coast of San Diego was stopped after agents fired rounds at the engine, disabling the vessel, federal officials said. The incident was reported after a U.S. Customs and Border Protection airplane spotted a panga crossing

the maritime boundary line around 9:35 p.m. on Tuesday, CBP spokesperson Michael Scappechio said. The aircraft radioed other members of Air and Marine Operations, a component of CBP, who scrambled a boat to intercept the panga, Scappechio said. Just after midnight, the intercepting boat found the panga, officials said. The panga crew refused to follow the agents' orders to turn their engine off, according to CBP. "After exhausting all avenues to stop the vessel, (the agents) moved into position and deployed disabling rounds to successfully stop the panga," Scappechio said. Four Brazilians, two Mexicans, two Nepalese and one Chinese national were discovered on the panga and taken into custody.

Border Report: [Mexico] US repatriating 135 migrants daily to Mexico on flights
Border Report [3/7/2025 3:13 PM, Salvador Rivera, 117K] reports U.S. Customs and Border Protection officials says the U.S. is deporting a daily average of 135 migrants on flights to Mexico. CBP Deputy Director Ricardo Moreno told El Sol Newspaper in Mexico City that since President Donald Trump took office, they have flown more than 4,000 people to the interior of Mexico. Moreno stated this also guarantees the safety of migrants. As of March 3, Mexico's government says it has received a total of 19,663 deported migrants since Jan. 20 when Trump took office. That includes 4,052 who were not Mexican nationals.

Federal Emergency Management Agency

The Hill: FEMA fires three more people connected to directive to skip homes with Trump signs
The Hill [3/7/2025 4:47 PM, Ashleigh Fields, 12829K] reports the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) said it fired three people who were associated with a supervisor's directive to skip homes with President Trump's campaign signs while facilitating Hurricane Milton disaster relief efforts following an investigation. The agency fired Marn'i Washington in November of 2024 for directing her subordinates to avoid homes with Trump signs, which the Office of Special Counsel said was a direct violation of the Hatch Act's regulations on electioneering. Washington claimed she was acting on FEMA's policy to direct employees to avoid homes where there are hostile encounters which former administrator Deanne Criswell vehemently denied. Criswell left FEMA in January after facing pushback for the agency's response to Hurricane Helene and Milton which devastated communities in the southeast. Hamilton, who was selected to serve in her absence, said he has since directed team members to undergo additional training to ensure FEMA's staff provides impartial assistance regardless of political affiliation.

Reported similarly:
Washington Times [3/7/2025 12:02 PM, Stephen Dinan, 1814K]

Washington Examiner: [NY] Fired FEMA official sues DHS over NYC migrant hotel payments she says DOGE cleared
Washington Examiner [3/7/2025 4:29 PM, Emily Hallas, 2296K] reports the former chief financial officer at the Federal Emergency Management Agency filed a lawsuit against the Trump administration after she was fired for sending funds to house illegal immigrants. The Department of Homeland Security fired Mary Comans last month over an $80 million grant to New York City that was meant to reimburse the city for housing illegal immigrants in hotels — an action the Trump administration called illegal. However, in a lawsuit filed against DHS and FEMA on Tuesday, Comans said she was "unlawfully terminated from her

position" without due process or the opportunity to "appropriately respond" to the charges leveled against her. She further alleged that personnel from Elon Musk's Department of Government Efficiency, which later slammed her for sending out the funds, had reassured her that distributing them was the right course of action.

Yahoo! News: [KY] FEMA warning Kentuckians of scams following February's deadly floods

Yahoo! News [3/7/2025 5:33 PM, Kiley Hill, 52868K] reports February's devastating floods are a sad reality many Kentuckians are still coming to terms with. On top of that, scammers are trying to take advantage of victims. "We do see scams and bad actors that come out into a disaster area directly after an event happens," said FEMA spokesperson Craig Browning. "And it's very unfortunate that they try to take advantage of people who have already lost everything." That's why FEMA is warning people of these potential scams, saying if something seems too good to be true, it likely is. "In most cases, they are looking for some type of financial contribution or some type of money to be taken for some type of service given," Browning added. He said FEMA representatives will never charge applicants for disaster assistance, inspections, or help in filling out our applications. According to a FEMA press release, if a FEMA inspector comes to your home and you did not submit a FEMA application, your information may have been used without your knowledge to create a FEMA application. If that happens, you're asked to tell the inspector you did not apply for FEMA assistance; that way, the inspector can submit a request to stop furthering the application process. Also, if you did not apply for assistance but received a letter from FEMA, you're asked to call the FEMA Helpline at 800-621-3362. The helpline will then submit a request to stop further processing of that application. If you're unsure if the person knocking on your door is with FEMA, Browning said there are a few things you need to do. "Do not give away any of your personal information to also include your application number in the event that you applied for federal assistance." He also told Fox 56 that all FEMA employees have their federal IDs on them at all times, and if someone is refusing to show identification, then close your door.

Newsweek: [CA] California Changes Drinking Water Restrictions

Newsweek [3/7/2025 6:15 PM, Martha McHardy, 3973K] reports that drinking water restrictions in California put in place during the Palisades wildfires are set to be lifted. Wildfires in Los Angeles in January burned more than 47,900 acres, destroyed more than 16,250 homes and businesses, and killed 29 people. The most significant incidents included the Palisades Fire, which consumed nearly 24,000 acres in Pacific Palisades and parts of Malibu. The wildfires also saw local water systems contaminated with toxins, including benzene and other volatile organic compounds. In response, the California Department of Water and Power issued a "Do Not Drink" notice for specific areas, cautioning residents against using tap water for drinking or cooking until further notice due to potential contamination. Exposure to contaminants like benzene can have serious health consequences, including an increased risk of cancer and other long-term illnesses. Unlike bacteria, these toxins cannot be removed by boiling or filtering, making the situation especially dangerous for affected communities. Ensuring access to clean drinking water is essential for public health. The restrictions are set to be lifted for residents in the burn zone in Los Angeles County on Friday. [Editorial note: consult video at source link]

Secret Service

FOX News: Trump assassination attempt suspect legal team battles DOJ over evidence, test-firing gun

FOX News [3/7/2025 4:59 PM, Rachel Wolf, 46189K] reports Ryan Routh, the man accused of trying to assassinate then-candidate Donald Trump in September 2024, appeared in court as his team battled with the Justice Department over evidence. The defense team and the DOJ lobbed accusations back and forth over alleged withholding of evidence as they prepared for the Sept. 8, 2025, trial. A major point of contention between the defense and the prosecution is the issue of firearm testing. The defense is calling for the firearm, which is in the DOJ's position, to be tested. The defense's reason for testing is that they believe the gun was too old to fire the distance the DOJ claims it would have. However, the prosecution maintains that firearm testing is unusual, and it could destroy evidence. President Trump said he would be willing to release findings on the two assassination attempts made against him during the 2024 campaign. However, there are no firm details at this time.

USA Today: Honorary Secret Service member Devarjaye Daniel is also an honorary deputy in Wood County

USA Today [3/7/2025 4:01 PM, Chris Mueller, Karen Madden] reports Devarjaye "DJ" Daniel, a 13-year-old brain cancer survivor, became an honorary member of the Secret Service during President Donald Trump's speech Tuesday to a joint session of Congress. But, in 2022, a Wood County Sheriff's Department officer was one of about 50 officers from departments across the United States and the world who took a day to honor DJ at the FBI National Academy in Virginia. Lt. Nathan Dean was going through an intensive three-month training at the academy during October through December 2022 when one of the instructors, who had heard about DJ, came up with the idea to have a DJ Daniel Day. DJ spent the day with the class going to trainings and hanging out, Dean said. DJ even got the opportunity to have lunch with the FBI director, Dean said. At one point, they took DJ to a large auditorium and each member of the class was called up to the front and given the opportunity to make DJ a member of their department. Dean got his chance to make DJ an honorary Wood County deputy.

FOX News: [PA] New book details security lapses ahead of Trump assassination attempt: 'Clear there was a problem'

FOX News [3/7/2025 5:00 PM, Lindsay Kornick, 46189K] reports an upcoming book sheds further light on security lapses long before the first assassination attempt against President Donald Trump. On Thursday, Vanity Fair released an excerpt of Axios Senior Political Reporter Alex Isenstadt's new book "Revenge: The Inside Story of Trump's Return to Power." The excerpt largely focused on the circumstances surrounding the assassination attempt at a Pennsylvania rally in July. The shooting in Butler and subsequent attempt at a Florida golf course were major security failures that put a spotlight on the U.S. Secret Service, especially. But prior to the attempt, Isenstadt reported that members of Trump's team were concerned about his safety, particularly when he began campaigning. One example included when Trump appeared at a Washington courthouse for an arraignment in August 2023. The Secret Service and the U.S. Marshals reportedly had "neglected to shut off the public's access to the elevator Trump was using, leaving him exposed to whoever was in the building."

CBS Austin: [VA] Romanian citizen arrested after credit card skimmers found at Wal-Marts along East Coast

CBS Austin [3/7/2025 10:13 AM, Robert Locklear, 602K] reports that after several Wal-Mart stores in Central Virginia found credit card skimmers at customer check-outs, officials announced that a suspect has been arrested. But the problem goes far beyond just the ABC13 viewing area in Central Virginia. According to officials, the same person is responsible for card skimmers throughout Virginia and up the East Coast. And the man suspected of the crime hails from much further away: the country of Romania in Europe. The incidents began on Feb. 26, when the Bedford Police Department said they received the report of a credit card skimming device recovered from the Wal-Mart in Bedford. The device was found by personnel checking the credit card kiosks for skimming devices. An investigation began after police heard about what happened. BPD said the trail led them to a male suspect matching the description of the suspected Bedford culprit. According to police, he had placed skimming devices at several other Wal-Marts through Virginia and several other states. BPD worked with other law enforcement to share the evidence they had; Wal-Mart Investigations, U.S. Secret Service, law enforcement from Lynchburg and Chesterfield County, and BPD worked together to locate the suspect in the Richmond area. "The suspect was subsequently taken into custody by law enforcement without incident," BPD said. "The suspect in this matter has been identified as Florin Doroiman, a citizen of Romania." [Editorial note: consult video at source link]

Yahoo! News: [SC] Twice-convicted Florence man facing 2 new counts of sexual exploitation of a minor

Yahoo! News [3/7/2025 12:24 PM, Dennis Bright, 52868K] reports that a 48-year-old Florence man is being held with bond on two counts of sexual exploitation of a minor. James Everette Nesbitt was booked into the Florence County Detention Center on Wednesday after his arrest by members of the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force investigators with the South Carolina Attorney General's Office. Nesbitt allegedly distributed and possessed files of child sexual abuse material, the attorney general's office said. He was arrested after authorities received a CyberTipline report from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. According to arrest warrants, Nesbitt distributed sexual sexual abuse materials using a social media app on Sept. 17, 2024. Authorities also found sexually explicit images on his electronic device on Wednesday during a search at his home. Nesbitt is charged with one count of second-degree sexual exploitation of a minor and one count of third-degree sexual exploitation of a minor. Each carries a prison sentence of up to 10 years if he is convicted. In addition to the attorney general's office, investigators with the Florence County Sheriff's Office, Florence Police Department, Homeland Security Investigations, U.S. Marshals Service, and U.S. Secret Service are a part of the task force and assisted in the investigation.

South Carolina Daily Gazette: [SC] Irmo man pleads not guilty to threatening President Trump, denied bond

South Carolina Daily Gazette [3/7/2025 3:16 PM, Shaun Chornobroff] reports an Irmo man accused of threating to kill President Donald Trump faces a federal charge punishable by up to five years in prison, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office in South Carolina. Travis Keith Lang, 47, pleaded not guilty Friday in his first appearance at the federal courthouse in Columbia and was denied bond. He will be back in court for a bond hearing March 14, said Veronica Hill, a spokesperson with the U.S. Attorney's Office. Lang did "knowingly and willfully make a threat to take the life of, to kidnap, and to inflict bodily harm upon the

President of the United States," the indictment reads. It says Lang specifically said he "would kill Donald Trump." It's not the first time Lang has threatened the nation's chief executive, according to federal prosecutors. U.S. Assistant Attorney Scott Matthews told the judge that Lang made multiple threats to both Trump and former President Joe Biden. Secret Service agents visited Lang and warned him to stop making threats, but he didn't, The State newspaper reports Matthews said at Friday's hearing.

ABC News: [Russia] US seizes Russian crypto exchange websites, charges head of site with money laundering

ABC News [3/7/2025 1:12 PM, Luke Barr, 52868K] reports that the United States Secret Service said it has seized a Russian cryptocurrency exchange website, according to court documents unsealed on Friday. The Justice Department also charged the two administrators of that website with a multimillion-dollar money laundering scheme, court documents said. Between 2019 and 2025, Aleksej Besciokov, 46, a Lithuanian national and Russian resident, and Aleksandr Mira Serda, 40, a Russian national, allegedly controlled and operated Garantex, a cryptocurrency exchange based in Moscow. The two allegedly "operated Garantex to launder the proceeds of criminal activity, including ransomware, computer hacking, narcotics transactions, and sanctions violations, and profited from the laundering. Garantex offered its services to the public first through the website Garantex.io and then through Garantex.org. Garantex also misled law enforcement, including the Russian police, about the identities of its customers," the documents said. "The seizure of website domains associated with Garantex's operations and the freezing of over $26 million in cryptocurrency strikes a serious financial blow to cybercriminals worldwide," said Michael Centrella, assistant director of the Secret Service's Office of Field Operations. "Alongside our U.S. and international law enforcement partners, this coordinated action will prevent additional funds from falling into the hands of criminals."

Coast Guard

Yahoo! News: US Coast Guard infrastructure is quietly crumbling. It needs at least $7 billion to fix it.

Yahoo! News [3/7/2025 9:30 AM, Kelsey Baker, 52868K] reports that there's been a lot of talk about rusty US Navy warships and shipyard struggles lately, but the Navy's not the only maritime service with troubles. The US Coast Guard desperately needs shore infrastructure improvements, according to a new government watchdog report. The problems aren't just piers and lighthouses either. It's also airfields that need repaving, rundown family housing in remote locations, and shoddy centers that can oversee search and rescue operations. Part of the problem can be chalked up to years of deferred infrastructure maintenance, the Government Accountability Office report said, resulting in a painful backlog for the service that secures over 100,000 miles of US coastline and inland waters. The work backlog is at least $7 billion, more than twice what it was five years ago, signaling the problem is worsening. The Coast Guard did not immediately respond to request for comment from Business Insider. Budget requests for the Coast Guard have been insufficient since at least fiscal year 2019, the GAO said, adding that such gaps have plagued the service for years. It doesn't help that the service has not analyzed the trade-offs of foregoing infrastructure maintenance, the report noted.

Yahoo! News: [MD] Army Corps of Engineers gives green light for next step in Key Bridge replacement

Yahoo! News [3/8/2025 3:02 AM, Jimmy Alexander, 52868K] reports that the next step in replacing the Francis Scott Key Bridge happened Wednesday, thanks to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District. The corps issued a permit for the rebuild, which grants the Maryland Transportation Authority the ability to construct the bridge that will reconnect the Interstate 695 Beltway. The announcement came only three weeks before the one-year anniversary of the day the cargo ship Dali slammed into the Francis Scott Key Bridge and sent it collapsing into the Patapsco River on March 26, 2024. A total of six construction workers were killed in the incident. “Less than one year after the catastrophic collapse of the Francis Scott Key Bridge, Baltimore District is proud to have provided fair and efficient permitting efforts to enable the construction of a new bridge,” Baltimore District Cmdr. Col. Francis Pera said. “To have both removed the bridge wreckage and issued relevant permits for its reconstruction on this timetable is a testament to our dedicated regulatory branch and our commitment to support an energetic economy across the Mid-Atlantic.” In a press release from the USACE, the regulatory branch stated geotechnical investigations are ongoing, adding that test pile operations, pier demolition and trestle construction are expected to begin over the summer. In-water construction of the new bridge will begin by early fall 2025. The project will also require similar permit verification from the U.S. Coast Guard, according to USACE. Maryland Gov. Wes Moore spoke to WTOP about the bridge design, which is estimated to cost somewhere in the ballpark of nearly $2 billion and be completed by 2028. “This spring, we’re going to finish the demolition for the parts of the bridge that were still standing and begin the construction,” Moore said. He showed gratitude to the bipartisan congressional delegation, which he said “negotiated that 100% cost share.” “We’re already beginning the work,” Moore said. “We plan on getting that bridge on time and on budget.”

Yahoo! News: [WI] U.S. Coast Guard to begin ice breaking operations in Green Bay, reopen waters to commercial traffic

Yahoo! News [3/7/2025 10:49 AM, Ben Newhouse, 52868K] reports that the United States Coast Guard will officially begin ice-breaking operations in the bay of Green Bay starting next week. Officials with the U.S. Coast Guard stated on Friday that the schedule of operations will include all navigable waters in and around the ports of Green Bay, Sturgeon Bay, Marinette, Menominee, and Escanaba, Michigan. Crews will begin ice-breaking operations during the week of March 10, noting that efforts will expand and increase in frequency after March 15, as ice conditions and demands of commercial shipping require. The waters of southern Green Bay are scheduled to reopen to commercial vessel traffic at 8 a.m. Monday, March 10. In the Coast Guard’s release, officials also reminded all recreational ice users to plan activities carefully, dress appropriately, and stay away from shipping channels. Members of the public that fish, snowmobile, use ATVs, ice boats, or otherwise recreate on the bay of Green Bay during periods of ice cover should be aware of this activity.

CISA/Cybersecurity

CyberScoop: CISA completed its election security review. It won’t make the results public

CyberScoop [3/7/2025 1:41 PM, Derek B. Johnson and Colin Wood] reports that, when the Trump administration began sidelining and laying off personnel at the Cybersecurity and

Infrastructure Security Agency, it started by targeting employees who worked on election security and disinformation. At the same time, the Department Homeland Security announced it would conduct a comprehensive review of CISA's election security mission. This week, the agency confirmed that it has completed the review, but said that its findings won't be released to the public. "The assessment that CISA has undertaken is internal and will help inform how the agency moves forward to best support critical infrastructure," a CISA spokesperson said. "This is an internal document that is not planned to be released publicly." A DHS spokesperson told CyberScoop in an email that the department had nothing else to share at this time. Critics argue that withholding the review and its conclusions creates broad uncertainty among election security stakeholders and jeopardizes the collaboration between the federal government, states and local governments, which relies on CISA's resources and technical expertise. Every year, CISA provides hundreds of vulnerability assessments and technology improvements to financially strained election jurisdictions. It also oversees sensors that can detect malicious attacks, trains thousands of state and local election workers, and shares the latest threat information. As the threats to election workers have increased over the past four years, CISA has also helped state and local officials shore up physical security at polling places and election offices and expanded de-escalation training. Meanwhile, the nonprofit Center for Internet Security, which manages the federally funded Election Infrastructure Information Sharing and Analysis Center, stated this week that "due to the termination of funding by the Department of Homeland Security, the Center for Internet Security no longer supports the EI-ISAC." The move was expected, as a Feb. 14 DHS memo obtained by StateScoop indicated the department intended to "partially" terminate its cooperative agreement with CIS, with the White House saying the EI-ISAC no longer aligns with DHS' mission. The order technically leaves the New York nonprofit free to provide services to state and local governments, but without its prior designation, a majority of states are now legally barred from accepting its services.

CBS News: Cybersecurity agency's top recruits decimated by DOGE cuts

CBS News [3/7/2025 10:13 AM, Nicole Sganga, 51661K] reports that for Kelly Shaw, unemployment is unfamiliar territory. "I've never been in this situation before. I've never been fired," Shaw said, suddenly quiet, while seated at her kitchen table in Northern Virginia. Nearly three years ago, the longtime senior intelligence analyst left the Navy, after being recruited by the nation's top cyber defense agency and rising up through the ranks. Eventually, Shaw helped establish a congressionally mandated program designed to continuously monitor and detect cyber breaches of the nation's power grid, pipelines and water system – installing sensors across critical infrastructure designed to detect insider threats and foreign adversaries like China, Russia and Iran. "It was all about the information we can get within networks to find the bad guys – any indicators of compromise, evidence of the adversary, moving through a network and attempting to do bad things. That's what we did," Shaw said, pausing. "Well, that's what some will still do." The former manager for the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Agency's "CyberSentry" program, Shaw was also among the 130 probationary CISA workers mass fired in the "Valentine's Day Massacre" during the holiday weekend last month. For his part, Thompson has started a hotline to encourage fired employees at the Department of Homeland Security and its components to share their stories.

Yahoo! News: [IL] CPS data breach: Cyberattack exposed personal information of current, former students

Yahoo! News [3/7/2025 11:00 PM, Cody King, 52868K] reports that a cyberattack on a Chicago Public Schools (CPS) technology vendor exposed personal data of current and former students, including names, birthdates, and student ID numbers, officials said. Late last year, Cleo, a CPS technology vendor, was attacked, compromising a server that stored student data. On Feb. 8, CPS was notified that student data had been accessed in the breach. The exposed data included students' names, birthdates, genders, and student ID numbers. For students enrolled in Medicaid, their program ID numbers and eligibility dates were also compromised, according to CPS. CPS said all current students and former students dating back to the 2017-2018 school year were likely affected. No Social Security numbers, financial details, health data, or staff information were involved. No Social Security numbers, financial information or health data were involved in the cyberattack. No staff information was accessed either. CPS encourages victims to request a free credit report and consider placing a fraud alert or security freeze with consumer reporting agencies. "CPS is deeply committed to the security of student information, and we expect the same level of care and commitment from our vendors. As an organization, CPS takes proactive measures to limit exposure by continuously strengthening our defenses and including strong provisions in vendor contracts to ensure our data is protected. Through ongoing diligence and improvement, we will continue to adapt our security posture to reduce the risk of future breaches," a statement from CPS Chief Information Officer Norman Fleming reads. "Please know that the protection of your child's personal information is a top priority, and we sincerely regret any concern or inconvenience that this matter may cause you."

MeriTalk: [China] White House Gearing Up China Cyber Fight Amid Talent Layoffs
MeriTalk [3/7/2025 9:42 AM, Jerry Markon, 45K] reports that the Trump administration is determined to mount offensive cyber operations to combat escalating threats from China, a leading House Republican said on March 5. Rep. John Moolenaar, R-Mich., chair of the House Select Committee on the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), said the new administration "has already shown a willingness to take a more aggressive stance in cyberspace." Top Trump advisors and the White House National Security Council, Moolenaar said, are "signaling that America is no longer only playing defense. We are actively engaging to erode our adversaries' cyber capabilities." His comments, which came at a committee hearing on deterring Chinese cyber threats, represented what Moolenaar called "one glimmer of good news" in an otherwise foreboding security landscape. "As we speak, the Chinese Communist Party is waging a full-scale cyber war against the American people, an attack on our security, our infrastructure, and our way of life," Moolenaar said. "The CCP has targeted the grids that power our homes, facilities that treat our water, and the hospitals that care for us."

Terrorism Investigations

Houston Chronicle: [TX] Harris County teen charged in alleged terrorism plot, accused of coordinating with ISIS fighter
Houston Chronicle [3/7/2025 5:06 PM, John Lomax V, Nicole Hensley, 1769K] reports a 17-year-old was indicted on a terrorism charge — the first of its kind in the county, based on a recent state law — allegedly plotting last year to carry out a mass shooting with an incarcerated ISIS fighter, according to officials and court documents. The teen, Laith Adil Shehzad, is accused of making a threat that led FBI agents to his home on Aug. 18, according to court records. A Harris County prosecutor, Cameron Calligan, said Friday that

Facebook first alerted authorities to his plan last July, showing that a mass casualty attack was purportedly imminent. The social media website provided copies of Facebook messages between him and an ISIS fighter jailed in the Philippines. The Harris County District Attorney's Office announced a grand jury indictment against Shehzad late Thursday with few details then about the allegation. Shehzad was booked into the Harris County jail Friday morning. He claimed to be self-radicalized as early as 2021, according to court records. He was accused as a juvenile of possessing homemade explosives and plans to use them. Authorities also caught him with a journal with "extremist propaganda advocating the use of violence, " bail paperwork shows. The journal had diagrams and instructions on building explosives. The alleged plot was foiled when Shehzad could not hail an Uber ride to the scene of the planned attack because his account was suspended, the prosecutor said, without identifying the proposed locale of the attack. The charge, the first of its kind in Harris County, stems from a state law, written by a north Texas lawmaker, enacted in 2023 that allows prosecutors to accept charges related to terrorism. The offense carries a punishment range of 15 years to life imprisonment.

National Security News

AP: [OR] U.S. Army soldiers accused of selling military secrets, including to China
AP [3/7/2025 9:56 AM, Kerry Breen, 52868K] reports that two active-duty U.S. soldiers and one former soldier were arrested after being accused of selling state secrets to foreign countries, including China, the Department of Justice said Thursday. Active-duty soldier Li Tian and former soldier Ruoyu Duan were charged in Oregon with conspiring to commit bribery and the theft of government property. Active-duty soldier Jian Zhao was charged in Washington state for conspiring to obtain and transmit national defense information to an individual not authorized to receive it, and for bribery and theft of government property. Attorney General Pam Bondi said all three men are "accused of betraying our country, actively working to weaken America's defense capabilities and empowering our adversaries in China." "They will face swift, severe, and comprehensive justice," Bondi said. Duan and Tian, along with other conspirators, allegedly worked together to "surreptitiously gather sensitive military information related to the United States Army's operational capabilities" from late November 2021 until December 2024, the Justice Department said. The case was investigated by the FBI and U.S. Army Counterintelligence Command, the Department of Justice said.

CBS Minnesota: [Ukraine] Trump says he's considering Russia sanctions and tariffs until ceasefire is reached with Ukraine
CBS Minnesota [3/7/2025 1:01 PM, Melissa Quinn, 51661K] reports that President Trump said Friday that he is "strongly considering" imposing sanctions and tariffs on Russia until it agrees to a ceasefire and peace deal that would halt Moscow's three-year war with Ukraine. Mr. Trump's post on his social media platform, Truth Social, appears to be in response to drone and missile attacks launched on Ukrainian energy facilities Friday. The president said that because Russia is "absolutely 'pounding'" Ukraine, "I am strongly considering large scale banking sanctions, sanctions and tariffs on Russia until a cease fire and final settlement agreement on peace is reached." "To Russia and Ukraine, get to the table right now, before it is too late," Mr. Trump wrote. The president's threats of tariffs and sanctions are the first indication he is weighing adverse action against Russia since his tense meeting with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy at the White House one week ago. But Mr. Trump told reporters in the Oval Office on Friday that he is "finding it more difficult, frankly,

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to deal with Ukraine, and they don't have the cards." "I find that in terms of getting a final settlement, it may be easier dealing with Russia — which is surprising — because they have all the cards," he said.

Washington Post: [Ukraine] U.S. suspends commercial satellite imagery service to Ukraine

Washington Post [3/7/2025 8:18 PM, Alex Horton and Siobhán O'Grady, 31735K] reports Ukrainian commanders have relied on the service to have a technological edge against Russian forces. U.S. partners and allies use the system to access the imagery through its orbital imaging services known as Global Enhanced GEOINT Delivery. U.S. officials said the suspension affected multiple companies that deliver imagery through the program. The suspension was immediately felt by soldiers in the Ukrainian military, which relies on fresh imagery to plan attacks, study terrain and assess the efficacy of artillery strikes. Maxar, a leading U.S. provider of commercial satellite imagery, said it was part of that decision by the Trump administration. "Each customer makes their own decisions on how they use and share that data," said Gia DeHart, a spokesperson for Maxar Intelligence's U.S. government business. "We take our contractual commitments very seriously, and there is no change to other Maxar customer programs." Ukraine can still access such imagery with their own purchased accounts. The suspension follows a recent decision by President Donald Trump to pause intelligence sharing and halt future deliveries of weapons to Ukraine, with the intent of pressuring Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky into peace negotiations with Russia. Trump said Friday that he is also considering imposing "large scale" sanctions on Russia to further compel talks.

FOX News: [Ukraine] U.S. continues to share data to protect Ukrainians against Russian strikes, despite intel pause: sources

FOX News [3/7/2025 12:02 PM, Morgan Phillips, 46189K] reports that the U.S. is continuing to share some defensive intelligence with Ukraine to protect against incoming Russian strikes, despite an announced pause in intel sharing that raised alarm bells, Fox News Digital has learned. Three sources familiar with the decision confirmed that intelligence related to force protection and incoming threats would continue. Federal intelligence, the work of the CIA, FBI and human intelligence, has ceased, as has data that helps with offensive Ukrainian strikes against Russians. Another intelligence source said to expect the pause to be "very temporary in nature," and that the sharing of all data could resume in the coming days. The intelligence pause had prompted confusion and alarm from Ukraine and its allies, as its parameters were not entirely clear. However, U.S. intelligence has been a lifeline for Ukraine's forces: defense experts say that ceasing all data-sharing would be a bigger blow to Ukrainian forces than losing military aid from the U.S. "Ukraine had one single advantage on Russia: information superiority. With that gone, Kyiv would be in trouble," said Can Kasapoglu, a defense fellow at the Hudson Institute. "Europe does not have enough strategic enablers capacity to fill in the vacuum," said Kasapoglu. The National Security Council declined to comment on what military intelligence was still being shared, as did the Pentagon.

Washington Post: [Russia] Trump threatens 'large scale' sanctions on Russia after major attack on Ukraine

Washington Post [3/7/2025 3:43 PM, Michael Birnbaum, Sabrina Rodriguez, and Kostiantyn Khudov, 31735K] reports that President Donald Trump expressed understanding Friday for Russia's stepped-up attacks on Ukraine after the White House halted military and

intelligence aid to Kyiv this week, saying that he would resume help for the beleaguered country only when Ukrainian leaders agree that "they want to settle." The U.S. cutoff of aid to Ukraine has made the country significantly more vulnerable to Russian attack. With Kyiv no longer able to depend on U.S. intelligence assistance to aid its targeting or give it warning about Russian attacks, the Kremlin unloaded a massive missile assault on Ukraine overnight Thursday into Friday. "I actually think he's doing what anybody else would do," Trump said in the Oval Office on Friday, when asked whether he was upset that Russian President Vladimir Putin was taking advantage of the U.S. halt in aid for Ukraine. "Probably anybody in that position would be doing that right now. He wants to get it ended. And I think Ukraine wants to get it ended, but I don't see. It's crazy. They're taking tremendous punishment. I don't quite get it." Trump was asked whether he would consider stepping up help for Ukraine in the face of the Russian assault by giving Kyiv more air defense munitions. That form of assistance would not enable further Ukrainian attacks on Russian positions but would be purely defensive.

Reported similarly:
New York Times [3/7/2025 7:01 PM, Erica L. Green, 145325K]
AP [3/7/2025 2:30 PM, Aamer Madhani and Chris Megerian, 5269K]
Newsweek [3/7/2025 6:27 PM, Barney Henderson, 52220K]

New York Times: [Iran] Trump Offers to Reopen Nuclear Talks in a Letter to Iran's Supreme Leader

New York Times [3/7/2025 10:14 PM, David E. Sanger, Farnaz Fassihi and Luke Broadwater, 145325K] reports President Trump said on Friday that he had sent a letter to Iran's supreme leader offering to reopen negotiations over the country's fast-advancing nuclear program, but warned that the country would have to choose between curbing its fast-expanding program or losing it in a military attack. Speaking on Friday in the Oval Office, Mr. Trump suggested that Iran's nuclear capabilities — which now include enough near-bomb-grade fuel to produce about six weapons — were reaching a critical point. "We're down to final strokes with Iran," he told reporters. "We can't let them have a nuclear weapon." Earlier on Friday on FOX News, Mr. Trump said: "There are two ways Iran can be handled: militarily, or you make a deal. I would prefer to make a deal, because I'm not looking to hurt Iran. They're great people." He said the letter was sent Wednesday and addressed to Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Iran's supreme leader. The White House did not provide the text or describe its contents with any specificity. It was unclear if it was sent through the Swiss — the traditional intermediary for communications between Washington and Tehran — or through Russia or another nation. Mr. Trump's offer echoes a similar message to Iran during his first term, after he announced in 2018 that he was pulling out of the Iran nuclear deal that had been negotiated three years earlier by the Obama administration. But he never got talks started, and an effort by President Joseph R. Biden Jr. collapsed. Now, the strategic environment has changed radically. The Justice Department has accused Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps of seeking to assassinate Mr. Trump last year; it issued indictments before Mr. Biden left office. Iran's nuclear facilities are now exposed to attack, after Israel destroyed almost all of the air defenses protecting them in October. And Iran's regional proxies, Hezbollah and Hamas, are in no condition to threaten Israel with retaliation should the Iranian facilities come under attack. Some senior Israeli officials have argued that there will never be a better moment to take out the major nuclear facilities, though American military officials believe that the Israelis would almost certainly require American equipment and support to do a thorough job. Mr. Trump's letter appears to be the opening bid to see if Iran's new vulnerability will

make it open to negotiations.

Reported similarly:
Newsweek [3/7/2025 2:19 PM, Barney Henderson, Amir Daftari, and Tom O'Connor, 52220K]
Yahoo! News [3/7/2025 1:55 PM, Connor Stringer, 52868K]

CNN: [Afghanistan] US reviewing visa programs as official says Afghanistan could be included in Trump travel ban
CNN [3/7/2025 7:18 PM, Jennifer Hansler, 908K] reports the US State Department is "undertaking a full review of all visa programs," a department spokesperson confirmed amid reports of an impending new travel ban, and a US official familiar with the situation told CNN that Afghanistan could be among the countries included. The official said the ban could come as soon as next week but noted it was unclear if final decisions on countries and timing had been made. In an executive order issued on January 20, President Donald Trump directed cabinet members, including the Secretary of State, to compile a list of countries "for which vetting and screening information is so deficient as to warrant a partial or full suspension on the admission of nationals from those countries." The executive order calls for this to be done within 60 days. "The Department is undertaking a full review of all visa programs as directed under this EO and executing on administration priorities," the spokesperson said. The spokesperson would not give further details, saying they do "not comment on internal deliberations or communications." A White House official told CNN, "No decisions regarding possible travel bans have been made, and anyone claiming otherwise does not know what they are talking about." In his first term, Trump barred travelers from seven majority-Muslim nations from coming to the US, a policy that saw court challenges before President Joe Biden repealed it when he took office in 2021. If Afghanistan is included in the new travel ban, it could impact tens of thousands of Afghans who worked alongside the US during its two decades of war there, as it would block Afghan nationals from coming to the US. Tens of thousands of Afghans have already been caught in limbo due to other Trump administration executive orders suspending the US refugee admissions program and the suspension of foreign aid funding for flights of Afghan Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) holders. On Wednesday, AfghanEvac, a coalition of organizations that has been working to bring Afghan allies to safety since the end of the war in Afghanistan in 2021, urged "all Afghan nationals holding valid U.S. visas to travel as soon as possible amid credible indications that a travel ban affecting Afghan nationals may be imminent."

Yahoo! News: [China] China bans more US defense firms
Yahoo! News [3/7/2025 9:01 AM, Leilani Chavez, 52868K] reports that China banned 25 more U.S. firms, the latest addition to a bourgeoning list of American defense firms barred from conducting economic activity there. The Ministry of Commerce stated in a press release this week that the ban aims to protect the country's "national sovereignty and security." It effectively halts existing export activities, blocks imports, and prohibits companies from making new investments in China. China's response comes as President Donald Trump's moves to increase trade tariffs against China take effect. The list was released by the commerce ministry a day ahead of President Trump's two-hour speech to Congress in Washington on March 4. In his speech, Trump pledged to impose "reciprocal tariffs" to take effect on April 2. "Whatever they tariff us – other countries – we will tariff them. That's reciprocal, back and forth. Whenever they tax us, we will tax them. If they give non-monetary barriers to keep us out of their markets, then we will do non-monetary

barriers to keep them out of our market," Trump said. China's ban list includes some 25 American firms; 10 companies are listed in the unreliable entity list while 15 are added to the export control list. Companies in China's expanding unreliable entity list include Huntington Ingalls Industries Inc, America's largest military shipbuilder; S3 AeroDefense; Cubic Corporation; defense and space company ACT1 Federal; AI companies TextOre and Exovera; TCOM Limited Partnership; Stick Rudder Enterprises LLC; and Teledyne Brown Engineering Inc. The statement also included US biotech firm Illumina Inc. which was ushered into the unreliable entity list last month.

FOX News: [China] Congress exposes China's potential loophole for Trump tariffs: 'Drawing a line in the sand'

FOX News [3/7/2025 12:00 PM, Elizabeth Elkind, 46189K] reports that lawmakers on both sides of the aisle are coming together to crack down on Chinese-backed companies' ownership of land in the continental U.S. It comes as the Trump administration appears on the precipice of a trade war with Beijing, as China promises to retaliate against what its foreign minister called "arbitrary" tariffs from Washington. "It is in the interest of the United States to review purchases of American farmland by foreign entities to protect our farms and agricultural production from our foreign adversaries, especially China," Rep. Randy Feenstra, R-Iowa, the House Republican leading the bill, told Fox News Digital. "But for far too long, our government has repeatedly failed to enforce the laws on the books, monitor foreign purchases of our farmland, or assess financial penalties on those who break our laws." The bill is also being led by Rep. Kristen McDonald Rivet, D-Mich., and in the upper chamber by Sen. Joni Ernst, R-Iowa. The bill is also aimed at establishing a public database on foreign ownership of U.S. farmland through the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), and requires the Secretary of Agriculture to partner with the Secretary of Homeland Security on an annual threat assessment report on foreign ownership of U.S. farmland.

New York Times: [China] China Hits Canada With Tariffs in Indirect Riposte to Trump

New York Times [3/8/2025 4:12 AM, Keith Bradsher, 145325K] reports China announced tariffs of up to 100 percent on canola, pork and other foods from Canada on Saturday, in retaliation for Canada's decision last August to collect steep taxes on imports of Chinese electric vehicles, steel and aluminum. The Chinese tariffs, which take effect on March 20, were also a clear warning to Canada — and, indirectly, Mexico — not to cooperate with the United States on trade. The Trump administration, like the Biden administration before it, has been demanding that Canada and Mexico not serve as back doors for low-cost Chinese goods to enter the U.S. market under North American free trade agreements. China's State Council Tariff Commission announced on Saturday that it would impose tariffs of 100 percent on canola oil and canola meal, which are among Canada's largest exports to China, and on peas; and 25 percent on Canadian pork and seafood. The commission said the measures were in response to Canada's 100 percent tariffs on electric cars from China and its 25 percent tariffs on Chinese steel and aluminum, which took effect in October. China's Ministry of Commerce said in a separate statement that "China urges Canada to immediately correct its wrong practices, lift restrictive measures and eliminate adverse effects." The Canadian government had no immediate comment. The Chinese agencies' statements were carefully worded to comply with World Trade Organization rules and did not mention any effort to influence Canada or Mexico during their current trade discussions with the United States. But a commentary released by China's state television left little doubt that a key goal for China is dissuading officials in Ottawa and Mexico City from acceding to American pressure for higher Canadian and Mexican tariffs on Chinese goods.

AP: [North Korea] North Korea unveils nuclear-powered submarine for the first time
AP [3/8/2025 5:58 AM, Hyung-Jin Kim, 52868K] reports North Korea unveiled for the first time a nuclear-powered submarine under construction, a weapons system that can pose a major security threat to South Korea and the U.S. State media on Saturday released photos showing what it called "a nuclear-powered strategic guided missile submarine," as it reported leader Kim Jong Un's visits to major shipyards where warships are built. The Korean Central News Agency, or KCNA, didn't provide details on the submarine, but said Kim was briefed on its construction. The naval vessel appears to be a 6,000-ton-class or 7,000-ton-class one which can carry about 10 missiles, said Moon Keun-sik, a South Korean submarine expert who teaches at Seoul's Hanyang University. He said the use of the term "the strategic guided missiles" meant it would carry nuclear-capable weapons. "It would be absolutely threatening to us and the U.S.," Moon said. A nuclear-powered submarine was among a long wishlist of sophisticated weaponry that Kim vowed to introduce during a major political conference in 2021 to cope with what he called escalating U.S.-led military threats. Other weapons were solid-fueled intercontinental ballistic missiles, hypersonic weapons, spy satellites and multi-warhead missiles. North Korea has since performed a run of testing activities to acquire them. North Korea obtaining a greater ability to fire missiles from underwater is a worrying development because it's difficult for its rivals to detect such launches in advance. Questions about how North Korea, a heavily sanctioned and impoverished country, could get resources and technology to build nuclear-powered submarines have surfaced. Moon, the submarine expert, said North Korea may have received Russian technological assistance to build a nuclear reactor to be used in the submarine in return for supplying conventional weapons and troops to support Russia's war efforts against Ukraine. He also said North Korea could launch the submarine in one or two years to test its capability before its actual deployment. [Editorial note: consult video at source link]

{End of Report} RETURN TO TOP

From: [(b)(7)(E)@techmis.com]
Sent: 4/9/2025 10:15:55 AM
To: (b)(7)(E)@techmis.com
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DHS MORNING BRIEFING

Prepared for the Office of Public Affairs (OPA)
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

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Editorial Note: The DHS Daily Briefing is a collection of news articles related to Department's mission. The inclusion of particular stories is not intended to reflect their importance, nor is it intended to endorse the political viewpoints or affiliations included in news coverage.

TO: **Homeland Security Secretary & Staff**
DATE: **Wednesday, April 9, 2025 6:00 AM ET**

Top News

FOX News/NewsMax/New York Post/Breitbart: Gun-toting Noem joins ICE agents to go after criminal illegal aliens in Arizona

Arizona Republic: DHS Secretary Kristi Noem, in Phoenix, touts mass deportations, border security upgrades

Arizona Republic: 'We need more': Homan praises drop in illegal crossings, calls for more resources

ABC News/NewsNation/New York Post/AP/CBS News/NBC News: IRS, DHS sign data-sharing agreement for taxpayer data of those illegally in US

AP/Wall Street Journal/New York Times: IRS acting commissioner is resigning over deal to send immigrants' tax data to ICE, AP sources say

Politico/Daily Caller/FOX News: DHS revokes parole for hundreds of thousands who entered via the CBP One app

Reuters/Daily Wire: Trump plans to fine migrants $998 a day for failing to leave after deportation order

Reuters/ABC News/AP: US given one day to show evidence for deporting Columbia University protester Khalil

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FOX News: More than 900 illegal aliens charged with immigration-related crimes during first week of April: DOJ

Wall Street Journal: Trump Team to Freeze Nearly $2 Billion at Cornell and Northwestern Universities

AP: Judge rejects new trials for 2 convicted of human smuggling in death of family of 4 from India

The Hill: Senate Democrats demand return of wrongfully deported Maryland man

ABC News: Lawyer for man deported in error to El Salvador expects him to be returned to US

AP: Who is Kilmar Abrego Garcia, the man ICE mistakenly deported to an El Salvador prison?

CNN: Supreme Court ruling on Alien Enemies Act raises new due process concerns for migrants

AP: The Alien Enemies Act: What to know about a 1798 law that Trump has invoked for deportations

AP: Trump touts Supreme Court deportation ruling as a major victory, but legal fight is far from over

USA Today: Trump claimed victory on SCOTUS Alien Enemies Act ruling. So did the ACLU. Who's right?

FOX News: Boasberg contempt showdown looms after Supreme Court hands Trump immigration win

The Hill: ACLU files suit to block Alien Enemies Act deportations

Roll Call/Washington Post: Advocates restart efforts to block expulsions under the Alien Enemies Act

Breitbart: Marlow: Alien Enemies Act Decision Marks Beginning of the End of Judicial Tyranny from District Court Judges

FOX News: 'Enough is enough': House Republican touts GOP effort to pass bill cracking down on 'rogue' judges

FOX News: New GOP proposal builds off Laken Riley Act with slew of crimes targeting illegals

NPR: Shortage of immigration judges could slow down Trump deportation goals

AP/FOX News: New offers for buyouts and early retirement offered to Homeland Security staff

NextGov/FCW: DHS cancels S&T grants under a new mission focus for the directorate

Miami Herald: Federal lawmakers slam Homeland Security for shutting down immigration watchdog offices

Washington Examiner: White House tight-lipped on External Revenue Service on eve of tariff implementation

Union Leader: [NH] Dartmouth student from China sues Trump administration officials over revoked student status

Miami Herald: [NH] Dartmouth student's dream jeopardized as he's at risk of deportation, suit says

AP/Blaze/New York Times/New York Post: [NY] Trump administration cancels $188M in grants New York City was using to shelter migrants

Washington Examiner: [NY] Eric Adams blasts 'minimal help' from federal government after Trump pulls grants

New York Times: [NY] Lawyers for Venezuelans Try Again to Stop Deportations, Now in New York

Axios: [AZ] Homan and Kennedy tout Trump admin policies at Arizona Capitol

DailySignal: [AZ] Arizona Lawmaker Introduces Resolution Supporting Trump's Removal of Venezuelan Gang Members

Los Angeles Times: [CA] California lawmakers take steps to shield immigrants from Trump policies

Telemundo: [Mexico] U.S. analyzes drone attacking Mexican cartels with drones

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Los Angeles Times: [Mexico] Mexico warns against potential U.S. drone strikes on cartels

AP: [Mexico] Pentagon official: US military has no authority to do drone strikes on drug cartels in Mexico

New York Post: [El Salvador] Tens of thousands more migrants could be headed to El Salvador's hellhole prison, Kristi Noem says — as she warns all illegal migrants are now criminals

Daily Wire: [El Salvador] 'They'll Take As Many As We Want To Send': Noem Says El Salvador Prison Ready For More Deportees

NPR: [El Salvador] Why Trump is sending Venezuelans to El Salvador

Washington Examiner: [El Salvador] US lowers El Salvador's travel advisory to lowest level

Opinion – Op-Eds

New York Times: This Is Not the Right Way to Curb Migration

Immigration and Customs Enforcement

Breitbart: Trump Plan to Expand Detention of Illegals Is Far Cheaper than Cost of Illegal Immigration to Americans

Washington Post: Judged by the content of their tattoos and the color of their skin.

NPR: What is Tren de Aragua's footprint in the U.S.? Experts say smaller than federal officials say

CNN: [NY] A mom and her 3 kids were detained by ICE last month at a New York dairy farm. They were just released

NPR: [NY] 'We love them': Small N.Y. town embraces a family freed from immigration detention

CNN: [PA] Philadelphia's Carnaval de Puebla canceled amid concerns of ICE presence

Washington Examiner: [MD] Wes Moore weighs signing Maryland bill to block ICE from schools and libraries

NBC News: [MD] How a Chicago Bulls hat led to a Maryland dad being mistakenly shipped to an El Salvador prison

Breitbart: [MD] Maryland Politicians Dump Plans to Block Police Cooperation with ICE

FOX News: [MD] Boyfriend of missing woman detained by ICE amid investigation into her disappearance: police

Dallas Morning News: [TX] 'I dare you to arrest me': North Texas man accused of threatening to kill ICE agents

FOX News: [MT] Mexican man convicted of killing his child to be deported after encountering ICE officers in Montana jail

San Francisco Chronicle: [CA] Ultra budget airline Avelo exits Northern California airport to conduct ICE deportation flights

New York Post: [CA] Youth soccer coach, 43, charged in murder of 13-year-old player, accused of sexually assaulting another boy, is illegal migrant from El Salvador: report

CNN: [El Salvador] In notorious Salvadoran prison, US deportees live in identical cells to convicted gangsters

Citizenship and Immigration Services

USA Today: Trump cancels hundreds of student visas, forcing rapid departures

Wall Street Journal: Student Visas Are Being Revoked Without Reason or Warning, Colleges Say

Axios: What to know about the wave of student visa cancellations

Bloomberg Law News: Trump's Student Visa Revocations Jeopardize H-1B Talent Pipeline

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Breitbart: [MA] Harvard Advises Foreign Students to Reconsider Travel, Warns of Consequences from Anti-Israel Protests

San Francisco Chronicle: [CA] Trump administration sows panic at California universities after revoking over 100 student visas

CNN: [South Sudan] South Sudan to admit man deported by US after blanket visa ban

Customs and Border Protection

Washington Post: Border agents ask lawyer with pro-Palestinian client to give up phone

News Max: Increased Border Security Affecting US Tourism

Washington Examiner/AP: [CA] Noem bypasses environmental regulations to expedite border wall construction in California

Univision: [CA] Two border inspectors arrested in San Ysidro accused of accepting thousands in bribes to cross migrants

Transportation Security Administration

Federal News Network: For safeguarding critical infrastructure, stronger governance alone isn't a magic bullet

NewsNation: [LA] TSA Officers find hidden weapons inside cane

Federal Emergency Management Agency

New York Post: At least 24 dead as historic flooding leaves towns underwater after barrage of severe weather

NPR: [KY] Flooding is still a threat in Kentucky after storms

NBC 5 Seattle: [WA] Potential loss of FEMA grants to Hoquiam and Aberdeen would be a 'gut punch'

Secret Service

FOX News: [MD] California man angry about abortion, gun rights cases pleads guilty to trying to kill Justice Brett Kavanaugh

CBS News: [FL] Trump's would-be assassin Ryan Routh sought weapon to shoot down his plane, DOJ says

Blaze.com: [FL] Elderly Florida man arrested for threatening to kill Trump on social media, Jupiter police say

Coast Guard

Breaking Defense: After Trump's promise of 40 'big' icebreakers, Coast Guard says eight or nine will do

National Defense Magazine: SAS NEWS: New Drones Delivered to Coast Guard This Summer

Maritime Executive: U.S. Coast Guard Cancels New Logistics IT System to Save Money

Newsmax: Trump Admin Touts Enhanced Border Security

ABC 8 New Haven: [CT] Sailboat missing after leaving New Haven for North Carolina: U.S. Coast Guard

ABC 10 Miami: [FL] Cuban human smugglers await sentencing after caught in boat with 18 Ecuadorians, feds say

600 AM San Diego: [CA] Another Human Smuggling Attempt Broken Up

ABC 10 San Diego: [CA] Coast Guard Stops Boat Carrying 22 Migrants

CISA/Cybersecurity

CNN: Trump is dismantling election security networks. State officials are alarmed

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Bloomberg: Hackers Spied on US Bank Regulators' Emails for Over a Year

FOX News: US bank regulator tells Congress it suffered 'major' hack that exposed sensitive information

CyberScoop: Microsoft patches zero-day actively exploited in string of ransomware attacks

Terrorism Investigations

Reuters: US Senate Democrat questions FBI on domestic terrorism staff reassignments

RiverBender.com: Durbin Pushes DHS Secretary Noem, FBI Director Patel To Reverse Course On Cuts To Domestic Terrorism Prevention Efforts

NewsNation: What are the biggest cartels in the US?

AP: [VA] 3 dead, 3 injured in mass shooting in Virginia

NewsMax: [WA] Seattle FBI Probes Damage to Tesla Charging Station

National Security News

The Hill: Gabbard creates task force to probe intelligence community

FOX News: Trump admin fires Navy admiral at NATO targeted by conservative group

Reuters: Musk's DOGE using AI to snoop on U.S. federal workers, sources say

NBC News: Ex-Facebook employee to tell Congress the company undermined U.S. national security

Reuters: Western intelligence agencies warn spyware threat targeting Taiwan, Tibetan rights advocates

New York Times: Trump Pressed Ahead With Sweeping Tariffs

Washington Examiner: Clock strikes midnight: Trump's 'Liberation Day' tariffs take effect

NewsMax: Stephen Miller to Newsmax: Whole World Coming to U.S. to Negotiate Trade

The Hill: Democrats use DOGE hearing to target Trump tariffs

The Hill: [Panama] Hegseth rebuffs China's influence at Panama Canal

NBC News: [Panama] Trump was touting his Panama victory. Then China stepped in.

Reuters: [China] US intelligence agency warns China is trying to recruit government employees

AP: [China] China says it will 'fight to the end' after Trump threatens to impose still more tariffs

CNN: [China] Tariffs on China set to rise to at least 104% on Wednesday, White House say

Bloomberg: [China] Trump's Tariffs Collide With Deepening China Shock

Newsweek: [China] US Ally Confronts China in Contested Waters

The Hill: [China] TikTok extension, potential deal may violate law: Top Senate Democrat

Top News

FOX News/NewsMax/New York Post/Breitbart: Gun-toting Noem joins ICE agents to go after criminal illegal aliens in Arizona

FOX News [4/8/2025 8:53 PM, Greg Wehner, 46189K] reports Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Kristi Noem spent Tuesday morning with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Arizona law enforcement agents going after illegal immigrant criminals in the Phoenix area. Standing with a gun in her hands, Noem said in a video posted to X that she was going out with ICE to pick up someone facing charges of human trafficking. She also said she went out earlier with agents and swept up a person wanted for murder. "I appreciate the work that they do every day, and we appreciate them working to keep America safe," Noem said. In another post, Noem shared images of her standing with law enforcement officials and sitting in an ICE vehicle while wearing a Kevlar vest. She also shared pictures of law

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enforcement officials arresting two men, one who had no shoes and the other who was wearing a pair of Crocs. "Arizona is safer this morning after a successful operation getting criminal illegal aliens and gang members off our streets," Noem wrote. "Thank you to our brave law enforcement officers. If you are in this country illegally, we will find you, arrest you, and send you back." Noem has taken a hands-on approach to her role as the DHS secretary since President Donald Trump appointed her to the position. She recently traveled to El Salvador's Terrorism Confinement Center, where hundreds of migrant criminals were deported last month. Noem toured the facility where she met face-to-face with alleged Tren de Aragua and MS-13 gang members, all of whom were wearing white prison suits and had shaved heads. She also sent a message from the prison to illegal immigrants who are still in the U.S. or plan to visit anytime soon. "First of all, do not come to our country illegally: You will be removed, and you will be prosecuted," she said while standing with her back to the inmates. "But know that this facility is one of the tools in our toolkit that we will use if you commit crimes against the American people." NewsMax [4/8/2025 5:36 PM, Nicole Weatherholtz, 4998K] reports that Noem reportedly greeted agents from ICE's Enforcement and Removal Operations, Homeland Security Investigations, the FBI and the Drug Enforcement Administration in an underground parking garage, shaking hands with and thanking officers for their work while pledging to get them necessary resources. The New York Post [4/8/2025 1:58 PM, Jennie Taer and Chris Nesi, 54900K] reports the Post was there as [Noem] dodged kicks from a suspect wearing slip-on shoes and gamely told him, "You're not scaring me with your Croc." The multi-agency task force — led by Phoenix Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents and joined by a coterie of federal law enforcement and immigration agencies — nabbed three illegal immigrant felons with extensive criminal histories. Noem, clad in police tactical gear including a flak jacket, sported her two-tone gold Rolex as she greeted agents from ICE's Enforcement and Removal Operations, Homeland Security Investigations, the FBI, and the Drug Enforcement Administration in a dingy underground parking garage. She shook hands with officers as she thanked them for their work and pledged to get them the resources they need to do their jobs better. Breitbart [4/8/2025 7:43 PM, Elizabeth Weibel, 2923K] reports that according to the New York Post, Noem "led about 100 federal agents on an early morning raid" in Phoenix. During the "multi-agency" raid, which was led by Phoenix ICE agents, three illegal aliens who were wanted on charges relating to "weapons and drug offenses to running a money laundering operation," were captured, according to the outlet. Noem told the outlet that "the effort of cooperation" there was "between agencies is getting turned onto steroids," and added that anyone in the United States illegally "that's committing crimes and has broken our laws will face consequences." "The effort of cooperation we have between agencies is getting turned onto steroids," Noem told the outlet. "We have this being multiplied across the country exponentially. Now anyone who's in this country illegally that's committing crimes and has broken our laws will face consequences." Per the outlet, one of the suspects who was arrested was Bonifacio Renteria-Cruz, who is an illegal alien "felon from Mexico with ties to the Sinaloa Cartel." Another suspect who was arrested was Jose Escobar-Robles, who was "identified as helping run Monroy Enterprises, a money service business believed to be illegally funneling money to Mexico to benefit cartels." The first suspect arrested was Bonifacio Renteria-Cruz, an illegal migrant felon from Mexico with ties to the Sinaloa Cartel, according to DHS. His lengthy rap sheet includes prior convictions for aggravated assault, weapons charges, and an active arrest warrant in Mexico for homicide.

Reported similarly:
NBC 12 Phoenix [4/8/2025 8:54 PM, Staff]
FOX News [4/8/2025 7:18 PM, Staff, 46189K] Video: HERE
FOX 10 Phoenix [4/8/2025 7:20 PM, Staff]
Arizona Republic [4/8/2025 8:33 PM, Patrick Breen] Video HERE

Arizona Republic: DHS Secretary Kristi Noem, in Phoenix, touts mass deportations, border security upgrades
Arizona Republic [4/8/2025 11:52 PM, Raphael Romero Ruiz] reports Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem praised her department's rollout of President Donald Trump's mass deportation efforts and tougher border security measures during a keynote speech at the Border Security Expo in downtown Phoenix. In her hourlong address, Noem recounted to a crowd of about 800 private sector businesspeople and federal

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and local law enforcement attendees about her decision to lead the Department of Homeland Security and the efforts to implement new tools that "are going to change the way that we operate in this country." "We're going to deploy new technologies, not only at the border, but at our ports of entry and in our interior to make sure that we're sharing information with other agencies at all levels," Noem said. "We're also going to be sharing more information, biometrics, DNA testing, and being much more efficient, working to get everybody more authorities that they need to be able to take action in every single interdiction that we have." The Homeland Security Department has made it a top priority to equip federal law enforcement officers across its agencies to be able to deal with whatever illicit activity they may face in the field, Noem said.

Arizona Republic: 'We need more': Homan praises drop in illegal crossings, calls for more resources

Arizona Republic [4/8/2025 8:02 PM, Raphael Romero Ruiz and Ray Stern] reports U.S. border czar Tom Homan delivered the opening keynote address at the Border Security Expo at the Phoenix Convention Center, where he praised a steep drop in apprehensions at the southern border and called for more resources to hire immigration officers and boost collaboration with local agencies. Homan doubled down on recent controversial immigration enforcement actions and dismissed critics who have labeled him a racist, saying, "I don't care." He contrasted the early weeks of President Donald Trump's second term with previous administrations, crediting Trump for allowing federal authorities to enforce immigration laws, he said. "Border Patrol under the Trump administration secured the border in a matter of weeks. They did what the Biden administration couldn't or wouldn't do in 4 years," Homan told the crowd April 8. According to a preliminary release from U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Border Patrol agents recorded 7,180 arrests between ports of entry along the U.S.-Mexico border in March. Homan called the roughly 94% drop in illegal crossings compared with the same time last year an "unprecedented success." "I'm happy with the numbers, but I'm not satisfied," Homan said. "We need more, and that's where the budget comes in."

Reported similarly:
Arizona Republic [4/8/2025 6:49 PM, Cheryl Evans and Raphael Romero Ruiz]

ABC News/NewsNation/New York Post/AP/CBS News/NBC News: IRS, DHS sign data-sharing agreement for taxpayer data of those illegally in US

ABC News [4/8/2025 1:20 PM, Benjamin Siegel and Luke Barr, 34586K] reports that the IRS and Department of Homeland Security have reached a data-sharing agreement to support the Trump administration's immigration enforcement agenda, according to a court filing late Monday night. Under the terms of the agreement, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement would submit names and addresses of immigrants living in the United States without legal status who have final removal orders, which would be used to check against IRS taxpayer records. A spokesperson for the Treasury Department confirmed the MOU and said the basis is legal. "The Internal Revenue Service and the Immigration and Customs Enforcement have entered into a memorandum of understanding to establish a clear and secure process to support law enforcement's efforts to combat illegal immigration," the Treasury spokesperson said. "The bases for this MOU are founded in longstanding authorities granted by Congress, which serve to protect the privacy of law-abiding Americans while streamlining the ability to pursue criminals," the spokesperson added. "After four years of Joe Biden flooding the nation with illegal aliens, President Trump's highest priority is to ensure the safety of the American people." A senior DHS official said that under the Trump administration, "the government is finally doing what it should have all along: sharing information across the federal government to solve problems." "Biden not only allowed millions of illegal aliens to flood into our country -- he lost them due to incompetence and improper processing," a DHS official said. NewsNation [4/8/2025 3:15 PM, Taylor Delandro, 6900K] reports that "Information sharing across agencies is essential to identify who is in our country, including violent criminals, determine what public safety and terror threats may exist so we can neutralize them, scrub these individuals from voter rolls, as well as identify what public benefits these aliens are using at taxpayer expense," said Assistant DHS Secretary Tricia McLaughlin in a statement to NewsNation. The New York Post [4/8/2025 4:50 PM, Diana

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Glebova, 54900K] reports that “Under President Trump’s leadership, the government is finally doing what it should have all along: sharing information across the federal government to solve problems,” DHS spokesperson Tricia McLaughlin told The Post. The new interagency sharing mechanism will be used to determine which migrants are not legally in the country, as well as what benefits they are using, McLaughlin said. “[Former President Joe] Biden not only allowed millions of illegal aliens to flood into our country—he lost them due to incompetence and improper processing,” the spokesperson added. “Information sharing across agencies is essential to identify who is in our country, including violent criminals, determine what public safety and terror threats may exist so we can neutralize them, scrub these individuals from voter rolls, as well as identify what public benefits these aliens are using at taxpayer expense.” The AP [4/8/2025 3:21 PM, Fatima Hussein, 48304K] reports that the Internal Revenue Service has agreed to share immigrants’ tax data with Immigration and Customs Enforcement for the purpose of identifying and deporting people illegally in the U.S., according to a document signed by Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent and Department of Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem. The new data-sharing arrangement was signed on Monday in the form of a "memorandum of understanding" — found in federal court filings — and will allow ICE to submit names and addresses of immigrants inside the U.S. illegally to the IRS for cross-verification against tax records. Treasury argues that the agreement will help carry out President Donald Trump’s agenda to secure U.S. borders and is part of his larger nationwide immigration crackdown, which has resulted in deportations, workplace raids, and the use of an 18th century wartime law to deport Venezuelan migrants. Advocates, however, say the IRS-DHS information sharing agreement violates longstanding privacy laws and diminishes the privacy of all Americans. Representatives from DHS and ICE did not immediately respond to a request for comment. CBS News [4/8/2025 5:02 PM, Staff, 51661K] reports that the IRS disclosed its memorandum of understanding with the Department of Homeland Security in a court filing in a lawsuit filed by Public Citizen, which seeks to bar the Treasury Department from disclosing tax return information to immigration enforcement authorities. According to the exhibit, the IRS will review all requests and account for disclosures made under the memorandum. While some of the memo is highly redacted, it reveals that the IRS will disclose to ICE the names and addresses of immigrants, among other information. The new data-sharing arrangement will allow ICE to cross-verify the names and addresses of immigrants inside the U.S. illegally with their IRS tax records. Todd Lyons, acting ICE director, told reporters at the Border Security Expo in Phoenix on Tuesday that the agreement would help ICE find people who are collecting benefits they aren’t entitled to and are "kind of hiding in plain sight" using someone else’s identity. Working with Treasury and other departments is "strictly for the major criminal cases," Lyons said. NBC News [4/8/2025 3:46 PM, Suzanne Gamboa, 44742K] reports that according to the DHS’ court filing, ICE, in its requests to the IRS, must ask for the name and address of the person whose information it wants, the tax periods relating to its request, the federal criminal statute under which the individual is being investigated or relating to any nontax-related criminal proceeding involving the individual, and reasons why disclosing the information might be relevant to the nontax-related criminal investigation or proceeding.

Reported similarly:
Los Angeles Times [4/8/2025 3:58 PM, Fatima Hussein, 13342K]
Breitbart [4/8/2025 2:55 PM, John Binder, 2923K]
NPR [4/8/2025 5:59 PM, Joel Rose, 29983K]
Bloomberg Law [4/8/2025 1:53 PM, David Voreacos, 120K]
Axios [4/8/2025 2:30 PM, Brittany Gibson, 13200K]
(B) CNN News Central [4/8/2025 3:23 PM, Staff]
USA Today [4/8/2025 5:26 PM, Eduardo Cuevas, 75858K]
Univision [4/8/2025 3:24 PM, Staff, 5325K] Video: HERE
Telemundo [4/8/2025 2:13 PM, Staff, 2454K]
Washington Examiner [4/8/2025 4:49 PM, Ross O’Keefe, 2296K]

AP/Wall Street Journal/New York Times: IRS acting commissioner is resigning over deal to send immigrants’ tax data to ICE, AP sources say
The AP [4/8/2025 8:50 PM, Fatima Hussein, 48304K] reports the acting commissioner of the Internal Revenue Service is resigning over a deal to share immigrants’ tax data with Immigration and Customs

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Enforcement for the purpose of identifying and deporting people illegally in the U.S., according to two people familiar with the decision. Melanie Krause, who had served as acting head since February, will step down over the new data-sharing document signed Monday by Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent and Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem. The agreement will allow ICE to submit names and addresses of immigrants inside the U.S. illegally to the IRS for cross-verification against tax records. The Treasury Department says the agreement will help carry out President Donald Trump's agenda to secure U.S. borders and is part of his larger nationwide immigration crackdown, which has resulted in deportations, workplace raids and the use of an 18th century wartime law to deport Venezuelan migrants. Advocates, however, say the IRS-DHS information-sharing agreement violates privacy laws and diminishes the privacy of all Americans. Todd Lyons, acting ICE director, told reporters at the Border Security Expo in Phoenix on Tuesday that the agreement will help ICE find people who are collecting benefits they aren't entitled to and are "kind of hiding in plain sight" using someone else's identity. Working with Treasury and other departments is "strictly for the major criminal cases," Lyons said. The Wall Street Journal [4/8/2025 10:30 PM, Richard Rubin, 646K] reports Krause took a deferred-resignation offer available to many federal employees, and is expected to depart the government April 28. She is concerned about the consequences of recent Trump administration decisions about the IRS and doesn't think she can affect those decisions, one of the people said. Krause will become the third IRS chief to exit this year, and her replacement would be the agency's fourth leader in four months. Danny Werfel, who had been nominated and confirmed to the job under President Joe Biden, left on Inauguration Day. His successor, longtime agency official Douglas O'Donnell, exited in late February. President Trump has nominated Billy Long to run the IRS, but he hasn't yet had a Senate confirmation hearing. The New York Times [4/8/2025 9:04 PM, Andrew Duehren, 153395K] reports that the two agencies have not yet shared any information, the filings said. Federal law tightly controls taxpayer information, protecting home addresses, earnings and other data from disclosure even to other government agencies. I.R.S. officials have for weeks raised concerns about the Trump administration's plan to use the agency to help with deportations, warning it could be illegal in negotiations over the agreement. The deal has fueled further turmoil at the top of the agency, which had already been rocked by mass layoffs and several leadership changes during its busiest period of the year, when millions of Americans file their taxes. Among those leaving is Melanie Krause, the acting leader of the I.R.S., who is expected to take the administration's latest deferred resignation offer, according to five people familiar with her plans.

Reported similarly:
New York Times [4/9/2025 3:18 AM, Andrew Duehren, 330K]
New York Post [4/9/2025 2:43 AM, Shane Galvin, 54903K]
The Hill [4/8/2025 10:02 PM, Lauren Irwin, 12829K]
AP [4/8/2025 8:50 PM, Fatima Hussein, 1089K]
Reuters [4/8/2025 7:00 PM, Staff, 41523K]
CNN [4/8/2025 9:51 PM, Rene Marsh and Marshall Cohen, 908K]
USA Today [4/8/2025 10:00 PM, Zac Anderson, 75858K]

Politico/Daily Caller/FOX News: DHS revokes parole for hundreds of thousands who entered via the CBP One app

Politico [4/8/2025 3:43 PM, Ali Bianco, 11600K] reports the Trump administration is revoking parole status for immigrants who entered the U.S. via the Biden-era CBP One app, in a push to get immigrants to voluntarily leave the country. "Under federal law, Secretary [Kristi] Noem — in support of the president — has full authority to revoke parole. Canceling these paroles is a promise kept to the American people to secure our borders and protect national security," a Department of Homeland Security spokesperson told POLITICO in a statement. Some immigrants began receiving formal email notices from the DHS on Tuesday stating that the department would be using its discretionary authority to revoke parole. The move could leave over 900,000 immigrants vulnerable to deportation. The Daily Caller [4/8/2025 2:10 PM, Jason Hopkins, 1082K] reports that foreign nationals paroled into the U.S. through the CBP One app have received final termination notices and must self-deport or else face daily fines and forcible removal, DHS confirmed to the Daily Caller News Foundation Tuesday. Since January 2023, more than 900,000 non-citizens successfully scheduled asylum appointments through the CBP One before it was scrapped by the

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Trump administration in January. "The Biden Administration abused the parole authority to allow millions of illegal aliens into the U.S. which further fueled the worst border crisis in U.S. history," a DHS spokesperson said in a statement provided to the DCNF. "Formal termination notices have been issued, and affected aliens are urged to voluntarily self-deport using the CBP Home App," the spokesperson continued. "Those who refuse will be found, removed, and permanently barred from reentry." "Illegal aliens should use the CBP Home app to self deport and leave the country now," the DHS spokesperson stated to the DCNF. "If they don't, they will face the consequences." FOX News [4/8/2025 7:26 PM, Michael Dorgan Fox, 46189K] reports that the app was used by nearly 1 million migrants to schedule appointments at official ports of entry before they were paroled into the U.S. The migrants were permitted to seek asylum and given temporary work authorization for two years while they waited for the outcomes of their respective proceedings. Trump ended the use of the CBP One app to parole migrants on his first day in office. His administration has also paused applications for parole programs and allowed ICE to cancel parole statuses of migrants. The Trump administration has now begun notifying migrants who used the app, telling them their legal status has been revoked, according to a report by CBS, citing a Homeland Security message the outlet obtained. "If you do not depart the United States immediately you will be subject to potential law enforcement actions that will result in your removal from the United States — unless you have otherwise obtained a lawful basis to remain here," the message reads, per the outlet. The notification encourages migrants to sign up for self-deportation through the CBP One app, which is now called CBP Home. "Again, DHS is terminating your parole. Do not attempt to remain in the United States — the federal government will find you," the notice says. "Please depart the United States immediately." "Formal termination notices have been issued, and affected aliens are urged to voluntarily self-deport using the CBP Home App," a DHS spokesperson said, per the outlet. "Those who refuse will be found, removed, and permanently barred from reentry."

Reuters/Daily Wire: Trump plans to fine migrants $998 a day for failing to leave after deportation order

Reuters [4/8/2025 11:16 AM, Ted Hesson and Kristina Cooke, 41523K] reports the Trump administration plans to fine migrants under deportation orders up to $998 a day if they fail to leave the United States and to seize their property if they do not pay, according to documents reviewed by Reuters. The fines stem from a 1996 law, that was enforced for the first time in 2018, during President Donald Trump's first term in office. The Trump administration plans to apply the penalties retroactively for up to five years, which could result in fines of more than $1 million, a senior Trump official said, requesting anonymity to discuss non-public plans. The Trump administration is also considering seizing the property of immigrants who do not pay the fines, according to government emails reviewed by Reuters. In response to questions from Reuters, U.S. Department of Homeland Security spokesperson Tricia McLaughlin said in a statement that immigrants in the U.S. illegally should use a mobile app formerly known as CBP One - rebranded as CBP Home under Trump - to "self deport and leave the country now." "If they don't, they will face the consequences," McLaughlin said. "This includes a fine of $998 per day for every day that the illegal alien overstayed their final deportation order." DHS warned, of the fines in a March 31 social media post. Emails reviewed by Reuters show the White House has pressed U.S. Customs and Border Protection to handle the issue of penalties, property seizures for migrants who don't pay, and the sale of their assets. The Department of Justice's civil asset forfeiture division could be another option for the seizures, one email said. President Donald Trump kicked off a sweeping immigration crackdown after taking office in January, testing the bounds of U.S. law to increase arrests and deportations. The planned fines target the roughly 1.4 million migrants who have been ordered removed by an immigration judge. Trump invoked the 1996 law during his first term to levy fines of hundreds of thousands of dollars against nine migrants seeking sanctuary in churches. The administration withdrew the penalties, but then proceeded with smaller fines of about $60,000 per person against at least four of the migrants, according to court records. President Joe Biden stopped issuing the fines and rescinded, related policies when he took office in 2021. Scott Shuchart, a top ICE policy official under Biden, said migrants and their supporters could challenge the fines in court but that the threat alone could have a chilling effect. "Their point isn't really to enforce the law, it's to project fear in communities," he said. DHS did not immediately respond to a request for comment. The Daily Wire [4/8/2025 2:35 PM, Spencer Lindquist] reports that the administration says it will enforce the penalties retroactively to cover up to five years, resulting in fines of more than $1 million

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against offenders. The government could even seize the assets of migrants who refuse to leave the United States on their own accord despite having an order of removal. U.S. Department of Homeland Security spokesperson Tricia McLaughlin explained that migrants can inform the government of their intent to depart the country via the Customs and Border Patrol Home app, an overhauled version of the CBP One app that the Biden administration used to streamline the flow of migrants into the United States.

Reported similarly:
Bloomberg [4/8/2025 3:26 PM, Hadriana Lowenkron, 16228K]
Breitbart [4/8/2025 2:22 PM, Warner Todd Huston, 2923K]
NPR [4/8/2025 4:27 PM, Joel Rose, Sergio Martínez-Beltrán, 29983K]
NewsMax [4/8/2025 7:31 AM, Ted Hesson, Kristina Cooke, 4998K]
CBS News [4/8/2025 7:24 AM, Staff, 51661K]
San Diego Union Tribune [4/8/2025 7:57 AM, Staff, 1682K]

Reuters/ABC News/AP: US given one day to show evidence for deporting Columbia University protester Khalil

Reuters [4/8/2025 7:55 PM, Jonathan Allen and Luc Cohen, 41523K] report an immigration judge on Tuesday gave the U.S. government a day to show evidence that Columbia University student Mahmoud Khalil should be deported and said she would rule on the case on Friday, a month after his arrest in New York and transfer to a rural Louisiana jail 1,200 miles (1,931.21 km) away. "If he's not removable, I'm going to be terminating this case on Friday," Assistant Chief Immigration Judge Jamee Comans said during a hearing at the LaSalle Immigration Court in Jena, Louisiana. If the government's deportation case is terminated at the hearing scheduled for Friday afternoon, Khalil, 30, is free under immigration law. The government cannot challenge the termination, but if the judge terminates the case without prejudice it can attempt to file the removal case again. Khalil sat at a table in the courtroom, wrapping prayer beads around his right hand as he listened to his attorney Marc Van Der Hout appear remotely from California on a nearby screen to tell the court he had not received a single document of the government's evidence. "There's nothing more important to this court than Mr. Khalil's due process rights," Comans told Van Der Hout after he asked for more time to review the government's evidence. "I'm also not going to keep Mr. Khalil detained while attorneys go back and forth about documents." Department of Homeland Security lawyers told Comans they would provide the evidence by her 5 p.m. Wednesday deadline. In a statement later, Khalil's attorney Van Der Hout said he was concerned the judge would rule without giving the defense time to respond to the government's case, a concern he had raised earlier in court. "What this case is really about is whether lawful permanent residents — and other immigrants to this country — can speak out about what is happening in Gaza, or any other important matters of discussion in the national discourse without fear of deportation for expressing beliefs that are completely protected by the First Amendment," Van Der Hout said. "Are U.S. citizens going to be next?" ABC News [4/8/2025 4:50 PM, Armando Garcia and Nadine El-Bawab, 34586K] reports Khalil, a leader of the encampment protests at Columbia last spring, was detained on March 8, then taken to an immigration detention facility in Elizabeth, New Jersey, before ending up in a Louisiana detention center, his attorneys said. At an immigration hearing in Jena, Louisiana, on Tuesday, Judge Jamee Comans set another hearing for Friday to give Khalil's team time to review the evidence and respond to it. Comans said she will then make a determination whether he is removable or order him to be released. Comans conveyed a sense of urgency to get these issues resolved, noting Khalil had already spent several weeks in detention. She told both parties she was "not going to keep him detained" while they argued over his removability.
The AP [4/8/2025 5:55 PM, Sara Cline and Jake Offenhartz, 48304K] reports that on March 8, Khalil became the first in a growing number of foreign-born students targeted for deportation by the Trump administration for participating in campus protests against Israel and the war in Gaza. As Khalil's immigration case plays out in Louisiana, his attorneys have also challenged his detention and potential deportation before a federal judge in New Jersey. That judge last week rejected the Trump administration's effort to transfer jurisdiction of the legal battle to Louisiana, but has yet to rule on the petition for his release.

Reported similarly:

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NPR [4/8/2025 11:48 PM, Adrian Florido, 29983K]
NBC News [4/8/2025 10:31 PM, Chloe Atkins, 44742K]
CNN [4/8/2025 8:46 PM, Gloria Pazmino, 908K]
FOX News [4/8/2025 5:23 PM, Sarah Rumpf-Whitten, Sarah Alegre, 46189K]

FOX News: More than 900 illegal aliens charged with immigration-related crimes during first week of April: DOJ

FOX News [4/9/2025 4:39 AM, Elizabeth Pritchett, 46189K] reports U.S. attorneys for six southwestern border districts charged nearly 1,000 illegal aliens with immigration-related crimes during the first week of April under Operation Take Back America, the Department of Justice said on Tuesday. The districts involved include Arizona, Central California, Southern California, New Mexico, Southern Texas and Western Texas. The District of Arizona brought charges against 204 illegal aliens; 83 of whom were charged with illegal reentry and 107 were charged with illegal entry. Fourteen people, including Ivan Mauricio Hernandez-Mosqueda, were also charged with smuggling humans into and within the district. Hernandez Mosqueda, a Mexican national, was sentenced to 46 months in prison for smuggling more than 100 illegal aliens into the U.S., the DOJ said, adding that he coached some of them to "claim asylum under false pretenses" when entering the country. The Southern District of California filed 97 cases, bringing charges against defendants for transporting illegal aliens, bringing them in for financial gain, bribery by a public official, illegal reentry and bringing in controlled substances. One of the illegal immigrants charged is Mexican national Francisco Anguiano Rios, who attempted to bring 209 packages containing 547 pounds of cocaine across the border at the Otay Mesa Port of Entry. There were 24 defendants charged in the Central District of California for reentering the U.S. following removal, including criminals who were found guilty of felonies prior to previous deportation.

Wall Street Journal: Trump Team to Freeze Nearly $2 Billion at Cornell and Northwestern Universities

Wall Street Journal [4/8/2025 11:33 PM, Douglas Belkin and Meridith McGraw, 646K] reports the Trump administration has frozen more than $1 billion in federal funding for Cornell and $790 million for Northwestern, according to a Trump administration official. The federal government is investigating both schools for alleged civil-rights violations, as part of a rapidly expanding crackdown on elite research universities across the U.S. The latest funding at issue relates to grants and contracts with the departments of agriculture, defense, education and health and human services. A Northwestern University spokesman said the school hasn't received any official notification about a freeze. Cornell President Michael I. Kotlikoff said in a letter to the school community that while the university hadn't received information confirming the $1 billion figure, earlier Tuesday the school had "received more than 75 stop work orders" from the Department of Defense related to national defense, cybersecurity, and health research. "The affected grants include research into new materials for jet engines, propulsion systems, large-scale information networks, robotics, superconductors, and space and satellite communications, as well as cancer research," Kotlikoff said. More than $10 billion in funding has now been pulled, paused or is under review at prominent schools including Columbia, Harvard, Princeton, Brown and the University of Pennsylvania. President Trump has vowed to go after campuses that his team views as liberal hotbeds that failed to protect Jewish students during the pro-Palestinian protests that have disrupted campuses over the last two academic years. The administration also has targeted funding in university diversity, equity and inclusion, or DEI, initiatives and other programs it says aren't aligned with the Trump team's priorities.

Reported similarly:
AP [4/9/2025 12:57 AM, Staff, 2923K]
CNN [4/9/2025 3:30 AM, Samantha Waldenberg, TuAnh Dam and Taylor Romine, 908K]

AP: Judge rejects new trials for 2 convicted of human smuggling in death of family of 4 from India

AP [4/8/2025 3:08 PM, Steve Karnowski, 48304K] reports a federal judge on Tuesday rejected requests for new trials for two men convicted on human smuggling charges in the deaths of four members of a

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family from India who froze to death while trying to cross the Canadian border into Minnesota during a blizzard in 2022. U.S. District Judge John Tunheim declined to set aside the guilty verdicts that a jury returned last November against Harshkumar Ramanlal Patel and Steve Anthony Shand. His order clears the way for the two defendants to take their cases to a federal appeals court after he sentences them on May 7. Attorneys for both men argued that the evidence was insufficient. The judge found that there was sufficient evidence for the jury to find both Shand and Patel guilty on all four counts. He said the failure of prosecutors until late in the trial to disclose a prior disciplinary action against a Border Patrol agent who testified, while troubling, had a minimal impact on the overall case. He also stood by his decision to try the defendants together rather than separately.

The Hill: Senate Democrats demand return of wrongfully deported Maryland man
The Hill [4/8/2025 3:22 PM, Tara Suter, 12829K] reports Senate Democrats demanded the return of a wrongfully deported Maryland man in a Tuesday letter. "We write to express our concerns regarding the deportation of Kilmar Abrego Garcia to El Salvador, an action which the Administration admitted in a recent court filing was an 'administrative error,'" reads the letter, addressed to Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem and Immigration and Customs Enforcement acting Director Todd Lyons. The senators also pressed Lyons and Noem on whether there are other similar cases and asked for how the administration would make certain protected immigrants receive "appropriate due process."

ABC News: Lawyer for man deported in error to El Salvador expects him to be returned to US
ABC News [4/8/2025 4:32 PM, Laura Romero, 34586K] reports the government says it can't get Kilmar Armando Abrego Garcia back. The attorney for Kilmar Armando Abrego Garcia, the Maryland man who was deported in error to El Salvador, said Tuesday that he expects Abrego Garcia to be returned to the U.S. Abrego Garcia -- despite having protected legal status preventing his deportation to El Salvador, where he escaped political violence in 2011 -- was sent to that country's notorious CECOT mega-prison following what the government said was an "administrative error." Trump administration officials have said Abrego Garcia is a member of the criminal gang MS-13, but his attorney Simon Sandoval-Moshenberg has disputed that, saying the government has provided no proof of their allegations. U.S. District Judge Paula Xinis ordered the Trump administration to return Abrego Garcia from El Salvador by Monday at midnight, before Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts on Monday issued a temporary administrative stay delaying the midnight deadline in order to give the court more time to consider the arguments presented by both sides.

AP: Who is Kilmar Abrego Garcia, the man ICE mistakenly deported to an El Salvador prison?
AP [4/8/2025 2:57 PM, Ben Finley, 48304K] reports as it stands, Kilmar Abrego Garcia's story begins and ends in his native El Salvador. When he was a boy, a local gang extorted his family, tried to indoctrinate him and threatened to kill him, according to his immigration case. He fled to the U.S. at 16. He was forced back last month at 29, mistakenly deported by President Donald Trump's administration to a notorious prison that observers say is rife with abuse. In between was his American life: Working construction, getting married and raising children with disabilities, according to court records. He was also accused by local police in Maryland of being an MS-13 gang member. Abrego Garcia denied the allegation and was never charged, according to court records. A U.S. immigration judge ultimately granted him protection from being deported back to El Salvador in 2019 because he likely faced persecution there by local gangs. Abrego Garcia is now at the center of a legal battle that has reached the U.S. Supreme Court and raises questions about due process and the Trump administration's ability — or willingness — to retrieve him from El Salvador.

CNN: Supreme Court ruling on Alien Enemies Act raises new due process concerns for migrants
CNN [4/8/2025 2:53 PM, John Fritze, 22131K] reports the Supreme Court ruling that permits President Donald Trump to use a centuries-old wartime authority to speed deportations is drawing sharp criticism from immigration experts who fear the decision could erode migrants' due process rights to have their cases reviewed before they're sent to a foreign prison. The court's 5-4 ruling Monday night requires those challenging Trump's use of the Alien Enemies Act to rely on a complicated and rarely successful legal

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process known as habeas corpus, and to potentially file those claims in some of the most conservative federal courts in the nation. The lack of clarity around how people facing deportation under the 1798 law will be notified and whether they'll be able to access a lawyer to help them navigate that process is prompting questions about whether Trump's targets under the act will actually receive the due process the Supreme Court majority promised in its unsigned opinion.

AP: The Alien Enemies Act: What to know about a 1798 law that Trump has invoked for deportations

AP [4/8/2025 4:07 PM, Tim Sullivan and Mark Sherman, 48304K] reports the Supreme Court has allowed the Trump administration to use a 1798 wartime law, the Alien Enemies Act, to deport Venezuelan migrants it accuses of being gang members, ending the temporary halt on deportations ordered by a federal district judge. But the court also ruled that the administration must give Venezuelans it claims are gang members the chance to legally fight any deportation orders. The ruling did not address the constitutionality of the act. The Monday ruling came after the wartime law was used last month to fly more than 130 men accused of being members of the gang Tren de Aragua to El Salvador, where the U.S. has paid to have the men held in a notorious prison. The Trump administration argues that the gang has become an invading force. The Venezuelans deported under the act under the act did not get a chance to challenge the orders, and attorneys for many of the men say there's no evidence they are gang members. It remains unclear how the ruling will affect those men. American Civil Liberties Union attorney Lee Gelernt said it was an "important victory" that people must now be given the right to challenge their removal orders.

AP: Trump touts Supreme Court deportation ruling as a major victory, but legal fight is far from over

AP [4/8/2025 4:04 PM, Lindsay Whitehurst and Alanna Durkin Richer] reports the Trump administration is touting a Supreme Court ruling allowing it to resume deportations under the Alien Enemies Act as a major victory, but the immigration fight is far from over. The divided court found that President Donald Trump can use the 18th century wartime law to deport Venezuelan migrants accused of being gang members to a notorious prison in El Salvador, a finding Trump called a "GREAT DAY FOR JUSTICE IN AMERICA!" in a social media post. But the justices also decided people accused of being members of the Tren de Aragua gang have to get a chance to challenge their removals — a finding their lawyers called an "important victory." The legal landscape could be more challenging, though, since it appears the people being held will have to file individually and in the district where they are detained. For many, that's in Texas. Meanwhile, the Supreme Court is also weighing another case against a Maryland man deported by mistake that could shed light on the fate of more than 100 men accused of being gang members who have already been sent to prison in El Salvador. The ruling doesn't let the deportations under the law resume right away.

USA Today: Trump claimed victory on SCOTUS Alien Enemies Act ruling. So did the ACLU. Who's right?

USA Today [4/8/2025 5:56 PM, Aysha Bagchi and Eduardo Cuevas, 75858K] reports that a temporary restraining order blocking the Trump administration from deporting migrants to a notorious Salvadoran mega-prison under an obscure 18th-century law was tossed out by the Supreme court Monday – but that doesn't mean the Supreme Court was actually rubber-stamping the deportations. In mid-March, Trump invoked the 1798 Alien Enemies Act to expedite deportations. The administration zeroed in migrants alleging they were criminals or members of Tren de Aragua, a Venezuelan gang the administration labeled a terrorist organization. Last month, officials placed the first of more than 200 Venezuelan migrants in El Salvador's Terrorism Confinement Center, also known as CECOT. The prison has been criticized by human rights observers for its harsh and dangerous conditions, as well as its treatment of people held in custody without due process. Family members and advocates of the expelled Venezuelan migrants have said the evidence of their alleged ties to gangs is scant, as USA TODAY reported, focusing on tattoos of images such as crowns. The Supreme Court didn't rule on whether the evidence in the government's possession was enough to justify the deportations. Administration officials celebrated the

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ruling. Federal officials have said the U.S. paid the Salvadoran government $6 million to house the migrants. Salvadoran President Nayib Bukele has said the U.S. will play little to house them for one year that is "renewable." Kristi Noem, Homeland Security secretary, visited the facility in late March after officials flew the first migrants to El Salvador and placed them in the prison. CECOT doesn't allow visitations or outdoor recreation. It's located at the base of a volcano in a rural region southeast of the capital San Salvador.

FOX News: Boasberg contempt showdown looms after Supreme Court hands Trump immigration win

FOX News [4/8/2025 8:00 AM, Breanne Deppisch, 46189K] reports a federal judge is weighing whether to hold Trump administration officials in civil contempt after they defied a court order blocking deportation flights last month – even as the Supreme Court on Monday handed the administration a temporary legal victory, allowing it to resume use of the 1798 Alien Enemies Act to deport illegal immigrants. President Donald Trump's immigration agenda is colliding with the federal judiciary as his administration races to fulfill a central campaign promise: mass deportations. The aggressive pace – which has included the removal of alleged members of violent transnational gangs – has triggered a wave of legal challenges from critics who claim the administration is unlawfully ejecting migrants from the country. The high court's 5–4 decision, which Trump praised on X as a "great day for justice in America," lifted a lower court's injunction and allows deportations to resume for now, though with added due process protections. The unsigned, four-page ruling focused narrowly on the lower court's order and permits the administration to invoke the wartime-era Alien Enemies Act to expedite removals. However, the ruling does little to halt the escalating feud between the Trump administration and U.S. District Judge James Boasberg, who has signaled he may hold administration officials in contempt for defying his order last month to ground deportation flights. Boasberg is set to preside over a hearing Tuesday to address the administration's use of the state secrets privilege to block the court from accessing information about the flights. It will mark the judge's first opportunity to respond since the Supreme Court sided with Trump. Though Trump and his allies celebrated the Supreme Court's intervention, the decision offers only a narrow and potentially short-lived reprieve. The ruling requires the administration to provide detainees slated for removal with proper notice and an opportunity to challenge their deportation in court. However, the justices said those legal challenges must be filed in Texas – not in Washington, D.C. – a jurisdictional shift that injects fresh uncertainty into the lower court proceedings. The decision drew a scathing dissent from Justice Sonia Sotomayor, who warned that the ruling would make it significantly harder for individuals to contest their removals on a case-by-case basis. "We, as a Nation and a court of law, should be better than this," she said.

The Hill: ACLU files suit to block Alien Enemies Act deportations

The Hill [4/8/2025 4:05 PM, Rebecca Beitsch, 12829K] reports the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) filed a suit on behalf of two Venezuelan migrants who expect to be deported under the Alien Enemies Act (AEA) and face possible removal to a Salvadoran prison. The suit is the first in the wake of a Supreme Court decision lifting a temporary restraining order from a lower court that had blocked the Trump administration from using the law to deport people. The two men were parties to the original suit from the ACLU seeking to bar the Trump administration from using the Alien Enemies Act as a basis for deportations. A late Monday ruling from the Supreme Court determined that the D.C. court did not have jurisdiction over the matter, saying that the men would have to sue where they were detained, promoting the suit in New York, where both men are being held in the Orange County Correctional Facility. But the decision also made clear the Trump administration must provide reasonable notice for Venezuelans to challenge their deportation — an instruction that comes as many of those deported have denied any affiliation with the gang. The new suit alleges the Trump administration has failed to do so now that it is free to resume deportation flights under the Alien Enemies Act.

Roll Call/Washington Post: Advocates restart efforts to block expulsions under the Alien Enemies Act

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Roll Call [4/8/2025 4:58 PM, Chris Johnson, 503K] reports civil liberties groups filed a new lawsuit Tuesday to challenge the Trump administration's use of the 1798 law known as the Alien Enemies Act to deport alleged members of a Venezuelan gang, the day after the Supreme Court clarified how migrants can bring those legal challenges. The American Civil Liberties Union and others asked a judge in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York to halt the removal of two migrants in detention in the area and stop President Donald Trump's effort to use the old national security law against others in their situation. The Supreme Court on Monday allowed the Trump administration to move forward on enforcing a presidential proclamation to remove members of Tren de Aragua, but said the government must give them a chance to challenge their detention in the court with jurisdiction over where they are being held. The Washington Post [4/8/2025 6:57 PM, Maria Sacchetti and Marianne LeVine, 31735K] reports immigrant advocates re-upped their legal challenges Tuesday to the Trump administration's use of a wartime powers act to swiftly deport alleged Venezuelan gang members, fighting the issue in court districts where immigrants are being held one day after the Supreme Court dismissed their nationwide legal challenge on technical grounds. As the Trump administration celebrated the Supreme Court ruling, lawyers for immigrants said the justices made clear they could challenge the expulsions in areas where immigrants are being detained pending deportation, and they filed the first lawsuit in Manhattan on behalf of two immigrants being held in New York. Others could follow in federal judicial districts that house thousands of detainees, such as Texas and Louisiana. In the lawsuit, lawyers asked the court to declare President Donald Trump's proclamation last month invoking the Alien Enemies Act of 1798 to summarily deport immigrants "unlawful" and bar him from removing anyone from the court's district under the act. U.S. District Judge Alvin K. Hellerstein, who was appointed by President Bill Clinton, scheduled a hearing for 10 a.m. Wednesday in New York, and immediately barred the government from deporting the plaintiffs in the case, immigrants identified only by their initials, G.F.F. and J.G.O. The president secretly signed the proclamation targeting alleged members of the Venezuelan gang Tren de Aragua, enabling officers to deport more than 130 men without a hearing — or advance warning — to a mega-prison in El Salvador on March 15 in one of the most shocking and high-profile acts of Trump's term. "Contrary to the administration's wishful characterization, the Supreme Court emphatically rejected the government's position that they could whisk people away without giving them an opportunity to challenge their removal to a foreign prison," said American Civil Liberties Union lawyer Lee Gelernt, who is arguing the case. "The Court simply issued a technical ruling that the challenges should be by habeas corpus, but in no way remotely suggested the Trump administration would win these challenges." A Justice Department spokesperson said in a statement Tuesday that the department "has vigorously defended President Trump's policies and will continue to do so whenever challenged in federal court by rogue judges who think they can control the President's foreign policy and national security agenda. The Supreme Court's recent decisions have validated the DOJ's ongoing arguments to this end in court."

Breitbart: Marlow: Alien Enemies Act Decision Marks Beginning of the End of Judicial Tyranny from District Court Judges

Breitbart [4/8/2025 8:09 PM, Staff, 2923K] Video: HERE reports on Tuesday's "Alex Marlow Show," host and Breitbart Editor-in-Chief Alex Marlow discussed the Supreme Court's deportation ruling. Marlow stated that "the most important part of this decision…it was clear from the context…the court's opinion is that Boasberg went out of his jurisdiction. His jurisdiction should have been confined to a district, he's a district judge, this case should have been brought in Texas. Instead, it was brought in D.C. … to judge-shop…this is the beginning of the court pushing back on the idea that these district judges can overwhelm the executive branch and have, essentially, a veto over President Trump's executive actions."

FOX News: 'Enough is enough': House Republican touts GOP effort to pass bill cracking down on 'rogue' judges

FOX News [4/8/2025 8:00 AM, Andrew Mark Miller, 46189K] reports that, as House Republicans move forward with legislation this week that they say would wrangle "rogue" judges across the country who have been blocking President Trump's agenda, Fox News Digital spoke to GOP Rep. Abe Hamadeh about the importance of that quest. "If you look at what President Trump has been going through compared to previous presidents, it's unheard of," Hamadeh told Fox News Digital about the dozens of

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injunctions already issued against Trump since taking office. "It's unprecedented the amount of injunctions trying to stop President Trump's America First agenda, which, overwhelmingly, the American people support, and to have one district court judge be able to determine the direction of our country is not what the judiciary is meant for." The No Rogue Rulings Act (NORRA), introduced by Rep. Darrell Issa, R-Calif., would limit district court judges' ability to issue orders blocking Trump policies nationwide, and Republicans are expected to advance the legislation out of the House Rules Committee and vote this week. Hamadeh says he supports Issa's bill, which Issa told Fox News Digital when he introduced it was introduced in February, will push back on the current judge-shopping climate in the United States that he says represents "judicial tyranny" and "weaponization of courts." Hamadeh explained that he has signed onto several efforts to impeach some of the judges who have issued nationwide injunctions, knowing that the efforts are unlikely to succeed but to send the message that the sentiment in Congress and with Trump voters is one that believes "enough is enough." One of those judges facing impeachment calls, U.S. District Court Judge James Boasberg, issued an emergency order temporarily halting the Trump administration's deportation flights under the Alien Enemies Act, which Hamadeh took particular issue with. [Editorial note: consult video at source link]

FOX News: New GOP proposal builds off Laken Riley Act with slew of crimes targeting illegals
FOX News [4/8/2025 4:59 PM, Cameron Arcand, 46189K] reports legislation will be introduced Tuesday to expand the list of crimes that would require a migrant to be taken into custody. The "Safeguarding American Property Act" would add arson, vandalism and trespassing to the crimes that would require those in the country illegally to be placed into federal custody. Specifically, it would amend the Immigration and Nationality Act. The Montana Republican's legislation is meant to help rural communities, which could have limited law enforcement resources to protect property.

NPR: Shortage of immigration judges could slow down Trump deportation goals
NPR [4/8/2025 4:58 PM, Ximena Bustillo, 29983K] Audio: HERE reports these judges, and their staff, are caught in the crosshairs of Trump's twin efforts to increase deportations — and reduce the size of the federal government.

AP/FOX News: New offers for buyouts and early retirement offered to Homeland Security staff
The AP [4/8/2025 3:24 PM, Rebecca Santana, 48304K] reports the Department of Homeland Security is offering buyouts and early retirement options to staffers, as the Trump administration pushes forward with efforts to reduce and reshape the federal workforce, according to an email obtained by The Associated Press. In the email, titled "Reshaping of the DHS Workforce," Secretary Kristi Noem said the department would give staffers who want to leave three options: deferred resignation, early retirement and a voluntary separation payment. The email, which was sent Monday night, said the last option offers a lump-sum payment of up to $25,000 in some cases. Staff have until April 14 to decide on whether to apply for the offer. Homeland Security has so far avoided the widespread, sweeping layoffs seen in other agencies across the federal government. In fact, the department has been advertising on social media that it's looking for more staff in areas critical to immigration enforcement, such as Immigration and Customs Enforcement and Homeland Security Investigations. Some areas of the department have seen cuts, including at a center focused on reducing targeted violence and terrorism. Also, 200 probationary FEMA employees were fired earlier this year, and three offices designed to provide oversight of the department were gutted. Noem said that law enforcement officials would generally be exempt from the buyout offer. FOX News [4/8/2025 11:44 AM, Danielle Wallace, 46189K] reports "I am writing to share important news regarding new voluntary workforce transition programs approved for immediate implementation across the Department," Noem wrote, according to Politico. She said the options "reflect our commitment to aligning our workforce with the evolving mission needs while supporting the personal and professional goals of our dedicated employees." "By offering these options, we intend to provide flexibility for employees who may be considering a change, retirement or new career opportunities while also supporting the Department's operational readiness," Noem added, according to Axios. A DHS spokesperson told Axios about the voluntary exit offers that "the American people deserve a government that works for them, something President Trump has promised." "Every dollar spent and position filled at

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DHS should be focused on our core mission of securing our homeland and keeping the American people safe," the spokesperson reportedly added. Noem is aiming to reduce the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) by as much as a third, and if the voluntary offers don't adequately shrink the agency, "reduction in force" notices could come next, Axios reported, citing sources familiar with the matter. At a Cabinet meeting last month, Noem said she would "eliminate" the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), as the Trump administration moves to hand powers on disaster response back to the states.

Reported similarly:
(B) WJLA 24/7 News ON YOUR SIDE at 2 [4/8/2025 2:52 PM, Staff]

NextGov/FCW: DHS cancels S&T grants under a new mission focus for the directorate
NextGov/FCW [4/8/2025 10:26 AM, Alexandra Kelley, 92K] reports the Department of Homeland Security halted all funding to grants and cooperative agreements housed in its Science and Technology Directorate, part of a larger transformation effort to realign the directorate's mission areas of focus, according to two sources familiar with the decision. In a memo sent to S&T staff last week and obtained by Nextgov/FCW, titled "Termination of the Centers of Excellence," DHS leadership called for cutting all S&T financial assistance. S&T's Centers of Excellence program is a collaborative research effort composed of nine centers that pairs government resources with colleges and universities. The letter was signed by DHS Acting Undersecretary Julie Brewer and sent to DHS Secretary Kristi Noem. As justification for terminating the COEs, the memo cited a risk of "potential misalignment with current strategic priorities" and conflict with new departmental guidance. "The purpose of this memorandum is to request your approval to terminate all current and pending grants and cooperative agreements administered by the Science and Technology Directorate, including all Centers of Excellence cooperative agreements and any other S&T grants managed through the DHS grants and Financial Assistance Division," the memo said. While ongoing funding for select S&T programming has been halted, the Trump administration identified new national security priorities the directorate will focus on, according to a second memo obtained by Nextgov/FCW and dated March 4 that was also sent by Brewer.

Miami Herald: Federal lawmakers slam Homeland Security for shutting down immigration watchdog offices
Miami Herald [4/8/2025 8:51 AM, Veronica Egui Brito and Syra Ortiz Blanes, 3973K] reports that dozens of Democratic federal lawmakers slammed the Department of Homeland Security for shuttering key agency watchdogs amid reports of overcrowding and civil rights violations of immigrant detainees at the Krome Detention Center, among other facilities. In a letter Tuesday to Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem, 49 members of the House said the "closure of these offices raises serious questions about DHS's transparency and compliance with the law." The lawmakers' correspondence highlighted a Miami Herald investigation about detainees at Krome suffering overcrowding, guard-perpetrated mistreatment, and days-long confinement in small rooms with delayed access to medical care, showers, and legal counsel. The letter also comes as the Trump administration ramps up immigration arrests as part of its mass deportation efforts. The lawmakers said they were outraged that Homeland Security had "effectively closed" several oversight offices on March 21, including the Citizenship and Immigration Services Ombudsman, the Immigration Detention Ombudsman, and the Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties. DHS spokesperson Tricia McLaughlin told NPR that said the reason for shutting down the offices was because they have obstructed immigration enforcement by "adding bureaucratic hurdles and undermining the mission," and that "rather than supporting law enforcement efforts, they often function as internal adversaries that slow down operations."

Washington Examiner: White House tight-lipped on External Revenue Service on eve of tariff implementation
Washington Examiner [4/8/2025 2:58 PM, Christian Datoc, 2296K] reports White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt declined to answer questions about how President Donald Trump's yet-to-be-launched External Revenue Service will work, just hours before he's set to enact a wave of tariffs on nearly 90

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countries. In January, Trump signed an executive order directing Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick to establish the ERS to collect revenue from the president's tariffs and potentially even supplant the Internal Revenue Service. White House officials, including Leavitt, had previously stated the administration would deliver more details about the ERS when Trump's tariffs went into effect but directed inquiries on the agency to the Department of Commerce when pressed for information Tuesday. Currently, U.S. Customs and Border Protection handles tariff oversight, including revenue collection and evasion enforcement. Experts warned the Washington Examiner after Trump's "Liberation Day" announcement last week that CBP might not be fully equipped to take on the increase in responsibilities. CBP officials, however, told the Washington Examiner that the agency is fully equipped to continue its tariff oversight, including potentially housing the ERS itself.

Union Leader: [NH] Dartmouth student from China sues Trump administration officials over revoked student status

Union Leader [4/8/2025 9:47 PM, Jonathan Phelps] reports a Dartmouth College doctoral student from China filed a lawsuit against federal authorities after his student immigration status was "unlawfully and abruptly terminated" last week, the ACLU of New Hampshire said. Xiaotian Liu, 26, worked with the American Civil Liberties Union and Shaheen & Gordon law firm to file the suit against Kristi Noem, secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, and Todd Lyons, acting director of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, in federal court. Dartmouth College is aware of two students who have had their records terminated in the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS), college spokeswoman Jana Barnello said in a statement. "Dartmouth is in direct contact with the two affected individuals, and, more broadly, is committed to helping impacted community members connect with legal and support resources," she said. Students at other universities across the country have faced similar status changes. The college told Liu that the system could have found that he failed to maintain his status because of a criminal records check or that his visa was revoked, according to the lawsuit. Liu, who has been in New Hampshire since September 2023, has no criminal record, no traffic violations and has never participated in any protest, according to the lawsuit.

Miami Herald: [NH] Dartmouth student's dream jeopardized as he's at risk of deportation, suit says

Miami Herald [4/8/2025 1:05 PM, Julia Marnin, 3973K] reports that an international student's future in America is uncertain after the U.S. Department of Homeland Security suddenly revoked his student immigration status, jeopardizing his doctoral program at Dartmouth College and putting him at risk of deportation, a new federal lawsuit says. Xiaotian Liu, who's been working toward a PhD degree since he enrolled as a doctoral student at Dartmouth in September 2023, is one of several students in the U.S. who had their F-1 student status revoked without warning or reason by DHS on April 4, according to the lawsuit filed on his behalf by the ACLU of New Hampshire and Shaheen & Gordon P.A. law firm. Now, the ACLU of New Hampshire and the law firm are challenging DHS' authority, arguing that Liu's student status was protected by the Student and Exchange Visitor program, which is managed by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. "Xiaotian's dream of finishing his doctoral program and obtaining a Ph.D. at Dartmouth College is now in severe jeopardy because of DHS's decision to abruptly terminate his F-1 student status under the (Student and Exchange Visitor) system without affirmatively notifying him or even his school on or about Friday, April 4, 2025," a federal complaint filed April 7 says. DHS and ICE didn't immediately return McClatchy News' request for comment April 8. With his student immigration status no longer valid, Liu could potentially be detained and deported by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, according to the filing, which names DHS Secretary Kristi Noem and ICE Acting Director Todd Lyons as defendants.

AP/Blaze/New York Times/New York Post: [NY] Trump administration cancels $188M in grants New York City was using to shelter migrants

The AP [4/8/2025 3:18 PM, Anthony Izaguirre, 48304K] reports the Trump administration canceled $188 million in federal grants meant to reimburse New York City for sheltering migrants, saying the money was being spent to support illegal immigration and leading the city's mayor to vow to fight the clawback. In a letter sent April 1 and shared with The Associated Press on Tuesday, the Federal Emergency

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Management Agency informed city officials that it was canceling the grants, which included roughly $80 million that the agency withdrew from city's bank account in February. The latest move would require the city to return an additional $106 million that officials said was used to house and care for migrants. Mayor Eric Adams, whose administration has sued for the return of the initial $80 million, said his office would also fight the wider grant cancellations. In his letter to city officials, FEMA's acting director, Cameron Hamilton, wrote that the grant program is inconsistent with Trump administration priorities and that "individuals receiving these services often have no legal status and are in the United States unlawfully." Blaze [4/8/2025 1:35 PM, Candace Hathaway, 1668K] reports that the action prompted Mayor Eric Adams (D) to take legal action against the administration, which remains ongoing. "Like their previous actions clawing back appropriated funds, these steps are unlawful, and the New York City Law Department is currently determining the best legal recourse to take to ensure that this money remains in New York City, where it was allocated and belongs," Adams stated. "As I have repeatedly said, New York City did not create this crisis — it was caused by decades of federal inaction and failure to pass comprehensive immigration reform," he added. Cameron Hamilton, FEMA acting administrator, stated that the funding is "not consistent" with Trump's mission to clamp down on illegal immigration and secure the border. "The Department, consistent with President Trump's direction, is focused on advancing the essential mission of enforcing immigration laws and securing the border," Hamilton stated. "Consequently, grant programs that support, or have the potential to support, illegal immigration through funding illegal activities or support illegal aliens that is not consistent with DHS's enforcement focus do not effectuate the agency's current practices," he said. The New York Times [4/9/2025 3:18 AM, Jeffery C. Mays, 330K] reports that the city's lawsuit to recoup the $80 million is still active. "Like their previous actions clawing back appropriated funds, these steps are unlawful, and the New York City Law Department is currently determining the best legal recourse to take to ensure that this money remains in New York City, where it was allocated and belongs," the mayor said in a statement. The saga is part of an effort by the Trump administration to claw back money granted to the city under FEMA's Shelter and Services Program, which was designed to help cities and others groups who were helping migrants once they were released from federal custody after crossing the border to seek asylum. The federal government is allowed to recover grants if it determines that the payments were improper, according to the Congressional Research Service. The New York Post [4/8/2025 7:00 AM, Craig McCarthy and David Propper, 54903K] reports that the federal funding was first congressionally appropriated during the Biden presidency in response to New York's migrant crisis, in which more than 230,000 asylum seekers had descended on Gotham. Adams called the federal plan "unlawful" and said the city's law department is "currently determining the best legal recourse to take to ensure that this money remains in New York City, where it was allocated and belongs." He added the grants from the feds are the "bare minimum New York taxpayers deserve," and the federal dollars are to reimburse the city for money already spent on migrants. "As I have repeatedly said, New York City did not create this crisis — it was caused by decades of federal inaction and failure to pass comprehensive immigration reform. Yet, New Yorkers — and residents of other major cities across the country — have been forced to pay the price," Adams said in a statement. "With minimal help from the federal government, our administration has skillfully managed an unprecedented migrant crisis, during which more than 234,000 people have entered our city seeking shelter, costing taxpayers over $7.5 billion in just three years."

Washington Examiner: [NY] Eric Adams blasts 'minimal help' from federal government after Trump pulls grants

Washington Examiner [4/8/2025 12:31 PM, Ross O'Keefe, 2296K] reports that Trump administration officials notified New York City that it is cutting $188 million in federal funding for migrants and $325 million in disaster relief grants. Included in the $188 million is the $80 million in Federal Emergency Management Agency funds that the Trump administration previously clawed back from the city, citing its support for illegal immigrants. Another $106 million is now at risk, and an additional $37 million has been paused. The cuts leave the city with just $106 million of the original $223 million earmarked in its budget. New York Mayor Eric Adams blasted the efforts in a statement to the Washington Examiner, blaming Congress and President Donald Trump's predecessors for failing to take action against illegal immigration. "Like their previous actions clawing back appropriated funds, these steps are unlawful, and the New York City Law Department is currently determining the best legal recourse to take to ensure that

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this money remains in New York City, where it was allocated and belongs," he said. "As I have repeatedly said, New York City did not create this crisis — it was caused by decades of federal inaction and failure to pass comprehensive immigration reform," Adams added. "Yet, New Yorkers — and residents of other major cities across the country — have been forced to pay the price." "The Department, consistent with President Trump's direction, is focused on advancing the essential mission of enforcing immigration laws and securing the border," acting FEMA administrator Cameron Hamilton wrote. "Consequently, grant programs that support, or have the potential to support, illegal immigration through funding illegal activities or support for illegal aliens that is not consistent with DHS's enforcement focus do not effectuate the agency's current priorities."

New York Times: [NY] Lawyers for Venezuelans Try Again to Stop Deportations, Now in New York
New York Times [4/8/2025 5:03 PM, Jonah E. Bromwich, 145325K] reports lawyers for the American Civil Liberties Union on Tuesday renewed their efforts to prevent the Trump Administration from deporting Venezuelan migrants under a wartime powers act, asking a Manhattan judge to again block the White House from using the law. The filing followed a Supreme Court decision on Monday that had allowed the government to resume deportations, an early ruling on an issue that has set up a major clash between President Trump and the federal judiciary. The Supreme Court addressed few of the case's substantive issues. Instead, it ruled on narrow procedural grounds: The justices said that, because the migrants were confined in Texas, the A.C.L.U.'s case should have been filed there, rather than in Washington. But on Tuesday, the A.C.L.U. filed a similar petition in a New York federal court, noting that two migrants who were subject to deportation were being held in a jail in Goshen.

Axios: [AZ] Homan and Kennedy tout Trump admin policies at Arizona Capitol
Axios [4/8/2025 7:55 PM, Jeremy Duda and Jessica Boehm, 13163K] reports two high-profile members of President Trump's administration — border czar Tom Homan and Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. — visited the Arizona Capitol on Tuesday. Homan's trip comes as the administration continues its immigration and border security crackdowns, which he said have drastically reduced the number of people entering the country illegally. Homan told lawmakers and guests that Trump gave him three priorities — secure the border, carry out the largest deportation operation in U.S. history, and find hundreds of thousands of missing migrant children brought into the country. Homan touted a 94% drop in illegal border crossings under Trump — a statistic reflected in U.S. Customs and Border Protection's reported decrease from February 2024 to February 2025. But "I'm not satisfied … I want more," he said of the administration's immigration arrests from the dais as he addressed the Arizona Legislature. Homan said Trump has prioritized deporting people who are public safety or national security threats, but "if we find a non-criminal illegal alien, they're coming, too." "If you're in the country illegally, you should be looking over your shoulder ... It's a crime," he warned.

Reported similarly:
(B) NBC News Daily [4/8/2025 3:23 PM, Rachel Cole]

DailySignal: [AZ] Arizona Lawmaker Introduces Resolution Supporting Trump's Removal of Venezuelan Gang Members
DailySignal [4/8/2025 3:18 PM, Jacob Adams, 495K] reports a border state congressman has introduced a resolution in the House of Representatives to recognize and declare members and affiliates of the Venezuelan gang Tren de Aragua as "alien enemies" under the Alien Enemies Act of 1798 and the criminal organization itself as a "terrorist organization perpetrating an invasion of the United States directly and at the direction of a foreign government." Biggs' measure would make clear in law that the president "is exercising his constitutional and legal authority to repel an invasion of alien enemies by apprehending, restraining, securing, and removing members and affiliates of Tren de Aragua from the United States of America."

Los Angeles Times: [CA] California lawmakers take steps to shield immigrants from Trump policies

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Los Angeles Times [4/8/2025 6:37 PM, Sandra McDonald, 13342K] reports California legislators announced several bills to protect the state's immigrants being targeted by President Trump's aggressive new policies, including federal enforcement raids at schools, hospitals and religious buildings. Members of the influential California Latino Legislative Caucus, made up of 35 Democratic lawmakers, announced the proposals to protect undocumented immigrants as among their top priorities in the upcoming session. "It's unfortunate that at the national level, we are seeing deliberate efforts to crash our economy, deport our communities and continue to villainize our Latino communities, and these bills are efforts to combat all of that," state Sen. Lena Gonzalez (D-Long Beach), caucus chair, said at a news conference at the Capitol on Tuesday. The legislative package included Assembly Bill 1261 by Assemblymember Mia Bonta (D-Alameda), which would establish a right to legal representation for unaccompanied children in federal immigration court proceedings. In March, the Trump administration ended a federal contract that provides legal representation to nearly 26,000 migrant children who entered the country without a parent or guardian. The decision was criticized immigration attorneys, who said it would leave the children, many of whom do not read or speak English or are too young to read or speak at all, vulnerable to rapid deportation. A federal judge in Northern California last week ordered the Trump administration to temporarily restore legal funding for migrant children in immigration court. A separate bill by Gonzalez, SB 48, would expand existing laws and require school officials to deny federal immigration officials access to school records and school grounds without a judicial warrant. It also keeps local law enforcement from working with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials near school grounds. "California's school resources and spaces should be dedicated to educating young minds and should never be utilized to tear apart families," Gonzalez said, adding that immigration actions around schools cause a chilling effect on school attendance. Legislation proposed by Sen. Sasha Renée Peréz (D-Alhambra), SB 98, would require schools and universities to notify students, staff and parents when immigration officers are on campus. "This bill will give our communities the peace of mind that they deserve while also maintaining the state's commitment that schools are safe places," Renée Peréz said.

Telemundo: [Mexico] U.S. analyzes drone attacking Mexican cartels with drones
Telemundo [4/8/2025 6:42 PM, Dan De Luce, Ken Dilanian and Courtney Kube, 11K] reports President Donald Trump's administration is considering launching drone strikes against drug cartels in Mexico as part of an ambitious effort to combat drug gangs that traffic narcotics across the southern border, according to six current and former U.S. officials in the military, law enforcement and intelligence fields with knowledge of the matter. Discussions between White House officials, the Defense and Intelligence Department, who are still at an early stage, have included possible drone strikes against cartel figures and their logistics networks in Mexico with the cooperation of the Mexican government, the sources said. Still, the government has not made a final decision or reached a final agreement on how to counter the cartels. And the unilateral covert action, without Mexico's consent, has not been ruled out and could be an option of last resort, the sources said. It is unclear whether U.S. officials have raised the possibility of drone strikes on the Mexican government. If Mexico and the United States come together with drone strikes or other action, it would not be the first time they have launched a joint effort to confront the cartels, nor would it be the first time the U.S. military and intelligence have worked in concert with the application of the law and the Mexican army. But what the Trump administration is contemplating could be unprecedented in both the number of U.S. personnel involved and the use of U.S. drones to bomb the cartel's personnel and assets. Government officials and nominees have repeatedly refused to rule out drone strikes in public statements.

Reported similarly:
NewsMax [4/8/2025 7:06 AM, Staff, 4998K]
Univision [4/8/2025 3:29 PM, Staff, 5325K]

Los Angeles Times: [Mexico] Mexico warns against potential U.S. drone strikes on cartels
Los Angeles Times [4/8/2025 6:29 PM, Patrick J. McDonnell, 13342K] reports amid reports that the Trump administration is considering drone strikes against cartels, Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum reiterated her staunch opposition to any such military action. "We do not agree with any kind of

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intervention or interference," Sheinbaum told reporters Tuesday at her daily morning news conference. "This has been very clear: We coordinate, we collaborate, [but] we are not subordinate and there is no meddling in these actions." The president's comments, reaffirming her already-stated views on the sensitive topic, come as various reports have suggested the Trump administration may be considering aerial strikes on cartel targets — and that the administration is prepared to act unilaterally if Washington cannot secure Mexican support. On Tuesday NBC News cited six current and former U.S. officials saying that the Trump administration was weighing drone strikes in Mexico "to combat criminal gangs trafficking narcotics across the southern border." The Trump White House has already designated six Mexican cartels as foreign terrorist organizations, a move that Mexico opposed vociferously. Many in Mexico viewed the designation as moving the United States toward its first military strike on neighboring Mexico in more than a century. Sheinbaum has agreed to stepped-up military and Central Intelligence Agency surveillance flights over Mexico in a bid to gather intelligence on cartel operations, officials have said. But military strikes would probably cross a red line and could trigger a sharp deterioration in U.S.-Mexico relations — and, experts say, could result in curtailed cooperation in battling illegal immigration and drug smuggling, and resolving other cross-border issues. "Unilateral U.S. strikes on Mexican soil would be devastating for the bilateral relations and could be detrimental to the objective of fighting drug cartels," Gustavo A. Flores-Macías, professor of government at Cornell University, wrote via email. "The Mexican government would face tremendous domestic pressure to respond in the strongest possible terms — including severing diplomatic relations with the U.S. and collapsing binational cooperation on migration and security, among other topics," wrote Flores-Macías. Sheinbaum has won widespread praise at home and abroad for her administration's "cool-headed" talks with the Trump administration on the contentious issue of tariffs. The White House has imposed duties on imports of automobiles, steel and aluminum from Mexico, but has largely maintained the free-trade regimen of the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement, signed in 2020, during Trump's first White House term. Under the leadership of Sheinbaum, who took office in October, Mexico has stepped up actions against organized crime, arresting scores of alleged traffickers, making record busts of fentanyl and other illicit drugs, and shipping 29 purported cartel capos to the United States to face trial. She has quietly dropped the "hugs not bullets" approach of her predecessor and mentor, former President Andrés Manuel López Obrador, who reduced U.S.-Mexico coordination on anti-drug efforts and was widely criticized for not taking a more aggressive stance toward cartels that dominate wide swaths of Mexican territory. Trump has praised Sheinbaum's actions, calling her a "marvelous woman." But the U.S. president has still insisted that the United States should "wage war" against drug cartels.

AP: [Mexico] Pentagon official: US military has no authority to do drone strikes on drug cartels in Mexico

AP [4/8/2025 7:08 PM, Lolita C. Baldor, 48304K] reports a top Pentagon official said Tuesday that special operations forces do not have the authority to launch drone attacks at drug cartels in Mexico, even though President Donald Trump has designated them foreign terrorist organizations. Colby Jenkins, who is currently working as the assistant defense secretary for special operations, told a Senate committee that Trump's designation doesn't automatically give the U.S. military the authority to take direct action against the cartels. Under questioning from Sen. Elissa Slotkin, a Michigan Democrat, Jenkins said it "helps us unlock the doors" for a broader government approach to the drug problem. Slotkin noted that Elon Musk, a top adviser to Trump on overhauling the federal government, has said the foreign terrorist designation means the U.S. can conduct drone strikes against the cartels. Musk posted that on Feb. 19 on X. Jenkins said it doesn't, but that now the military can provide options and be ready if Trump needs more done to protect the border. U.S. Northern Command has increased manned surveillance flights along the U.S.-Mexico border to monitor drug cartels and the movement of fentanyl and is increasing its intelligence sharing with Mexico from those flights, Gen. Gregory Guillot told senators in February. There are also unmanned U.S. drones conducting surveillance over Mexico's airspace, according to Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum.

New York Post: [El Salvador] Tens of thousands more migrants could be headed to El Salvador's hellhole prison, Kristi Noem says — as she warns all illegal migrants are now criminals

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New York Post [4/8/2025 1:26 PM, Jennie Taer and Chris Nesi, 54903K] reports that Kristi Noem said tens of thousands more criminal migrants could be rounded up and sent to El Salvador's brutal Center for Terrorism Confinement (CECOT) prison following a ruling by the Supreme Court this week. "You'll see us continuing to partner with El Salvador. CECOT has the capacity for 40,000 individuals, and [El Salvador President Nayib Bukele] has said they'll take as many as we want to send," the Department of Homeland Security secretary said. "There's 14,000 there now, and he said he plans to build another prison right next to it." The revelation came during a federal raid in Phoenix Tuesday morning led by Noem in which three convicted felon migrants were busted. Noem told The Post that there's plenty of room in the notorious hellhole prison, and that the Trump administration won't shy away from using the 1798 Alien Enemies Act after getting the green light from the high court on Monday. "We're going to continue using that act in order to return people from these terrorist organizations to face consequences and be removed from our country," she said. Noem also highlighted new provisions of the Alien Registration Act of 1940, which are set to go into effect on April 11. The law requires foreign nationals who have been in the US 30 days or longer to register with the federal government or be subject to fines, imprisonment or deportation. As a result of that act, she said, "everyone in this country illegally" will be subject to criminal charges. She also highlighted that following the expiration of the Alien Registration Act, "everyone in this country illegally" is now subject to criminal charges.

Daily Wire: [El Salvador] 'They'll Take As Many As We Want To Send': Noem Says El Salvador Prison Ready For More Deportees

Daily Wire [4/8/2025 4:34 PM, Nathan Gay] reports following a successful federal raid in Phoenix Tuesday morning, Department of Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem revealed that tens of thousands more criminal migrants are likely to be sent to El Salvador's brutal CECOT prison. "You'll see us continuing to partner with El Salvador. CECOT has the capacity for 40,000 individuals, and [El Salvador President Nayib Bukele] has said they'll take as many as we want to send," Noem stated after the DHS operation in which three convicted felon migrants were busted. According to Noem, "There's 14,000 there now" and the President of El Salvador "plans to build another prison right next to it," per the New York Post. A crucial component in the Trump administration's deportation strategy has been the 1798 Alien Enemies Act, which significantly expedites the deportation process for suspected gang members, giving the president significant authority to protect the country against "invasion or predatory incursion." The DHS Secretary also emphasized that new provisions under the Alien Registration Act of 1940 will take effect on April 11, requiring foreign nationals who have resided in the United States for more than 30 days to register with the federal government or risk severe penalties. "Everyone should know that because we're enforcing the Alien Registration Act, if you've been here longer than 30 days and haven't registered with the government, we are now coming after you criminally," Noem warned. She added that violations could result in fines "up to $1,000 per day" and stressed that federal agencies would now fully enforce the law "to make sure American citizens are the only ones afforded the rights of being in this country."

NPR: [El Salvador] Why Trump is sending Venezuelans to El Salvador

NPR [4/9/2025 3:00 AM, Sergio Martínez-Beltrán, Gene Demby, Christina Cala, Courtney Stein, Dalia Mortada, Luis Trelles, Xavier Lopez, Jess Kung, B.A. Parker, Veralyn Williams, 29983K] reports one of President Trump's main campaign promises was carrying out mass deportations. Now, the administration has removed legal protections for people from certain countries, like Venezuela, invoked a 18th century wartime law, and arrested immigrants regardless of their legal status or criminal record. We look at how the Trump administration is testing the U.S. legal system to make good on its promise, starting with the story of one family trying to find their 18-year-old son after immigration agents showed up at their doorstep. [Editorial note: consult audio at source link]

Washington Examiner: [El Salvador] US lowers El Salvador's travel advisory to lowest level

Washington Examiner [4/8/2025 8:11 PM, Brady Knox, 2296K] reports the United States has lowered El Salvador's travel advisory to its lowest level in another sign of warm relations between the two countries. The travel advisory change was long a concern for El Salvador as the country looks to boost its new tourism industry. Throughout most of the Biden administration, El Salvador was granted a Level 3 travel

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advisory, "Reconsider Travel," the second-highest rating possible. On Nov. 12, the advisory was reduced to Level 2 following protests from the newly formed congressional El Salvador Caucus. On Tuesday, the Trump administration gave it the lowest rating possible, Level 1, reflecting the growing alliance between Salvadoran President Nayib Bukele and the new administration. "Keeping Americans safe overseas is our highest priority. President @nayibbukele's leadership has been crucial in improving the security of his country for foreign travelers," Secretary of State Marco Rubio wrote in a post on X on Tuesday. "Gang activity, violent crime, and murders in El Salvador have significantly dropped. The Trump Administration updated our Travel Advisory." Bukele was quick to celebrate the change, hailing it as the "U.S. State Department's travel gold star." He shared an analysis from Santander, highlighting El Salvador's "impressive tourism potential." "Now, with the updated travel advisory from @StateDept, unmatched security, new infrastructure, and fresh destinations in the works, we're aiming for new all-time highs," Bukele said, attaching a rocket emoji. The El Salvador Caucus took credit for the move in a post on X, telling possible tourists, "Enjoy your vacation to surf city!". Homeland security adviser Stephen Miller joined the celebrations on X. "El Salvador is now certified as one of the safest tourism destinations on planet earth. Congrats @nayibbukele!" he said. El Salvador's ambassador to the United States, Milena Mayorga, said the change was a "recognition of the achievements" of Bukele, adding they were working on a similar change with Australia, Japan, and Switzerland.

Opinion – Op-Eds

New York Times: This Is Not the Right Way to Curb Migration
New York Times [4/8/2025 3:23 AM, Rebecca Hanson, David Smilde and Verónica Zubillaga, 330K] reports the Trump administration last month deported scores of Venezuelan men to El Salvador, sending them to a maximum-security prison for gang members. The administration claimed that most of the men were members of the Venezuelan gang Tren de Aragua, a group that, according to the executive order decreeing the deportations, is "conducting irregular warfare and undertaking hostile actions against the United States." Tren de Aragua is not invading America. While the research organization InSight Crime, which has tracked the gang for years, has found that it does have a limited presence in the United States, researchers have seen no evidence that it has organized cells in the country that cooperate with one another, much less receive directions from abroad. The exaggerated government claims and ensuing public concern about the group's activities in the United States amount to a classic moral panic, in which a handful of crimes are cited by politicians as evidence of an urgent threat to society. To be sure, Tren de Aragua is a dangerous group, responsible for horrendous crimes in Venezuela and elsewhere in South America. The three of us have spent decades studying violence in Venezuela precisely because we understand its ability to destroy lives, families and neighborhoods. But central to creating a more secure world is getting the facts, causes and solutions right. So far, many American politicians, police officers and journalists have failed to do so, and instead have perpetuated significant misconceptions about Tren de Aragua. The biggest misconception concerns the group's organizational capacity. Tren de Aragua was recently designated a terrorist organization by the United States, alongside much more established groups like the Mara Salvatrucha in El Salvador and cartels in Mexico. Calling criminal groups terrorist is always a stretch since they usually do not aim at changing government policy.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement

Breitbart: Trump Plan to Expand Detention of Illegals Is Far Cheaper than Cost of Illegal Immigration to Americans
Breitbart [4/8/2025 2:38 PM, John Binder, 2923K] reports President Donald Trump's administration is looking to hugely expand detention space for illegal aliens, a move that will cost billions but is still far cheaper than the annual cost of illegal immigration to American taxpayers. A federal proposal by the Trump administration, detailed in the New York Times, suggests that Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is seeking to open new detention facilities across the United States that agents could

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readily use to hold arrested illegal aliens. That $45 billion in spending over two years is vastly less than the annual cost of illegal immigration to American taxpayers, which totals more than $150 billion.

Washington Post: Judged by the content of their tattoos and the color of their skin.
Washington Post [4/8/2025 7:35 PM, Robin Givhan, 31735K] reprots in the complicated calculus of immigration, asylum and visas, life-altering decisions now can seem predicated on whether the Trump administration likes the looks of you or, put simply, does not. Family man? Hard worker? Nonviolent offender? Complete unknown? So what. But one thing that most certainly matters for those presenting themselves at the border — or simply going about their life as best as they can once they've been given the green light to be in this country legally — is having forearms covered in tattoos. The U.S. government can't get over tattoos as a kind of bodily evidence of membership in violent gangs. The administration displays them at every turn as if they are all smoking guns of guilt. To be clear, some gang members are known to etch out their allegiances on their body, just as others signify their violent affiliations through their attire. Sometimes those symbols are read accurately. Sometimes they are not. Sometimes they remain in dispute. Just ask President Donald Trump's own Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth. He knows what it's like to be demonized for tattoos. His have been interpreted as celebrating white nationalism and Islamaphobia. Hegseth begs to differ. The tattoos of the greatest concern are those of crowns, which the Trump administration has linked to the Venezuelan gang Tren de Aragua, although many experts have cautioned that tattoos are not a reliable indicator of anything. Nonetheless, the government has presented pictures of detainees with these crown tattoos in immigration court as evidence that they are the "bad hombres" about whom Trump began warning in 2016. And that circumstantial evidence, the government has argued, gave the administration license to banish these men to an El Salvador mega prison. This seems to be the case with Andry Hernandez Romero. The Venezuelan hairdresser had sought asylum at the U.S.-Mexico border in San Diego. Romero, the administration argued, was part of a Venezuelan gang that was essentially at war with the United States. The evidence against Romero boiled down to the tattoos. The gang Tren de Aragua does favor crown ink. But so, too, do those who simply like tattoos. Or, as Romero did, work in the world of beauty pageants.

NPR: What is Tren de Aragua's footprint in the U.S.? Experts say smaller than federal officials say
NPR [4/8/2025 2:28 PM, Allison Sherry and Martin Kaste, 29983K] reports that the U.S. Supreme Court on Monday handed the Trump administration a victory, backing the legality of the administration's effort to deport accused members of the Venezuelan criminal gang known as Tren de Aragua under the Alien Enemies Act. The court also required the government to give the Venezuelans "reasonable time" to contest their deportations. Federal officials have framed the gang as a national scourge and an "invasion," something gang experts say is likely overstated. To justify the deportations, the federal government has relied heavily on clothing and tattoos to identify people as Tren de Aragua, for purposes of summary deportation — which eliminates the right to appear before a judge or to apply for legal status — under the Alien Enemies Act, according to court filings. The global roster of Tren de Aragua gang members is unclear -- though the administration has cited the arrest of migrants with past alleged connections as reason for the drive to remove Tren de Aragua from the United States. Tricia McLaughlin, assistant secretary for public affairs at the Department of Homeland Security, in a statement to NPR took issue with experts and local officials who argue the gang's presence in the U.S. is overstated. "You should ask the families of those killed, raped and maimed by gang members if they think the threat these terrorists pose to Americans are 'overstated,'" she said. "ICE's mission is public safety," ICE Denver Field Office Director Robert Guadian said in a post on X. "Criminal aliens will not be allowed to roam free."

CNN: [NY] A mom and her 3 kids were detained by ICE last month at a New York dairy farm. They were just released
CNN [4/8/2025 1:42 PM, Alisha Ebrahimji, 22100K] reports a mother and her three children are on their way back home to New York following their detention by immigration enforcement officials last month at a dairy farm, New York Gov. Kathy Hochul announced Monday. The third grader, two teenagers and their mother, who have not been named publicly, were taken into custody March 27 as officials carried out a search warrant at the farm for a person accused of having "child sexual abuse materials," Tricia

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McLaughlin, a spokesperson for the Department of Homeland Security, wrote on X Monday. During the operation at Old McDonald's Farm in Sackets Harbor, officials "encountered seven additional illegal aliens on the premises," including the mother and her children," McLaughlin said. The mother and her children were taken to the Karnes County Detention Facility in Texas, nearly 1,800 miles away, according to the New York Immigration Coalition.

NPR: [NY] 'We love them': Small N.Y. town embraces a family freed from immigration detention
NPR [4/8/2025 1:41 PM, Bill Chappell, 29983K] reports when the three children come back to Sackets Harbor Central School, they'll find signs and decorations celebrating their return — and the end of an ordeal that started in late March. "We've had third graders bringing in cards and leaving it on their classmate's desk," principal Jamie Cook told NPR. "And the third grade class has created a large welcome back sign that they have hung in their classroom." Hundreds of people — kids, parents, teachers and neighbors — have called for federal authorities to bring the students and their mother back. And now, their call has been heeded. They were being held in an Immigration and Customs Enforcement detention center in Karnes County, Texas. The children and their mother weren't charged with a crime; they were swept up during an operation to arrest a South African man accused of using his cell phone to share child pornography. The criminal search warrant centered on Old McDonald's Farm, the Department of Homeland Security said in a statement to NPR. The children's mother works at the family-owned farm and lives nearby. During the operation there, Homeland Security says, officers "arrested seven illegal aliens, including a mother and her three children."

CNN: [PA] Philadelphia's Carnaval de Puebla canceled amid concerns of ICE presence
CNN [4/8/2025 9:43 PM, Taylor Romine, 908K] reports an annual festival in Philadelphia dedicated to celebrating Mexican culture and history has been cancelled, with organizers citing fear that US Immigration and Customs Enforcement might be present and target attendees. Since President Donald Trump's inauguration, ICE has detained thousands of people, using aggressive methods like the rarely-used Alien Enemies Act to deport them quickly and chilling the immigrant community. El Carnaval de Puebla, which saw about 15,000 spectators from across the US and Mexico in 2024, has been held in April for the past 18 years. But the community "does not feel safe" attending a large gathering this year, organizer Olga Renteria said. People in the community, regardless of if they have legal status or are undocumented, are afraid that ICE will detain people in the crowd, she told CNN. "We are not going to take a chance," Renteria said. "Everyone is being cautious, no celebrating, no big gatherings." Philadelphia Mayor Cherelle Parker's office declined to comment as the event is not city sponsored. The festival had also been cancelled in 2017, months after Trump first took office when organizers were worried about the community's safety from ICE. In 2017, ICE told CNN its "actions are targeted and lead driven" and it doesn't "conduct sweeps or raids that target aliens indiscriminately." "We don't want any incidents. There's a little bit of fear in the community," organizer Edgar Ramirez told CNN in 2017. "It's sad to cancel the event, but we don't want difficulties for anyone." Organizers are considering a smaller event for the community to celebrate, but details have not been officially decided, she said. In the meantime, she encourages those who wanted to come for the festival to still visit Philadelphia and its many Mexican businesses.

Washington Examiner: [MD] Wes Moore weighs signing Maryland bill to block ICE from schools and libraries
Washington Examiner [4/8/2025 2:20 PM, Anna Giaritelli, 2296K] reports that Gov. Wes Moore (D-MD) is weighing whether to sign into law a recently passed bill from the Maryland state legislature that would block federal immigration officers from accessing parts of schools, libraries, and state government buildings, his office told the Washington Examiner. The Maryland Senate passed Senate Bill 828 by a vote of 34-13 shortly after 11:45 p.m. local time Monday, advancing a state effort to safeguard child and adult illegal immigrants from arrest by Immigration and Customs Enforcement at sensitive locations. The bill prohibits "certain schools, libraries, and units of State government that operate at certain sensitive locations from allowing certain federal personnel to access certain areas, subject to certain exceptions." It doesn't specify whether it will honor ICE's administrative warrants. "As Governor Moore reviews the

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hundreds of bills put forward this session, he will continue to work with the State Legislature, local leaders, and all partners involved to ensure that we are passing legislation that will make Maryland safer, more affordable, more competitive, and the state that serves," Carter Elliott, IV, Moore's press secretary, said Tuesday when asked whether the governor would sign the bill into law. The legislation also includes House Bill 1222, which would strip local police's ability to work with federal immigration authorities through the 287(g) program in arresting and detaining illegal immigrants. ICE did not respond to a request for comment.

NBC News: [MD] How a Chicago Bulls hat led to a Maryland dad being mistakenly shipped to an El Salvador prison

NBC News [4/8/2025 5:16 PM, Matt Lavietes, 44742K] reports police believed Kilmar Abrego Garcia was a member of the MS-13 gang for two reasons: He was wearing a Chicago Bulls hat and hoodie, and an unnamed informant had told them so. The two pieces of evidence were not enough to keep Abrego Garcia in federal immigration custody in 2019, when authorities in Maryland arrested him, according to a court filing last month. Nearly six years later, they appear to be the basis for shipping him to a foreign megaprison with no legal recourse. The Trump administration admitted last week that his deportation was an "administrative error" due to his protected status, but refused to commit to bringing him home.

Breitbart: [MD] Maryland Politicians Dump Plans to Block Police Cooperation with ICE

Breitbart [4/8/2025 7:12 PM, Warner Todd Huston, 2923K] reports the Maryland legislature quietly dropped plans to prohibit state law enforcement agencies from working with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). The bill to prevent 287(g) agreements between local law enforcement agencies and ICE was filed in March as a reply to the Trump administration's crackdown on illegal immigration, according to CBS News. A 287(g) agreement authorizes the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to deputize local law enforcement to act as adjuncts to help enforce federal immigration policy. Local officials receive training in interviewing migrants to determine status, access, and to use federal computer systems to input data. They can also be used to serve warrants and notices to appear. Like Democrats elsewhere, Maryland legislators sought to prevent the cooperation between local authorities and federal officers and proposed the Maryland Values Act, Protecting Sensitive Locations Act, and the Maryland Data Privacy Act to prevent it. Several Maryland sheriff's offices have already entered into such agreements with federal officials, according to the Baltimore Banner.

FOX News: [MD] Boyfriend of missing woman detained by ICE amid investigation into her disappearance: police

FOX News [4/8/2025 7:18 PM, Greg Wehner, 46189K] reports U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detained a man in Maryland as local investigators searched for his girlfriend, who was last seen March 31. The Charles County Sheriff's Office said it is investigating the disappearance of Lesbia Mileth Ramirez Guerra, 23, of Waldorf, Maryland. While Guerra was last seen on the night of March 31 at her home on Adams Court, her boyfriend, who the sheriff's office has not named, reported her missing on April 2. Along with living with several other individuals at the residence, Guerra also reportedly lived with her boyfriend, who is the father of her two children. During the investigation, detectives reportedly learned about "unusual and suspicious activity" at the residence on the day Guerra was last seen, and the sheriff's office said it believes foul play is suspected in her disappearance. Detectives executed a search warrant on Guerra's home, but she was not found during the search. But what they did find were federal documents belonging to Guerra's boyfriend, which the sheriff's office said appeared to be counterfeit. Detectives reached out to ICE to verify the boyfriend's identity and learned the documents in the home were fraudulent and that he was not in the country legally. As a result, ICE agents responded and took the boyfriend into custody.

Dallas Morning News: [TX] 'I dare you to arrest me': North Texas man accused of threatening to kill ICE agents

Dallas Morning News [4/8/2025 12:16 PM, Matt Kyle] reports a North Texas man was arrested last week and faces both federal and state charges after police said he made several posts on social media

threatening to shoot U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents. Robert Wilson King, 35, also allegedly made posts wishing death and harm on government officials, including President Donald Trump, Vice President JD Vance, Texas Gov. Greg Abbott, Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem and U.S. Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene, R-Ga., investigators said in a federal arrest affidavit. In several posts, King compared the U.S. government and government officials to Nazi Germany. In another post, King allegedly wrote that the “current director of the FBI” should be shot and killed. “I hope he sees this I’m so serious. I dare you to arrest me...” King wrote in the post. King was arrested Wednesday on a third-degree felony charge of terroristic threat in Kaufman County. He also faces a federal charge of transmitting an interstate threat. He remained in the Kaufman County jail on Tuesday, and records show a hold from the U.S. Marshals was added to his charges on Friday.

FOX News: [MT] Mexican man convicted of killing his child to be deported after encountering ICE officers in Montana jail

FOX News [4/8/2025 6:03 AM, Elizabeth Pritchett, 46189K] reports an illegal immigrant convicted of killing his own child is in U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement custody after he encountered ICE officers in a Montana prison last month. Carlos Ambriz, a 53-year-old Mexican national, made contact with ICE officers while serving a 40-year sentence in the Montana State Prison for a deliberate homicide conviction and was served a notice to appear before an immigration judge. He was arrested near his residence in Catoosa, Oklahoma, on March 25, ICE said. Josh Johnson, acting director for ICE Enforcement and Removal Operations Dallas Field Office, said Ambriz poses a "significant danger" to the community, especially because he was convicted of killing his own child. "This subject’s criminal record underscores the significant danger he represents to our community, particularly with the serious charge and conviction for killing his own child," Johnson said. "Our officers remain committed to enhancing public safety by apprehending and removing criminal aliens who violate immigration laws.” Ambriz will remain in ICE custody until he is sent back to Mexico, and his upcoming deportation will not be his first. He was ordered removed on July 3, 1999, by an immigration judge near Seattle, Washington. He was physically deported to Mexico near the Paseo Del Norte, Texas, Bridge on Jan. 26, 2006, according to ICE.

San Francisco Chronicle: [CA] Ultra budget airline Avelo exits Northern California airport to conduct ICE deportation flights

San Francisco Chronicle [4/8/2025 8:16 PM, Aidin Vaziri, 5046K] reports Avelo Airlines will cease its operations at Sonoma County’s Charles M. Schulz Airport on May 1, just one year after launching services in the North Bay. The decision comes in the wake of the Houston-based budget carrier’s recent agreement with the Department of Homeland Security to conduct deportation flights for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement from Mesa, Ariz., starting next month. "We realize this is a sensitive and complicated topic," Andrew Levy, Avelo’s founder and CEO, said in a statement. "After significant deliberations, we determined this charter flying will provide us with the stability to continue expanding our core scheduled passenger service and keep our more than 1,100 Crewmembers employed for years to come.” The airline will operate flights using three Boeing 737-800 aircraft, which will be based at Mesa Gateway Airport. In a job listing for flight attendants, Avelo noted that the "flights will be both domestic and international trips to support DHS’s deportation efforts," adding that "our DHS charter service may consist of local day trips and/or overnights.” Avelo will continue three of its eight routes that currently operate from the Bay Area’s smallest commercial airport in Santa Rosa, but these will now depart from Burbank. The remaining routes include Las Vegas, Palm Springs and Bend/Redmond, Ore., with the latter two being seasonal. The airline is discontinuing flights to Boise, Salt Lake City, Ontario (Riverside County) and Kalispell, Mont.

New York Post: [CA] Youth soccer coach, 43, charged in murder of 13-year-old player, accused of sexually assaulting another boy, is illegal migrant from El Salvador: report

New York Post [4/8/2025 3:00 PM, Jared Downing and Richard Pollina, 54903K] reports the Los Angeles area soccer coach charged with the murder of a 13-year-old player whose body was found in a ditch more than 70 miles from his home is reportedly an illegal migrant from El Salvador — who is also accused of sexually assaulting another teen boy. Mario Edgardo Garcia Aquino, 43, was residing in the United States

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illegally when he allegedly killed teen Oscar Omar Hernandez, "multiple law enforcement sources" told Bill Melugin of Fox News. Hernandez "was an innocent child who was exploited and killed by this depraved illegal alien who should have never been in this country," Department of Homeland Security spokesperson Tricia McLaughlin told the outlet. The LA County Sheriff's Office, District Attorney's Office and Los Angeles Police Department have not officially confirmed Garcia Aquino's immigration status, but unidentified sources also told the Los Angeles Times that the accused killer is in the country illegally.

CNN: [El Salvador] In notorious Salvadoran prison, US deportees live in identical cells to convicted gangsters
CNN [4/8/2025 4:57 PM, David Culver, Abel Alvarado, Evelio Contreras and Rachel Clarke, 22131K] reports men deported by the United States to El Salvador's notorious Cecot prison are living in "the same" conditions as convicted gangsters, prison director Belarmino García said on Tuesday, during an exclusive tour for CNN, the first US news organization to visit the facility since the latest deportation flight. That would mean the deportees' heads have been shaved and they are kept in communal cells holding up to 100 men each for 23½ hours a day. Two sources told CNN the situation is less regimented for the deportees, but the facilities are the same. The cells have no privacy, and no furniture beyond rows of stacked metal bunks with no mattresses or pillows. Some 278 men have been deported by the Trump administration to El Salvador, accused of being members of the Venezuelan Tren de Aragua gang or Salvadorans who are said to be part of MS-13. But they also include Kilmar Armando Abrego Garcia, a sheet metal worker and father-of-three from Maryland, who was mistakenly removed from the US through an "administrative error."

Citizenship and Immigration Services

USA Today: Trump cancels hundreds of student visas, forcing rapid departures
USA Today [4/8/2025 3:25 PM, Trevor Hughes, 75858K] reports the Trump administration has revoked hundreds of international student visas across the country, setting off a desperate scramble for them to leave the United States within days. Universities have reported some students being forced to leave immediately, in many cases after discovering their visas were cancelled in the federal Student Exchange and Visitor Information System, or via an unexpected text or email. The cancellations reflect a small percentage of the estimated 1.5 million international students studying in the United States, but have sent shockwaves through the collegiate community. Some of the cancellations appear to be connected to things as minor as roommate disputes or as off-campus traffic tickets, university officials said, while others appear to be connected to pro-Palestinian protest participation.

Wall Street Journal: Student Visas Are Being Revoked Without Reason or Warning, Colleges Say
Wall Street Journal [4/8/2025 7:32 PM, Jsoeph Pisani, Michelle Hackman, and Sara Randazzo, 646K] reports colleges and universities across the country say the visas of some international students have been revoked in recent days without notice, causing confusion on campuses and panic among students, some of whom have filed lawsuits. Schools including Columbia University, Harvard University and University of California, San Diego, said they weren't told the visas were being revoked or even given a reason why. The schools found out by monitoring their databases of international students, or in some cases because immigration agents have made arrests. At least 300 visas had been revoked, Secretary of State Marco Rubio confirmed last month, adding that the department would continue to identify student visa holders who it felt had abused its parameters. There are roughly 1.1 million international student visa-holders in the U.S. When international students lose their visas, they are immediately vulnerable to deportation.
Education Secretary Linda McMahon said in an interview Tuesday that universities should do more to vet whether students have any terrorist leanings or "are not necessarily supportive of the United States" before they come to campuses. She cited the increased activity by Rubio in taking away student visas. The Trump administration has been escalating its crackdown on international students, which began with arrests of several students who participated in pro-Palestine protests. Though the number of visas

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revoked remains relatively small, recent cases have created widespread fear among foreign students that they could be targeted for unpredictable reasons.

Axios: What to know about the wave of student visa cancellations

Axios [4/8/2025 2:03 PM, Steph Solis, 13163K] reports that the feds are expanding their revocation of student visas nationwide, sidestepping the regulations governing visa status, attorneys say. The big picture: The Trump administration has moved beyond penalizing international students over pro-Palestinian activism and stripped scores of students' visas without explanation, university officials and attorneys say. A student at Emerson College and a doctoral candidate at Dartmouth College who never partook in protests or had any criminal record were among those stripped of their visas. Catch up quick: Schools across the country, including Boston University, Emerson and Harvard University, learned that some students abruptly had their visas revoked without explanation. This comes weeks after the Trump administration made international headlines for detaining Columbia University graduates and Tufts University student Rumeysa Öztürk over pro-Palestinian activism. The move surprised university officials, who usually are the ones who start the revocation process if they suspect a student violated the terms of their visa. State of play: International students and their attorneys are scrambling to find out why their visas were revoked and how to avoid meeting the same fate as Öztürk and other detainees. In the weeds: Khan and attorneys representing Liu, the Dartmouth student, say another unusual factor is that the Department of Homeland Security terminated the visa statuses.

Bloomberg Law News: Trump's Student Visa Revocations Jeopardize H-1B Talent Pipeline

Bloomberg Law News [4/8/2025 10:48 AM, Andrew Kreighbaum, 120K] reports that a spree of visa cancellations by the Trump administration imperils enrollment of foreign students across the country and threatens the long-term international recruitment that is critical to colleges and employers in the US. The State Department in recent weeks began quietly revoking hundreds of F-1 student visas. Many of those terminations were linked to students' participation in campus protests or pro-Palestinian activism, but others may be based on a variety of infractions—even if they were never convicted of a crime. That's been followed by Homeland Security officials deleting records in the Student Exchange Visitor Program, attorneys and college officials say, effectively ending their F-1 status. Colleges and foreign students, who may not even be directly notified of the terminations, are scrambling to figure out their options. Higher education associations are pressing the Trump administration for clarity on its student visa policies. The uncertainty students suddenly face could stymie growth in international enrollment that had slowed even before Trump's election, threatening the bottom line of schools that rely on their tuition money. "They want certainty that they'll be able to stay here and finish their degree," said Sarah Spreitzer, vice president and chief of staff for government relations at the American Council on Education. Colleges in many cases are having to identify those terminations themselves. The American Council on Education and other higher ed groups requested a briefing on visa policies in an April 4 letter to Rubio and DHS Secretary Kristi Noem.

Breitbart: [MA] Harvard Advises Foreign Students to Reconsider Travel, Warns of Consequences from Anti-Israel Protests

Breitbart [4/8/2025 7:53 AM, Alana Mastrangelo, 2923K] reports Harvard is reportedly advising foreign students to reconsider travel outside of the United States, as well as warning them of the consequences that may stem from pro-Palestinian and anti-Israel protests. During a "Know Your Rights" webinar on Wednesday, Harvard International Office Director of Immigration Services Maureen Martin and Harvard Representation Initiative Staff Attorney Jason Corral discussed "hypothetical scenarios" with students, according to a report by the Harvard Crimson. After being asked about international students engaging in protests, Corral said he would advise foreigners to take more caution during President Donald Trump's second term, claiming, "The difference is we have seen situations where it seems as though people's visas are being revoked" due to protests. Corral also suggested that international students go through their previous public statements and academic work in order to assess their travel risk. "If you have a bunch of photos on your phone that suggest something that may be contrary to what they deem as a foreign policy interest and a reason for why they're revoking these student visas — pictures of protests or something like that — that could go into their discretionary decision-making too," he said. But deleting

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images or messages could also raise suspicion among Customs and Border Protection (CBP) agents, Corral added. Corral also advised students to "consider for themselves how essential their travel is and do a risk assessment based on the importance of the travel," claiming he feels "very concerned about international students traveling at this time."

San Francisco Chronicle: [CA] Trump administration sows panic at California universities after revoking over 100 student visas

San Francisco Chronicle [4/8/2025 8:22 PM, Anna Bauman, St. John Barned-Smith and Bob Egelko, 5046K] reports federal officials have terminated visa eligibility for at least 121 international students across at least a dozen college campuses in California since last week, a move that immigration advocates denounced as an unlawful attempt to intimidate foreign students into leaving the country. California State University confirmed Tuesday that the government revoked visas for 36 current and former students, while the University of California said roughly 50 students and recent graduates had their visas voided. Representatives from several California universities said they were not provided detailed reasons for the terminations. "The government has not coordinated with UC leaders on their decisions or provided advance notice to us, but has indicated in government databases that the terminations were due to violations of the terms of the individuals' visa programs," UC President Michael V. Drake said in a statement Tuesday, noting that international students have "enriched our excellence" and are "integral to our academic and civic life." Drake said the visa revocations were not preceded by on-campus visits from federal law enforcement agencies, including Immigration and Customers Enforcement, so far as he was aware. In most cases, university officials said the federal government provided no rationale for terminating the student visas. A growing number of lawsuits in California and other states claim the revocations have been unjustified. The suits also offer a glimpse into the circumstances of the students whose lives could be upended by the visa revocations. The administration has revoked at least 300 visas, including student visas, Secretary of State Marco Rubio said last month at a news conference in Guyana. The more than 100 student visa revocations in California as of Tuesday represent about a third of that total. That's a small fraction of the more than 1.5 million international students who study in the U.S. every year, but the visa revocations have nevertheless alarmed international students and their advocates. U.S. Department of State spokesperson Tammy Bruce declined to answer specific questions about the reasons behind similar student visa revocations across the country during a Tuesday press briefing. She also declined to release the number of visa revocations due to the "fluidity of the situation." "The department revokes visas every day in order to secure our borders and to keep our communities safe, and we'll continue to do so," she said.

CNN: [South Sudan] South Sudan to admit man deported by US after blanket visa ban

CNN [4/8/2025 11:53 AM, Nimi Princewill, 908K] reports that South Sudan has reversed its decision to deny entry to a man it said was a Congolese national deported by the United States after Washington imposed a blanket visa ban on South Sudanese citizens. In a dramatic U-turn on Tuesday, South Sudan's foreign ministry said the government had chosen to admit the deportee, identified as Makula Kintu, "in the spirit of the friendly relations between South Sudan and the United States." US President Donald Trump has heavily cracked down on immigration since his return to power in January and has launched a series of deportation actions in recent months. On Saturday, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio announced that visas held by South Sudanese citizens were being revoked and no new visas would be granted to people from the country over their government's failure to receive deportees "in a timely manner." South Sudan, the world's youngest nation and one of its poorest is already troubled by armed conflict in its northern region that threatens to plunge it back into another civil war. On Monday, the South Sudanese foreign ministry clarified that Kintu arrived at the Juba International Airport in the country's capital on Saturday with a travel document that was not his. The South Sudanese foreign ministry cited information on Kintu's travel history supplied by the US Department of Homeland Security which stated that he initially arrived in the US in 2003 "and voluntarily departed for the Democratic Republic of Congo in 2009."

Customs and Border Protection

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Washington Post: Border agents ask lawyer with pro-Palestinian client to give up phone
Washington Post [4/8/2025 7:55 PM, Gaya Gupta and Angie Orellana Hernandez, 31735K] reports when Amir Makled, a civil rights lawyer representing a pro-Palestinian activist, handed over his passport for review at the Detroit Metropolitan Airport on Sunday, he was immediately flagged and led to an interview room for further questioning. The federal border officers told Makled, a U.S. citizen, that they knew he was a lawyer with prominent cases, the Dearborn-based attorney recounted in an interview with The Washington Post. The officers told him he could either hand over his phone and passcode, or they would confiscate it and return the device back to him later. Makled refused, and after nearly two hours, he said, he was allowed to leave with his phone. But Makled and other legal experts said they believe that his questioning is part of an alarming pattern of American lawyers facing retribution for representing clients whose interests conflict with President Donald Trump's agenda. Makled represents Samantha Lewis, an activist who was arrested and charged by Michigan's attorney general in connection with a pro-Palestinian encampment at the University of Michigan. Lewis is a U.S. citizen and therefore not at risk of deportation, Makled added. There's "no question in my mind that this was an attempt by Trump regime agents to intimidate Mr. Makled," said Patrick G. Eddington, a senior fellow in homeland security and civil liberties at the Cato Institute, calling the situation an improper detention. "And in my view, if they tried this tactic in Detroit, they'll try it elsewhere if they think they can get away with it." Hilton Beckham, a U.S. Customs and Border Protection assistant commissioner who also worked in Trump's first administration, confirmed that Makled was held and questioned but said in a statement that his accusations are "blatantly false and sensationalized," calling his inspection "a routine, lawful process that occurs daily, and can apply for any traveler." "Claims that this was an attack on his profession or were politically motivated are baseless. Our officers are following the law, not agendas," she wrote.

News Max: Increased Border Security Affecting US Tourism
News Max [4/8/2025 10:13 AM, Charlie McCarthy, 4998K] reports that increased security at the U.S. borders appear to be affecting the tourism industry, it was reported. With increased scrutiny at the border since President Donald Trump took office in late January, Canadian flight reservations to the U.S. are down 70% from last year, and European bookings this summer are down 25%, Bloomberg reported. That could result in a $9 billion loss in tourist spending, the outlet added. The tourism industry contributed $2.3 trillion to the U.S. economy in 2022 and supported about 9.5 million jobs, but the current border policies may lead to a decade-long slump in international visitors, Bloomberg reported. Adam Sacks, president of Tourism Economics, told the media outlet that travel won't normalize until 2029. "That will essentially be an entire decade between pre-pandemic and full recovery," said Sacks, who predicted a 20% reduction from Canada, and 9.4% overall, compared with 2024. Besides the increased border security, Trump's tariffs could incentivize Europeans and Canadians to travel elsewhere. Many Canadians also are peeved due to the president's suggestion that the country should become the 51st state. "All of those things are compounding one another and making the US somewhat of a global pariah when it comes to tourism," Sacks said. "Another irony is that tariffs are being designed to help right the U.S. trade deficit, but the immediate effects in terms of travel is to hurt the U.S. trade balance."

Washington Examiner/AP: [CA] Noem bypasses environmental regulations to expedite border wall construction in California
The Washington Examiner [4/8/2025 10:16 AM, Anna Giaritelli] reports the Department of Homeland Security gave U.S. Customs and Border Protection permission to ignore environmental and land regulations and immediately begin constructing a border wall between the United States and Mexico in Southern California, the Washington Examiner confirmed. DHS Secretary Kristi Noem issued the department's first waiver since taking office in January. The waiver allows the federal government to bypass environmental rules to build 2.5 miles of barrier in Jacumba Hot Springs and San Diego, California — regions that experienced high levels of illegal immigration during the Biden administration. "Acting under President Trump's Executive Orders, Secretary Noem is taking bold, decisive steps to secure the southern border and achieve full operational control," the DHS said in a statement to the Washington Examiner. "To cut through bureaucratic delays, DHS is waiving environmental laws — including the National Environmental Policy Act — that can stall vital projects for months or even years." The Federal

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Register published the waiver Tuesday, which allows the government to construct physical barriers quickly where they are needed most rather than wait for studies to ensure the land will not be negatively affected, according to the DHS. Noem cited her authority under Section 102 of the Illegal Immigration Reform And Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 to waive the regulations. The AP [4/8/2025 4:24 PM, Staff, 48304K] reports that it's the first environmental waiver of President Donald Trump's second term. Officials said the decision will fast-track U.S. Customs and Border Protection's construction of about 2 1/2 miles (4 kilometers) of the wall south of San Diego and further east near Jacumba Hot Springs, California. "This waiver clears the path for the rapid deployment of physical barriers where they are needed most, reinforcing our commitment to national security and the rule of law," the statement said. The advocacy group Earthjustice derided the decision to sidestep environmental laws. "Waiving environmental, cultural preservation, and good governance laws that protect clean air and clean water, safeguard precious cultural resources, and preserve vibrant ecosystems and biodiversity will only cause further harm to border communities and ecosystems," Cameron Walkup, an associate legislative representative for Earthjustice, said in a statement.

Reported similarly:
Los Angeles Times [4/8/2025 9:51 PM, Andrea Castillo, 13342K]
The Hill [4/8/2025 11:50 AM, Rebecca Beitsch, 12829K]
NewsMax [4/8/2025 2:34 PM, James Morley III, 4998K]

Univision: [CA] Two border inspectors arrested in San Ysidro accused of accepting thousands in bribes to cross migrants
Univision [4/8/2025 6:30 PM, Staff, 5325K] reports two border inspectors, assigned to the port of entry of San Ysidro, were charged with receiving bribes to allow vehicles to pass with undocumented migrants across the border between Mexico and California. The officers, identified as Farlis Almonte and Ricardo Rodriguez, allegedly informed their accomplices in Mexico about their shifts and the lanes they supervised, to facilitate the illegal crossing of people without documentation. The investigation was initiated following the arrest of traffickers who claimed to have collaborated with Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers. Inspectors were charging thousands of dollars for every vehicle they allowed entry without immigration review, prosecutors said. Evidence presented in the criminal complaint includes text messages exchanged with human traffickers, unjustifiable cash deposits in their accounts and recordings that capture vehicles entering with undocumented passengers. One of the surveillance videos showed a vehicle with two occupants, where only the driver had entry documents. In addition, the phone of an alleged dealer contained a message from "Farli USA," allegedly linked to Almonte. During Almonte's arrest, investigators confiscated nearly $70,000 in cash, which his partner allegedly tried to move to Tijuana. Prosecutors said additional charges could be filed for money laundering and obstruction of justice. Border inspectors now face charges of conspiracy to bring foreigners to the United States for profit and acceptance of bribes. Both remain in custody while the appeal on their bail conditions is resolved. In the past two years, at least five CBP agents assigned to the San Diego region have faced similar charges. Among them, an inspector who was sentenced to 23 years in prison for crimes related to drug trafficking and people.

Transportation Security Administration

Federal News Network: For safeguarding critical infrastructure, stronger governance alone isn't a magic bullet
Federal News Network [4/8/2025 5:37 PM, Dean Parsons, 1089K] reports in November 2024, the Transportation Security Administration published a notice of proposed rulemaking about potentially mandating cyber risk management and reporting requirements for surface transportation owners and operators. The proposed rule calls for certain pipeline, passenger and freight rail operators and rail system companies with high-risk profiles to develop comprehensive cyber risk management programs. Pipeline, rail and certain bus transportation or transit systems would be required to report cybersecurity incidents to the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, and the sectors would report any

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physical security risk concerns to TSA. The proposed mandates follow years of work to strengthen cybersecurity oversight on industrial control system (ICS) and operational technology (OT) environments, which were accelerated after the 2020 SolarWinds SUNBURST attacks and the 2021 Colonial Pipeline breach. However, today's threats extend far beyond traditional ransomware. Modern attack frameworks like Pipedream demonstrate adversaries' growing capability to not just encrypt data, but potentially destroy physical infrastructure. These threats are increasingly scalable and capable of targeting multiple regions and system types simultaneously, raising the stakes for ICS/OT security. While the TSA's new requirements would establish a crucial governance framework, stricter compliance alone isn't enough to secure U.S. critical infrastructure from accelerating threats. Alongside meeting regulatory requirements, it is crucial for organizations to align their cyber defense strategies with the unique intricacies of industrial security environments, starting with the five critical controls to effective ICS/OT security. The five critical controls that every industrial control system environment should implement serve as both tactical defense measures and strategic enablers of compliance. But their implementation requires careful consideration of operational realities and safety implications.

NewsNation: [LA] TSA Officers find hidden weapons inside cane
NewsNation [4/8/2025 8:00 PM, Isabella Cheng, 6866K] reports TSA officers at the Shreveport Regional Airport security checkpoint discovered a cache of weapons hidden inside a metal cane last week. According to the news release, 'The cane contained a gutting knife, a double-edged blade, and a knife that could function as a small machete. Any of these could be used to incapacitate or kill. Each knife was screwed into part of the cane structure. The handle of the cane was also fashioned into the type of escape hammer used to smash glass.'. "Our officers receive expert training on identifying threats that could be camouflaged as an everyday object or hidden inside a seemingly innocent belonging," said TSA Spokesperson Sari Koshetz. "Our officers frequently find stun guns fashioned to appear like a cell phone, knives hidden in belt buckles, and knives hidden in the handles of combs and hairbrushes."

Federal Emergency Management Agency

New York Post: At least 24 dead as historic flooding leaves towns underwater after barrage of severe weather
New York Post [4/8/2025 9:38 AM, Steven Yablonski, 54903K] reports that a deadly barrage of severe weather, tornadoes, and torrential rain has come to an end, but the danger is far from over in communities across the Midwest and South as angry rivers continue to rise, forcing families from their homes. At least 24 people in seven states have been killed due to the severe weather or flooding, including children and first responders. President Donald Trump approved emergency disaster declarations for Arkansas, Tennessee, and Kentucky, allowing the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to provide additional support for communities grappling with the scope of the historic disaster. "I just want to stress that we do not want to lose another individual," Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear said at a news conference on Monday. "Remember. This event is not over until the waters have receded. Until the areas that are flooded are fully dry. Until we don't have saturated ground that could create mudslides over roads and bridges." The National Guard, Kentucky State Police, and other state and local leaders have been working tirelessly to keep people safe and have urged people to avoid travel if possible. Beshear said on Monday that more than 500 roads across the state were closed due to historic flooding, mudslides, and landslides. [Editorial note: consult video at source link]

NPR: [KY] Flooding is still a threat in Kentucky after storms
NPR [4/8/2025 5:15 PM, Justin Hicks, 29983K] Audio: HERE reports storms have caused flooding and deaths in the Midwest and South over the past several days. Kentucky was one of the hard-hit areas, and some creeks and rivers are still on the rise.

NBC 5 Seattle: [WA] Potential loss of FEMA grants to Hoquiam and Aberdeen would be a 'gut punch'

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NBC 5 Seattle [4/8/2025 9:08 PM, Drew Mikkelsen, 1600K] reports when the federal government awarded the cities of Hoquiam and Aberdeen with more than $80 million in grants in 2023, Hoquiam City Administrator Brian Shay called the funding a “game-changer.” Last week Shay found out the grants could be cut. “If it is lost, it would be the biggest gut punch ever,” Shay said Tuesday. As the Trump administration weighs the future of the federal agency tasked with responding to disasters, it is ending a key program that has been used by communities across the country to pay for projects designed to help them prepare for natural disasters like flooding and fires. In a news release Friday, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) said it was ending the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities program, calling the move part of efforts to eliminate “waste, fraud and abuse.” “The BRIC program was yet another example of a wasteful and ineffective FEMA program. It was more concerned with political agendas than helping Americans affected by natural disasters," the agency said in a statement.

Secret Service

FOX News: [MD] California man angry about abortion, gun rights cases pleads guilty to trying to kill Justice Brett Kavanaugh

FOX News [4/8/2025 9:20 PM, Louis Casiano, 46189K] reports a California man angry about abortion and gun rights cases pleaded guilty on Tuesday to attempting to kill U.S. Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh at his Maryland home, the Justice Department said. Nicholas John Roske, 29, of Simi Valley, admitted to flying from Los Angeles to Washington, D.C., on June 7, 2022 with a firearm and ammunition in his suitcase in an effort to target the high court justice, federal prosecutors said. "This calculated attempt on the life of a sitting U.S. Supreme Court Justice was a heinous attack on the Court itself," said Attorney General Pamela Bondi. "Anyone who thinks they can use violence or intimidation to influence our courts will be met with the full force of the law and face up to life in prison.” After arriving in Washington, Roske took a taxi in the middle of the night to Montgomery County, Maryland, with the intention of killing Kavanaugh, authorities said. At around 1:05 a.m. on June 8, 2022, two Deputy U.S. Marshals protecting Kavanaugh’s home saw Roske arrive in front of the residence. He was wearing black clothing and had a backpack and suitcase, prosecutors said. The U.S. Marshals, who were in a vehicle, got out as Roske began to walk down the street. Shortly after, Roske called the Montgomery County Emergency Communications Center saying he was having homicidal and suicidal thoughts, had a gun in his suitcase, and flew from California to kill Kavanaugh. Local authorities arrived at the scene where they searched Roske’s suitcase and found a firearm; black tactical chest rig and tactical knife; two magazines, each containing 10 rounds of ammunition; 17 additional rounds; pepper spray; zip ties; a hammer; screwdrivers; a nail punch; a crowbar; a pistol light; duct tape; hiking boots with padding on the outside of the soles; and lock-pick tools, along with other items.

Reported similarly:
New York Post [4/8/2025 6:25 PM, Ryan King, 54903K]
Axios [4/8/2025 1:13 PM, Avery Lotz, 13163K]

CBS News: [FL] Trump’s would-be assassin Ryan Routh sought weapon to shoot down his plane, DOJ says

CBS News [4/9/2025 3:56 AM, Jacob Rosen, Scott MacFarlane, 51661K] reports federal prosecutors say Ryan Routh, the man accused of trying to assassinate President Trump as he golfed last September during the 2024 campaign, also attempted to acquire an anti-aircraft weapon to shoot down Mr. Trump’s plane. In a filing Monday, the government said that in August, "Routh sought to purchase the devices online from an associate Routh believed to be a Ukrainian with access to military weapons.” Routh allegedly told an associate to "‘send me an rpg [rocket propelled grenade] or stinger and I will see what we can do,’" according to the court document. "I need equipment so that Trump cannot get elected," Routh told his associate. The government said Routh also sought to purchase a .50 caliber rifle the same month, and this rifle would have been an even more destructive and powerful version of the one he had already allegedly obtained. Prosecutors said Routh hoped to purchase the .50 caliber rifle at a gun show,

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but his contact was ultimately not able to locate the type of gun Routh wanted until after the assassination attempt at the golf course. Routh is suspected of hiding in some bushes with a gun near Trump International, about 300-500 yards away from Mr. Trump, who was then the Republican presidential nominee, while he was playing golf in West Palm Beach in September 2024. A member of Mr. Trump's Secret Service detail spotted his rifle in the tree line and opened fire at the suspect, who didn't fire back. He fled by car, and Routh was detained about 50 miles north of the golf course. According to the Secret Service, Routh did not have a line of sight to Trump, who was playing a few holes away from where Routh was allegedly located. [Editorial note: consult video at source link]

Blaze.com: [FL] Elderly Florida man arrested for threatening to kill Trump on social media, Jupiter police say
Blaze.com [4/8/2025 5:36 PM, Staff, 1668K] reports an elderly man in Florida was arrested after making threats to kill President Donald Trump on social media, according to a press release from Jupiter police. Police said 73-year-old Glen DeCicco was arrested on Friday on a charge of making written threats to kill after he allegedly posted on Facebook that the president should be assassinated. Police said they were tipped off about the threats and reviewed DeCicco's posts before coordinating the arrest with the United States Secret Service. Federal and local officers interviewed the man and arrested him without incident. He was booked into the Palm Beach County jail. The probable cause statement said DeCicco appeared agitated about politics in the interview and tried to downplay the threats as creative wordplay. When asked why he said he wrote that he would kill the president, DeCicco reportedly responded, "It was a thought that I had."

Coast Guard

Breaking Defense: After Trump's promise of 40 'big' icebreakers, Coast Guard says eight or nine will do
Breaking Defense [4/8/2025 11:06 AM, Lee Ferran, 464K] reports while it's "exciting" to hear President Donald Trump promise dozens of new, big icebreakers, current assessments show that eight or nine of that size would do for now, a senior Coast Guard officer said this week. "Whenever your boss is interested in 40 icebreakers, you are very happy, right? I mean, this has been something that we've been trying to do for a long time," Vice Adm. Thomas Allan, the Coast Guard's acting deputy commandant for operations, said at the Sea Air Space conference Monday in response to a question from Breaking Defense. "I will tell you that when you look at what the strategic studies have said for the Coast Guard, I kind of go back to that eight or nine [number], right? Eight or nine big, heavy icebreakers — at least three of them in that role," he said, echoing a fleet size determined in a 2023 analysis. In addition to the "at least" three heavy icebreakers, Allan said elsewhere during a polar security panel that the Coast Guard would need at least another three or so "medium" polar-capable icebreakers. Still, he emphasized, "I'd just say it's very exciting to see your boss point towards a vision that we've had for a long time."

National Defense Magazine: SAS NEWS: New Drones Delivered to Coast Guard This Summer
National Defense Magazine [4/8/2025 10:56 AM, Stew Magnuson] reports Coast Guard National Security Cutters will receive all new vertical take-off and landing drones as early as this summer, an executive with the new provider, Shield AI, said April 8. The new Shield AI V-BAT drones have been altered for Coast Guard missions, Brandon Troup, the company's business development executive, said in an interview on the sidelines of the Navy League's Sea-Air-Space symposium. "It's our most updated aircraft," he said. It has increased endurance over the company's previous versions, which have flown with the Marine Corps and several overseas customers. The Coast Guard wanted about 24 hours of flight time, he added. Other changes to the drone include a diesel engine, which matches the fuel the cutters bring aboard, he said. However, Troup noted that the public won't be seeing a V-BAT overhead painted in the Coast Guard's traditional bright orange, as was the case for the model in the Shield AI booth at the trade show. That was just for display, he noted. The Coast Guard wants the V-BATs to be gray so they are harder to spot, he added.

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Maritime Executive: U.S. Coast Guard Cancels New Logistics IT System to Save Money
Maritime Executive [4/8/2025 11:06 PM, Staff, 325K] reports the U.S. Coast Guard is set to save $32.7 million following the termination of an information technology program that was once deemed critical in "integrating capabilities," but which is now said to be ineffective. In a move instigated by the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) and in line with the Coast Guard's Force Design 2028 (FD 2028) initiative, the agency announced the termination of the Logistics Information Management System (CG-LIMS), with its program activities expected to cease no later than May 1, 2025. With the termination of the "ineffective" program, the agency is expected to save $32.7 million, funds that have already been appropriated and which will now be redirected to address emerging needs. "Another win for government efficiency," said Kristi Noem, Secretary of Homeland Security. "$32 million in taxpayer savings thanks to the Coast Guard eliminating an ineffective IT program. I'm proud of the men and women of the Coast Guard, who continue to deliver on the President's agenda and deliver efficiency while securing our borders and maritime approaches."

Newsmax: Trump Admin Touts Enhanced Border Security
Newsmax [4/8/2025 9:19 PM, Staff] reports even Trump administration's most vocal critics cannot possibly dispute the fact that the southern border is more secure now than at any other point, at least in recent memory. The U.S. Coast Guard reported that during the period from December to March, some 200 boats filled with migrants. from adversarial countries, were encountered near San Diego. [Editorial note: consult video at source link]

ABC 8 New Haven: [CT] Sailboat missing after leaving New Haven for North Carolina: U.S. Coast Guard
ABC 8 New Haven [4/8/2025 4:08 PM, Bailey Wright, 1000K] reports the United States Coast Guard is searching for a sailboat they say is missing after it left New Haven with three people aboard. In a social media post Tuesday, Coast Guard officials said they're seeking any information about the overdue sailing vessel named "HOT CHOCOLATE." The boat was headed to Ocracoke, North Carolina, operating off the continental shelf. Officials did not say when the group departed from New Haven.

Reported similarly:
New Haven Register [4/8/2025 11:58 AM, Liz Hardaway]

ABC 10 Miami: [FL] Cuban human smugglers await sentencing after caught in boat with 18 Ecuadorians, feds say
ABC 10 Miami [4/8/2025 4:26 PM, Andrea Torres] reports after a U.S. Coast Guard crew reported a suspicious go-fast boat in the Bahamas, U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers joined a pursuit. Yordany Capote-Leon and Yuniel Cabrera departed in the boat from the U.S. before the USCG Coast saw them picking up a group of migrants, according to prosecutors. The Oct. 24 pursuit ended with officers arresting Capote-Leon, Cabrera, and three Ecuadorians who had been deported from the U.S., according to Homeland Security Investigations. The USCG Cutter Manowar crew returned 15 out of the 18 undocumented migrants to the Bahamas, according to the USCG. Border Protection officers reported firing "warning shots" at the cuddy-cabin-style boat after Capote-Leon, 31, and Cabrera, 44, ignored their orders to stop off Key Largo.

Reported similarly:
NBC 6 Miami [4/8/2025 4:33 PM, Staff]
FOX 7 Miami [4/8/2025 2:30 PM, Patrick Chalvire, 864K]
Telemundo51 [4/8/2025 3:06 PM, Staff, 171K]

600 AM San Diego: [CA] Another Human Smuggling Attempt Broken Up
600 AM San Diego [4/8/2025 8:10 AM, Staff] reports another human smuggling attempt off the cost of San Diego has been broken up the U.S. Coast Guard and Navy. Eight people, all of whom claimed Mexican

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nationality were arrested and turned over to the Department of Homeland Security. [Editorial note: consult audio at source link]

ABC 10 San Diego: [CA] Coast Guard Stops Boat Carrying 22 Migrants
ABC 10 San Diego [4/8/2025 10:57 AM, Staff] reports the Coast Guard said they intercepted a ship over the weekend carrying 22 undocumented migrants. The Coast Guard transferred all them to Border Patrol in Imperial Beach. [Editorial note: consult video at source link]

CISA/Cybersecurity

CNN: Trump is dismantling election security networks. State officials are alarmed
CNN [4/9/2025 5:00 AM, Bob Ortega, 908K] reports that, Misha Pride, then the mayor of South Portland, Maine, was greeting voters early on Election Day when police cars suddenly swarmed outside the city's community center with lights flashing. "Possible shooting," the city manager texted Pride. Officers locked down the center. Authorities quickly determined the call to police was a hoax, one of hundreds of threats and cyberattacks last November aimed at disrupting the presidential election – some pushed by partisan zealots, others perpetrated by foreign state actors including Russia and China. Voting at the community center was delayed by only ten minutes. The attacks in Maine, and elsewhere across the US, had minimal impact because of strong preparation and quick work by an information-sharing and analysis network of hundreds of federal, state and local election, cybersecurity and law-enforcement officials. But now key parts of this network, much of it built over the past eight years, are being systematically dismantled by the Trump administration and Elon Musk's Department of Government Efficiency, a CNN investigation has found – leaving election offices across the country scrambling to protect against future threats. In early February, Musk's team laid off 130 staffers at the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, or CISA, including 10 regional security specialists who worked with local and state election officials. The Trump administration is also advancing plans to strip civil service protections from 80% of the remaining CISA workforce, potentially allowing them to be fired for political reasons. Attorney General Pam Bondi that month disbanded a key FBI task force charged with investigating foreign efforts to influence elections. She also left in the wind the fate of another FBI task force that investigated threats against election workers and polling places. Homeland Security chief Kristi Noem, meanwhile, on March 6 canceled the funding for national information sharing efforts that helped state and local election officials detect and ward off coordinated hacking attacks and other threats. Those moves come as Trump has appointed to key positions officials who embrace his false claims of widespread voting fraud, including Bondi, Noem and FBI Director Kash Patel, among others – and as Trump has cashiered the head of the National Security Agency and the US Cyber Command, Gen. Timothy Haugh, who was involved in countering Russian interference in past elections. Trump officials argue that some of the election security agencies targeted for cuts were improperly hurting the president's allies. During her confirmation hearing in January, Noem said that CISA has "gotten far off mission" in trying to combat foreign disinformation. She pledged to help "rein in" the agency, which critics say pushed social media companies to target conservative commentators. Bondi said disbanding the Foreign Influence Task Force was necessary to end the "risk of further weaponization … of prosecutorial discretion."

Bloomberg: Hackers Spied on US Bank Regulators' Emails for Over a Year
Bloomberg [4/8/2025 3:00 PM, Margi Murphy and Jake Bleiberg] reports hackers intercepted about 103 bank regulators' emails for more than a year, gaining access to highly sensitive financial information, according to two people familiar with the matter and a draft letter to Congress seen by Bloomberg News. The attackers were able to monitor employee emails at the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency after breaking into an administrator's account, said the people, asking not to be identified because the information isn't public. OCC on Feb. 12 confirmed that there had been unauthorized activity on its systems after a Microsoft Corp. security team the day before had notified OCC about unusual network behavior, according to the draft letter. OCC on Tuesday notified Congress about the compromise, describing it as a "major information security incident." The incident was reported to the Department of

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Homeland Security's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, and there was no indication of any impact on the financial sector "at this time," OCC said in its initial disclosure.

FOX News: US bank regulator tells Congress it suffered 'major' hack that exposed sensitive information
FOX News [4/8/2025 6:31 PM, Louis Casiano, 46189K] reports the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, which regulates and supervises national banks, on Tuesday said it notified Congress of a February hack that it called a "major information security incident." The breach was first disclosed in February when it learned of "unusual interactions between a system administrative account in its office automation environment and OCC user mailboxes," an OCC news release states. According to Bloomberg, the hackers had access to more than 150,000 emails after breaching the system in June 2023. "The confidentiality and integrity of the OCC's information security systems are paramount to fulfilling its mission," said Acting Comptroller of the Currency Rodney Hood. The OCC first learned of the incident on Feb. 11. Compromised administrative accounts were shut off the next day. "The OCC discovered that the unauthorized access to a number of its executives' and employees' emails included highly sensitive information relating to the financial condition of federally regulated financial institutions used in its examinations and supervisory oversight processes," the agency said. The OCC said it has reached out to third-party cybersecurity experts to conduct a review of IT security protocols to prevent future attacks.

CyberScoop: Microsoft patches zero-day actively exploited in string of ransomware attacks
CyberScoop [4/8/2025 5:54 PM, Matt Kapko] reports Microsoft addressed 126 vulnerabilities affecting its systems and core products, including a zero-day in the Windows Common Log File System (CLFS) that's been actively exploited in a series of ransomware attacks, the company said in its latest security update Tuesday. A group Microsoft tracks as Storm-2460 has exploited CVE-2025-29824 to initiate ransomware attacks "against a small number of targets," Microsoft Threat Intelligence said in a research note released Tuesday. Victims include organizations in the IT and real estate sectors in the United States, the financial sector in Venezuela, a Spanish software company and the retail sector in Saudi Arabia, according to Microsoft. Microsoft said it's unsure how Storm-2460 gained initial access to devices on these networks, but noted successful exploitation of the software defect allows an attacker running a standard user account to escalate privileges. The zero-day, which Storm-2460 deployed via PipeMagic malware, has a CVSS score of 7.8. Mike Walters, president and co-founder at Action1, said CVE-2025-29824 "is significant because it affects a core component of Windows, impacting a wide range of environments, including enterprise systems and critical infrastructure." Attackers can exploit the vulnerability to gain the highest privilege on a Windows system, Walters said. This allows attackers to install malware, modify system files and registry settings, disable security features, access sensitive data and maintain persistent access, resulting in full system compromise and lateral movement across networks, Walters added.

Terrorism Investigations

Reuters: US Senate Democrat questions FBI on domestic terrorism staff reassignments
Reuters [4/8/2025 2:07 PM, Andrew Goudsward, 48128K] reports a top U.S. Senate Democrat pressed the FBI on Tuesday to explain why it reassigned staff from domestic terrorism investigations, accusing Republican President Donald Trump's administration of imperiling efforts to confront violent extremists in the U.S. Reuters reported last month that the FBI transferred about 16 agents and intelligence analysts from its Domestic Terrorism Operations Section, which supports investigations run by the FBI's 55 field offices and provides information on domestic threats. The letter from Senator Dick Durbin, the top Democrat on the Senate Judiciary Committee, asked the FBI how many personnel remain in the section and how the agency is managing investigations previously assigned to its staff. "I strongly urge you to put the safety of the American people first, reverse these resource reallocations, and reaffirm the Administration's commitment to tackling domestic violent extremism with the full force and attention this significant threat demands," Durbin of Illinois wrote to FBI Director Kash Patel and Homeland Security

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Secretary Kristi Noem. The move raised fears that investigations into violence fueled by white supremacist and anti-government ideologies may be a lower priority under Patel, who has criticized the FBI's past work on domestic terrorism.

RiverBender.com: Durbin Pushes DHS Secretary Noem, FBI Director Patel To Reverse Course On Cuts To Domestic Terrorism Prevention Efforts

RiverBender.com [4/8/2025 2:27 PM, Josh Sorbe] reports U.S. Senate Democratic Whip Dick Durbin (D-IL), Ranking Member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, pressed Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Kristi Noem and Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Director Kash Patel to reverse course on their deprioritization of domestic terrorism prevention efforts, which leaves our nation less secure and Americans less safe. Durbin began by condemning recent actions, writing: "I write to strongly object to the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) recent diversion of agency resources and institutional focus away from domestic terrorism prevention efforts." The FBI has reassigned staff from the Domestic Terrorism Operations Section (DTOS), which provides operational support to all 55 FBI field offices in investigating domestic terrorism threats, and is contemplating disbanding it entirely. DHS has dismantled a national database used to help curb domestic terrorism and hate crimes, as well as gutted funding for key domestic terrorism prevention programs that help support community groups and law enforcement agencies. Durbin outlined the vulnerabilities exacerbated by the changes, writing: "Taken together, these moves represent a broad institutional pullback from confronting the full scope of domestic terrorism threats at a time when experts continue to warn about intensifying danger, and the data points to the rising threat of attacks motivated by anti-government ideologies."

NewsNation: What are the biggest cartels in the US?

NewsNation [4/8/2025 7:00 PM, Patrick Djordjevic, 6866K] reports President Donald Trump has committed to going to war with Mexican drug cartels and is reportedly considering a drone strike. According to NBC News, the president is mulling over an attack against the cartels to combat drug trafficking into the U.S. Last month, Bill O'Reilly told NewsNation's "On Balance" that he expected Trump to carry out a weaponized drone attack should cartels not end their operations in the U.S. Arguably the most far-reaching of its kind from Mexico, the Sinaloa cartel was formerly led by Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman, who now resides in prison at ADX Florence, Colorado, where he is serving a life sentence. On March 31, the United States Treasury sanctioned six people and seven companies for alleged money laundering for factions of Mexico's Sinaloa cartel. It followed a collaborative investigation between U.S. and Mexican government agencies. The Sinaloa cartel and seven other criminal groups across Latin America were designated as "Foreign Terrorist Organizations" by President Trump after his return to office. This week, a longtime fugitive and associate of El Chapo was caught by Mexican special forces commandos in Mexico City.

AP: [VA] 3 dead, 3 injured in mass shooting in Virginia

AP [4/8/2025 9:57 PM, Staff, 48304K] reports three people have been killed and three others have been injured in a shooting in Virginia Tuesday evening, according to law enforcement. At about 5:30 p.m., law enforcement received 911 calls about a shooting at a town house complex in Spotsylvania County, about 65 miles southwest of Washington, D.C., said Major Elizabeth Scott, spokesperson for the Spotsylvania Sheriff's Office. No arrests have been made. "There's dozens upon dozens of officers out actively looking for suspects and preserving the crime scene," Scott said. The people injured in the mass shooting have been taken to hospitals. Their condition is unknown. No additional information about the victims was immediately available. Scott said they are urging the public to stay clear of the area.

NewsMax: [WA] Seattle FBI Probes Damage to Tesla Charging Station

NewsMax [4/8/2025 4:00 PM, Mark Swanson, 4998K] reports the FBI is investigating another alleged case of vandalism on a Tesla charging station, this time near Olympia, Washington, according to local reports. Reports of a fire followed by an explosion came in early Tuesday in Lacey, Washington, according to Seattle's KOMO-TV. FBI agents from the Seattle field office joined Lacey Police Department

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detectives in probing the latest in a rash of attacks on Tesla-based properties and products linked to protests against White House senior adviser Elon Musk, CEO of the electric vehicle giant. The FBI on March 24 launched a multiagency task force to investigate 50 reported attacks on Tesla vehicles, charging stations, and dealerships. Attorney General Pam Bondi has described the vandalism as domestic terrorism.

National Security News

The Hill: Gabbard creates task force to probe intelligence community
The Hill [4/8/2025 9:07 PM, Lauren Irwin, 12829K] reports Director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard announced Tuesday that she was creating a task force to investigate the intelligence community to increase "transparency and accountability." The Director's Initiatives Group (DIG) has plans to execute President Trump's executive order "aimed at rebuilding trust" in the intelligence community, according to a statement from Gabbard. The group will be "investigating weaponization, rooting out deep-seeded politicization, exposing unauthorized disclosures of classified intelligence, and declassifying information that serves a public interest." The group will target "wasteful spending" in addition to "streamlining outdated processes, reviewing documents for declassification, and leading ongoing efforts to root out abuses of power and politicization," Gabbard said. So far, the task force is "well underway" reviewing documents for potential declassification on various topics including the COVID-19 pandemic, Trump's Crossfire Hurricane investigation, Anomalous Health Incidents, the Biden administration's "domestic surveillance" and censorship against Americans. The group is also in the process of revoking security clearances for individuals who "no longer have an active role in national security," including former President Biden, former Rep. Liz Cheney (R-Wyo.) and former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. "President Trump promised the American people maximum transparency and accountability. We are committed to executing the President's vision and focusing the Intelligence Community on its core mission," Gabbard's statement said.

FOX News: Trump admin fires Navy admiral at NATO targeted by conservative group
FOX News [4/8/2025 8:19 AM, Michael Dorgan Fox, 46189K] reports the Trump administration has sacked a senior NATO official who was recommended by a conservative research group to be fired as part of a broader effort to purge wokeness from the Pentagon. Navy Vice Admiral Shoshana Chatfield, the only woman on NATO's military committee, was dismissed from the alliance over the weekend without explanation, according to multiple reports. She is one of only a handful of female Navy three-star officers and was the first woman to lead the Naval War College, a job she held until 2023. Chatfield reportedly got a call from Adm. Christopher Grady, the acting chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and was told the administration wanted to go in a different direction with the job, according to the Associated Press, citing officials. The officials said they believe the decision was made last week by Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth, but it was unclear whether he received any direction from President Donald Trump. Reuters was first to report on her termination. It was unclear if her firing was related to any U.S. policy direction on the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. Trump and Hegseth have been vocal in their insistence that so-called woke policies are dead and have vigorously sought to remove leaders who promoted diversity, equity and inclusion and to erase DEI programs and online content. The U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, is ditching almost 400 books from its library with DEI content. In December, the American Accountability Foundation (AAF), a conservative research group, sent a letter to Hegseth with a list of 20 general officers or senior admirals whom it said were excessively focused on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) and other similar left-wing initiatives. AAF wrote that focusing on such policies is an impediment to national security and Chatfield was one of eight women who made the list. Chatfield made the list due in part to a 2015 speech where she bemoaned that lawmakers in the House of Representatives at the time were 80% males, proclaiming that "our diversity is our strength." The group said she also quoted a slide from a presentation by the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute highlighting "Investing in gender equality and women's empowerment can unlock human potential on a transformational scale."

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Reuters: Musk's DOGE using AI to snoop on U.S. federal workers, sources say

Reuters [4/8/2025 9:11 AM, Alexandra Ulmer, Marisa Taylor, Jeffrey Dastin and Alexandra Alper, 41523K] reports Trump administration officials have told some U.S. government employees that Elon Musk's DOGE team of technologists is using artificial intelligence to surveil at least one federal agency's communications for hostility to President Donald Trump and his agenda, said two people with knowledge of the matter. While much of Musk's Department of Government Efficiency remains shrouded in secrecy, the surveillance would mark an extraordinary use of technology to identify expressions of perceived disloyalty in a workforce already upended by widespread firings and severe cost cutting. The DOGE team is also using the Signal app to communicate, according to one other person with direct knowledge of the matter, potentially violating federal record-keeping rules because messages can be set to disappear after a period of time. And they have "heavily" deployed Musk's Grok AI chatbot – an aspiring ChatGPT rival – as part of their work slashing the federal government, said that person. Reuters could not establish exactly how Grok was being used. The White House, DOGE and Musk did not respond to requests for comment. The use of AI and Signal reinforces concerns among cybersecurity experts and government ethicists that DOGE is operating with limited transparency and that billionaire Musk or the Trump administration could use information gathered with AI to further their own interests, or to go after political targets. Kathleen Clark, a government ethics expert at Washington University in St. Louis, said DOGE's use of privacy-focused Signal adds to growing concerns over data security practices after top Trump administration officials came under fire last month for the mistaken inclusion of a journalist in a group chat about high-level planning for military operations in Yemen. "If they're using Signal and not backing up every message to federal files, then they are acting unlawfully," she said. Reuters' interviews with nearly 20 people with knowledge of DOGE's operations – and an examination of hundreds of pages of court documents from lawsuits challenging DOGE's access to data – highlight its unorthodox usage of AI and other technology in federal government operations. At the Environmental Protection Agency, for instance, some EPA managers were told by Trump appointees that Musk's team is rolling out AI to monitor workers, including looking for language in communications considered hostile to Trump or Musk, the two people said.

NBC News: Ex-Facebook employee to tell Congress the company undermined U.S. national security

NBC News [4/8/2025 9:21 PM, Allan Smith, 44742K] reports Sarah Wynn-Williams, a former Facebook employee who alleged misconduct and sexual harassment at the company in a memoir published last month, will testify before Congress on Wednesday that Meta executives undermined U.S. national security and briefed Chinese officials on emerging technologies like artificial intelligence. In her introductory statement, obtained by NBC News, Wynn-Williams will tell the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime and Counterterrorism that Meta executives "lied about what they were doing with the Chinese Communist Party to employees, shareholders, Congress, and the American public." "I saw Meta executives repeatedly undermine US national security and betray American values," she will say, according to the prepared remarks. "They did these things in secret to win favor with Beijing and build an $18 billion dollar business in China," her statement says, referring to China-based advertisers. Wynn-Williams, a former New Zealand diplomat, worked at Facebook from 2011 to 2017. She believes she was fired in 2017 as retaliation for accusing her boss, Joel Kaplan, who at the time was a vice president for global public policy, of sexual harassment. Meta, which owns Facebook, said that an investigation cleared Kaplan in 2017 and that Wynn-Williams' book, "Careless People," included "false accusations about our executives." Meta also said other claims in the book were "out-of-date and previously reported," and a former supervisor said she was fired for performance reasons. In a statement Tuesday night, Meta spokesperson Andy Stone criticized Wynn-Williams' planned remarks. "Sarah Wynn-Williams' testimony is divorced from reality and riddled with false claims," Stone said in a statement. "While Mark Zuckerberg himself was public about our interest in offering our services in China and details were widely reported beginning over a decade ago, the fact is this: we do not operate our services in China today." Wednesday's hearing is an indication of the scrutiny that Meta continues to receive in Washington, despite a monthslong effort by Meta and its CEO, Mark Zuckerberg, to pivot the company's politics to the right, aligning more closely with the Trump administration and the Republican-controlled Congress.

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Reuters: Western intelligence agencies warn spyware threat targeting Taiwan, Tibetan rights advocates

Reuters [4/8/2025 7:33 PM, A.J. Vicens, 41523K] reports Western intelligence agencies warned on Tuesday of an increasing threat from Beijing's security services to use malicious mobile phone applications to surveil Taiwanese independence activists, Tibetan rights advocates and others opposed by the Chinese government. An advisory, issued late on Tuesday warned of "the growing threat" posed by malicious surveillance software deployed by a Chengdu-based contractor reported to have ties to China's Ministry of Public Security. The advisory was signed by cybersecurity agencies in Britain, the U.S., Canada, New Zealand, Australia and Germany. Those most at risk include people connected to Taiwanese independence, Tibetan rights, Uyghur Muslims and other minorities in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, democracy advocates (including in Hong Kong) and the Falun Gong spiritual movement, according to Britain's National Cyber Security Centre in the advisory. The warning comes amid increasing tensions surrounding Taiwan, including April 1 Chinese military drills around the island and a March 28 visit to the Philippines by U.S. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth in which he reaffirmed Washington's commitment to deterring Chinese aggression in the region. The Chengdu-based contractor, Sichuan Dianke Network Security Technology Co., Ltd., was linked to the deployment of a pair of distinct malware packages. They were tracked as "BADBAZAAR" and "MOONSHINE" and used to ferret sensitive information from mobile devices while also giving operators remote access to devices' cameras, microphones and location data, the advisory said. The warning is for non-governmental organizations, journalists, businesses and other individuals who advocate for or represent the groups, the NCSC said in the advisory. "The indiscriminate way this spyware is spread online also means there is a risk that infections could spread beyond intended victims," it said. Liu Pengyu, spokesperson for the Chinese Embassy in Washington, told Reuters that China "firmly opposes the smear attacks against China without any factual basis," and that the tracing of cyberattacks is complex. "We hope that relevant parties will adopt a professional and responsible attitude when characterizing cyber incidents, basing their conclusions on sufficient evidence rather than unfounded speculation and accusations."

New York Times: Trump Pressed Ahead With Sweeping Tariffs

New York Times [4/8/2025 6:09 PM, Matthew Cullen, 145325K] reports aust hours from now, at midnight, President Trump is set to impose steep new tariffs on many of America's biggest trading partners. The fee on imports from China, for example, will rise from 30 percent to at least 104 percent. America's top trade official defended the levies today as "a moment of drastic, overdue change." At least 70 governments have already approached the U.S. to discuss rolling back the tariffs, and the administration signaled today that it was ready to negotiate. But the president and his advisers have been clear that the appeals will not stop the tariffs from going into effect. China has vowed to "fight to the end"; other countries, like Japan, indicated a willingness to compromise; the E.U. is trying to do a bit of both. Billionaire investors, worried that the tariffs will drag down the economy, have been calling the White House to push Trump to reverse course — though it's not clear that they've had any effect. That uncertainty has translated into massive volatility in the stock market. This morning, the S&P 500 was up 4 percent; it finished down about 1.6 percent. The early rally, seemed "to be pinned, in part, on the prospects for deals to lower tariffs," Jason Karaian, our deputy business editor, said. That optimism may have faded. Trump signed an executive order this afternoon aimed at expanding the use of coal in the U.S. It will direct federal agencies to remove barriers to coal leasing and mining and loosen environmental reviews of coal projects. The president's push appears designed to reverse a decades-long decline in the use of coal, the most polluting of all fossil fuels and the main driver of global warming. But utilities have switched to cheaper and cleaner electricity sources like natural gas, wind and solar power, and some analysts said a major coal revival is unlikely.

Washington Examiner: Clock strikes midnight: Trump's 'Liberation Day' tariffs take effect

Washington Examiner [4/9/2025 12:01 AM, Christian Datoc, 2296K] reports President Donald Trump's wave of tariffs went into effect at 12:01 a.m. Wednesday as the vast majority of U.S. trading partners look to head off the barrier taxes with last-minute deals with the White House. Trump's "Liberation Day" announcement outlined a two-phased rollout of the new tariffs, which Trump has described as reciprocal.

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First, the 10% flat tariff on all trading partners was put into effect over the weekend, with a midnight deadline for "tailored" rates for 86 individual countries. The new tariff regime, on friends and foes alike, upended years of global trade relationships and prompted rare voices of dissent from congressional Republicans concerned about risks of inflation, recession, and executive overreach. Trump, however, sought to reassure House Republicans at a fundraising dinner Tuesday night that tariffs will work by bringing countries to the negotiating table. "I really think we're helped a lot by the tariff situation that's going on, which is a good situation, not a bad," Trump said at a National Republican Congressional Committee dinner. "It's going to be legendary. You watch — legendary in a positive way."

NewsMax: Stephen Miller to Newsmax: Whole World Coming to U.S. to Negotiate Trade
NewsMax [4/8/2025 9:26 PM, Nick Koutsobinas, 4998K] reports the whole world is coming to the United States to negotiate as a result of President Donald Trump's tariff policy, White House deputy Chief of Staff for Policy Stephen Miller told Newsmax on Tuesday. "Because of President Trump's action to protect and defend our national security and our manufacturing base, the entire world that has abused and misused and mistreated the United States, is now coming to the table to establish a new and fair global trading framework," Miller told "Rob Schmitt Tonight." Throughout Miller's eight-minute interview, the White House deputy covered a range of topics, mainly concerning the U.S.'s trade relationship with China and the implementation of a permanent tariff policy. When asked by Schmitt if the goal of the tariffs was to negotiate fair trade deals or make them permanent to fund the government, Miller replied both levers should be used. "I don't think" those methods are the "contradiction that people have portrayed them to be," Miller said. He went on to add, giving the example of Europe, that the continent operates on a "20%" value-added tax on all imports. "Most advanced economies in the world collect some kind ... of revenue off imports," he added. "So the United States, without preordaining what the final outcome of different negotiations will be, can always maintain a baseline of import collection to fund the general treasury." "At the same time, where you see some of these countries that have engaged in the worst practices — that have higher rates of tariffs — they can enter into negotiations with the United States to come down to where the rest of the world is. So the answer is that, of course, you can do both of these things, and both of these goals, in fact, work in concert."

The Hill: Democrats use DOGE hearing to target Trump tariffs
The Hill [4/8/2025 1:37 PM, Julia Manchester, 12829K] reports that House Democrats used a DOGE subcommittee hearing to target President Trump on tariffs on Tuesday. "Unfortunately, Republicans in Congress want to debate office space and furniture while the president torches the global economy," said Rep. Robert Garcia (D-Calif.), flanked by a sign depicting a dip in the market with a picture of Elon Musk jumping. In her closing remarks, the committee's ranking member, Rep. Melanie Stansbury (D-N.M.), argued that DOGE's approach is "troubling" because, like Trump's handling of the economy, it does not have a plan. "It goes along with the troubling theory of the case that Donald Trump seems to have about the economy overall because as my colleague pointed out, we're sitting here talking about microphones and furniture in an office building while the economy is tanking and trillions of dollars in losses are happening and we know that a potential for both a recession and costs are going to go up which will cost the federal government more money," Stansbury said. "One of my colleagues quoted Milton Friedman which I found actually quite funny because Elon Musk himself has also been quoting Milton Friedman over the weekend because he thought that international trade was good and tariffs were bad," Stansbury said. "Anybody? Anybody? Donald Trump is crashing the economy over tariffs." Rep. Jasmine Crockett (D-Texas) accused Republicans of being "hellbent" on firing government workers and setting fire to government programs like Social Security, Medicaid and Medicare.

The Hill: [Panama] Hegseth rebuffs China's influence at Panama Canal
The Hill [4/8/2025 7:01 PM, Ellen Mitchell, 12829K] reports Hegseth, who was in Panama on Tuesday to meet with its government officials, spoke from a new U.S.-financed pier at the Vasco Nuñez de Balboa Naval Base on the canal. He said Beijing would not be allowed to "weaponize" the waterway via a commercial presence. "The United States of America will not allow communist China or any other country to threaten the canal's operation or integrity," he said. He noted that the U.S. and Panama strengthened

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their defense and security cooperation in recent weeks and together "will take back the Panama Canal from China's influence." "China did not build this canal. China does not operate this canal and China will not weaponize this canal," Hegseth said from the pier. "Together, with Panama in the lead, we will keep the canal secure and available for all nations." The message had a more conciliatory tone compared with that of his boss, President Trump, who has vowed to take back the Panama Canal from Panama. Trump has claimed that China effectively controls the trade route via two major ports on either end of the shipping lane. Panama has rejected these assertions, pointing to its withdrawal earlier this year of its Belt and Road Initiative agreements with Beijing, made in 2017. Trump has not ruled out the use of military force in taking over the canal, and last month NBC News reported that the White House had directed the Pentagon "to draw up options to increase the American troop presence in Panama."

NBC News: [Panama] Trump was touting his Panama victory. Then China stepped in.
NBC News [4/8/2025 12:00 PM, Mithil Aggarwal, 44742K] reports that a huge deal touted by President Donald Trump as a victory in his campaign to "take back" the Panama Canal from China could be on the rocks amid pushback from Beijing. The $23 billion sale involving two ports run by CK Hutchison, a private company based in the Chinese territory of Hong Kong, to a consortium led by U.S. investment firm BlackRock had originally been scheduled to be signed last week. But an agreement between the two has been delayed under pressure from China, whose market regulator launched a review of the deal as state-run newspapers attacked it as undermining China's national interests. NBC News takes a look at the sale and what it may mean politically and economically for the United States and China, the world's two biggest economies. During Trump's inaugural speech in January, he claimed without providing evidence that China controlled the 50-mile canal, and vowed that the U.S. will take back the waterway, which he said was "vital" to national security. Trump did not rule out military action and has directed the Defense Department to draw up plans to send more troops to Panama to "reclaim" the canal, through which 40% of U.S. trade passes. Panama denies Trump's accusations about the neutrality of the canal, which is enshrined in its constitution. But in an attempt to relieve the pressure from Washington, in January the country launched an audit of CK Hutchison's Panama Ports Company (PPC), which since 1997 has operated two ports along the canal, Balboa on the Pacific side and Cristóbal on the Atlantic side. On Monday, Panama's comptroller general said the audit had found that the contract was overly favorable to Hutchison PPC, costing Panama $1.3 billion in revenue, and that authorities would file a lawsuit against officials involved in its renewal in 2021.

Reuters: [China] US intelligence agency warns China is trying to recruit government employees
Reuters [4/8/2025 8:45 PM, Jasper Ward, 41523K] reports the U.S. warned on Tuesday that Chinese intelligence was using deceptive methods to target current and former U.S. government employees for recruitment. The warning from the National Counterintelligence and Security Center comes amid mass federal firings led by Elon Musk's Department of Government of Efficiency. "Foreign intelligence entities, particularly those in China, are targeting current and former U.S. government (USG) employees for recruitment by posing as consulting firms, corporate headhunters, think tanks, and other entities on social and professional networking sites," the center said in a bulletin. The center said deceptive online job offers and other approaches have become more sophisticated in targeting individuals with U.S. government backgrounds seeking new employment. It warned current and former federal employees of such approaches. It added that clearance holders were obligated to protect classified data even after leaving federal employment. The Chinese foreign ministry said on Wednesday it was not aware of the situation and accused the U.S. of spying on China. Ministry spokesperson Lin Jian called the U.S. actions "irresponsible practices" and said it was engaging in "global espionage without any disguise". Reuters previously reported about a network of companies operated by a secretive Chinese tech firm that had been trying to recruit recently laid-off U.S. government workers.

AP: [China] China says it will 'fight to the end' after Trump threatens to impose still more tariffs
AP [4/8/2025 7:25 AM, Staff, 13342K] reports China said Tuesday it would "fight to the end" and take countermeasures against the United States to safeguard its own interests after President Donald Trump threatened an additional 50% tariff on Chinese imports. The Commerce Ministry said the U.S.'s imposition

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of “so-called ‘reciprocal tariffs’” on China is “completely groundless and is a typical unilateral bullying practice.” China, the world’s second-largest economy, has announced retaliatory tariffs and the ministry hinted in its latest statement that more may be coming. “The countermeasures China has taken are aimed at safeguarding its sovereignty, security and development interests, and maintaining the normal international trade order. They are completely legitimate,” the ministry said. “The U.S. threat to escalate tariffs on China is a mistake on top of a mistake and once again exposes the blackmailing nature of the U.S. China will never accept this. If the U.S. insists on its own way, China will fight to the end,” it added. Trump’s threat Monday of additional tariffs on China raised fresh concerns that his drive to rebalance the global economy could intensify a financially destructive trade war. Stock markets from Tokyo to New York have become more unstable as the tariff war worsens. Trump’s threat came after China said it would retaliate against U.S. tariffs he announced last week. “If China does not withdraw its 34% increase above their already long term trading abuses by tomorrow, April 8th, 2025, the United States will impose ADDITIONAL Tariffs on China of 50%, effective April 9th,” Trump wrote on Truth Social. “Additionally, all talks with China concerning their requested meetings with us will be terminated!” If Trump implements his new tariffs on Chinese products, U.S. tariffs on Chinese goods would reach a combined 104%. The new taxes would be on top of the 20% tariffs announced as punishment for fentanyl trafficking and his separate 34% tariffs announced last week. Not only could that increase prices for American consumers, it could also give China an incentive to flood other countries with cheaper goods and seek deeper relationships with other trading partners, particularly the European Union.

CNN: [China] Tariffs on China set to rise to at least 104% on Wednesday, White House say

CNN [4/8/2025 11:53 PM, Elisabeth Buchwald and Nectar Gan, 908K] reports President Donald Trump is set to impose an astounding 104% in levies across all Chinese imports on Wednesday, White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt announced on Tuesday. This comes on top of Chinese tariffs that were in place prior to Trump’s second term. China was already set to see tariffs increase by 34% on Wednesday as part of Trump’s "reciprocal" tariffs package. But the president tacked on another 50% after Beijing didn’t back off on its promise to impose 34% retaliatory tariffs on US goods by noon Tuesday, adding an additional 84% in duties. Earlier Tuesday, China’s Commerce Ministry said it "firmly opposes" the additional 50% tariffs on Chinese imports, calling it "a mistake upon a mistake." The ministry vowed to escalate its retaliation on US exports. US stocks, which soared Tuesday morning, began moving lower following Leavitt’s comments. Markets ultimately ended the day markedly lower. The Dow fell 320 points, or 0.84%. The broader S&P 500 fell 1.57%. The tech-heavy Nasdaq Composite slid 2.15%. "Countries like China, who have chosen to retaliate and try to double down on their mistreatment of American workers, are making a mistake," Leavitt told reporters on Tuesday. "President Trump has a spine of steel, and he will not break.” "The Chinese want to make a deal, they just don’t know how to do it," she added. She declined to share what, if any, terms Trump would consider to lower tariffs on China. Asian markets largely tracked Wall Street’s losses, with Japan’s Nikkei 225 opening about 3% lower on Wednesday. Hong Kong’s Hang Seng also fell 3%. South Korea’s Kopsi and Australia’s benchmark ASX 200 index were each down about 1%. Along with increasing China’s overall tariff rate, President Trump also signed an executive order Tuesday night tripling tariffs on goods worth less than $800 from the country. As it stands, packages under $800 have been exempt from tariffs through the so-called "de minimus" exemption.

Bloomberg: [China] Trump’s Tariffs Collide With Deepening China Shock

Bloomberg [4/8/2025 7:00 AM, Shawn Donnan, 16228K] reports that, for a quarter century at least the world has been living with the effects of an epochal economic shock as China’s rise has reshaped whole industries and communities around the world. But that jolt to the global economy has been joined by another over the past week: The Trump Shock is truly here. The initial impact has been on markets and been manifested in the turmoil that has rolled over trading floors and investors around the world since President Trump last week announced the largest package of US tariffs in a century. But as we write in today’s Big Take, that’s just the beginning of the story. The flow of goods and capital around the world is set to undergo a fundamental change over the next five years, a new Bloomberg Economics analysis finds. That’s exactly what Trump and his cheerleaders are unabashedly aiming for. They want to rewrite

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the rules of global commerce in America's favor. Supply chains will be tangled, investment plans rewritten, prices for imports will spike, and trade and security relationships with both allies and rivals will be remade. Trump's whole bold gamble hinges on upheaval. The thing is that tariff-driven Trump Shock is also likely to amplify the enduring China Shock as the world's second largest economy will be forced to find a replacement for a US market that remains a significant destination for its exports. That in turn will lead to countries putting up their own tariffs against Chinese goods. Think of that rolling shock that hit financial markets over the past week turning into a wave of tariffs circulating around the world. It's a tale of twin shocks that are not just colliding but hitting the rest of the global economy. The new story is who is getting shocked hardest by whom. It seems unlikely to have a happy ending for a world that only just escaped the human and economic carnage of a pandemic.

Newsweek: [China] US Ally Confronts China in Contested Waters

Newsweek [4/8/2025 3:47 PM, Micah McCartney, 52220K] reports that Chinese coast guard ships repeatedly attempted to ram Philippine vessels over the weekend, according to Manila. The incidents, captured on video, took place west of the Philippines' main island of Luzon, where Chinese ships have maintained a steady presence since early this year in what analysts call a show of force. China claims more than 90 percent of the South China Sea under its self-declared ten-dash line, citing vague historical rights that overlap with claims by the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Indonesia, Brunei, and Taiwan. A 2016 international tribunal sided with the Philippines and rejected Beijing's claims. China has dismissed the ruling as invalid and continues to send its heavily armed coast guard, naval warships, and paramilitary maritime militia hundreds of miles from its coast to enforce its claims. Newsweek reached out to the Chinese Foreign Ministry and Philippine Coast Guard for comment. In a statement posted to X (formerly Twitter), Philippine Coast Guard spokesperson Jay Tarriela accused Chinese ship CCG-3302 of "reckless and dangerous maneuvers" on Saturday and Sunday, including multiple attempts to ram the BRP Cabra, a smaller Philippine patrol vessel. Manila released a video showing the Cabra's crew hailing the Chinese vessel and warning it had no right to patrol within the Philippines' exclusive economic zone (EEZ).

The Hill: [China] TikTok extension, potential deal may violate law: Top Senate Democrat

The Hill [4/8/2025 11:40 AM, Julia Shapero, 12829K] reports that the top Democrat on the Senate Intelligence Committee warned Monday that President Trump's additional extension for TikTok's parent company to divest from the app, as well as a potential divestment deal on the table, may violate the law. In a letter to Trump, Sen. Mark Warner (D-Va.) said he has "deep reservations with how you and other involved parties are carrying out the negotiations around the sale of TikTok." He emphasized that the law passed by Congress last April, which required TikTok's parent company ByteDance to divest from the app or face a U.S. ban, allowed a single 90-day extension. "This second delay is a clear violation of the law, while also continuing to leave Americans vulnerable to malign influence operations conducted by an adversary country," Warner wrote. Trump signed an executive order Friday halting enforcement of the law for another 75 days, saying his administration had made "tremendous progress" toward a deal but that it "requires more work to ensure all necessary approvals are signed." He initially gave TikTok a 75-day reprieve from the divest-or-ban law shortly after taking office with aspirations of reaching a deal to keep TikTok available in the U.S. A source familiar with the negotiations told The Hill that a deal was finalized last week that would have seen TikTok's U.S. operations spun off into a new company owned and operated by a majority of American investors. ByteDance would maintain a minority stake in the company under the agreement.

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DHS MORNING BRIEFING

Prepared for the Office of Public Affairs (OPA)
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

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Editorial Note: The DHS Daily Briefing is a collection of news articles related to Department's mission. The inclusion of particular stories is not intended to reflect their importance, nor is it intended to endorse the political viewpoints or affiliations included in news coverage.

TO: Homeland Security Secretary & Staff

DATE: Wednesday, April 9, 2025 6:00 AM ET

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FOX News/NewsMax/New York Post/Breitbart: Gun-toting Noem joins ICE agents to go after criminal illegal aliens in Arizona

FOX News [4/8/2025 8:53 PM, Greg Wehner, 46189K] reports Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Kristi Noem spent Tuesday morning with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Arizona law enforcement agents going after illegal immigrant criminals in the Phoenix area. Standing with a gun in her hands, Noem said in a video posted to X that she was going out with ICE to pick up someone facing charges of human trafficking. She also said she went out earlier with agents and swept up a person

wanted for murder. "I appreciate the work that they do every day, and we appreciate them working to keep America safe," Noem said. In another post, Noem shared images of her standing with law enforcement officials and sitting in an ICE vehicle while wearing a Kevlar vest. She also shared pictures of law enforcement officials arresting two men, one who had no shoes and the other who was wearing a pair of Crocs. "Arizona is safer this morning after a successful operation getting criminal illegal aliens and gang members off our streets," Noem wrote. "Thank you to our brave law enforcement officers. If you are in this country illegally, we will find you, arrest you, and send you back." Noem has taken a hands-on approach to her role as the DHS secretary since President Donald Trump appointed her to the position. She recently traveled to El Salvador's Terrorism Confinement Center, where hundreds of migrant criminals were deported last month. Noem toured the facility where she met face-to-face with alleged Tren de Aragua and MS-13 gang members, all of whom were wearing white prison suits and had shaved heads. She also sent a message from the prison to illegal immigrants who are still in the U.S. or plan to visit anytime soon. "First of all, do not come to our country illegally: You will be removed, and you will be prosecuted," she said while standing with her back to the inmates. "But know that this facility is one of the tools in our toolkit that we will use if you commit crimes against the American people." NewsMax [4/8/2025 5:36 PM, Nicole Weatherholtz, 4998K] reports that Noem reportedly greeted agents from ICE's Enforcement and Removal Operations, Homeland Security Investigations, the FBI and the Drug Enforcement Administration in an underground parking garage, shaking hands with and thanking officers for their work while pledging to get them necessary resources. The New York Post [4/8/2025 1:58 PM, Jennie Taer and Chris Nesi, 54900K] reports the Post was there as [Noem] dodged kicks from a suspect wearing slip-on shoes and gamely told him, "You're not scaring me with your Croc." The multi-agency task force — led by Phoenix Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents and joined by a coterie of federal law enforcement and immigration agencies — nabbed three illegal immigrant felons with extensive criminal histories. Noem, clad in police tactical gear including a flak jacket, sported her two-tone gold Rolex as she greeted agents from ICE's Enforcement and Removal Operations, Homeland Security Investigations, the FBI, and the Drug Enforcement Administration in a dingy underground parking garage. She shook hands with officers as she thanked them for their work and pledged to get them the resources they need to do their jobs better. Breitbart [4/8/2025 7:43 PM, Elizabeth Weibel, 2923K] reports that according to the New York Post, Noem "led about 100 federal agents on an early morning raid" in Phoenix. During the "multi-agency" raid, which was led by Phoenix ICE agents, three illegal aliens who were wanted on charges relating to "weapons and drug offenses to running a money laundering operation," were captured, according to the outlet. Noem told the outlet that "the effort of cooperation" there was "between agencies is getting turned onto steroids," and added that anyone in the United States illegally "that's committing crimes and has broken our laws will face consequences." "The effort of cooperation we have between agencies is getting turned onto steroids," Noem told the outlet. "We have this being multiplied across the country exponentially. Now anyone who's in this country illegally that's committing crimes and has broken our laws will face consequences." Per the outlet, one of the suspects who was arrested was Bonifacio Renteria-Cruz, who is an illegal alien "felon from Mexico with ties to the Sinaloa Cartel." Another suspect who was arrested was Jose Escobar-Robles, who was "identified as helping run Monroy Enterprises, a money service business believed to be illegally funneling money to Mexico to benefit cartels." The first suspect arrested was Bonifacio Renteria-Cruz, an illegal migrant felon from Mexico with ties to the Sinaloa Cartel, according to DHS. His lengthy rap sheet includes prior convictions for aggravated assault, weapons charges, and an active arrest warrant in Mexico for homicide.

Reported similarly:
NBC 12 Phoenix [4/8/2025 8:54 PM, Staff]
FOX News [4/8/2025 7:18 PM, Staff, 46189K] Video: HERE
FOX 10 Phoenix [4/8/2025 7:20 PM, Staff]
Arizona Republic [4/8/2025 8:33 PM, Patrick Breen] Video HERE

Arizona Republic: DHS Secretary Kristi Noem, in Phoenix, touts mass deportations, border security upgrades
Arizona Republic [4/8/2025 11:52 PM, Raphael Romero Ruiz] reports Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem praised her department's rollout of President Donald Trump's mass deportation efforts and tougher border security measures during a keynote speech at the Border Security Expo in downtown Phoenix. In her hourlong address, Noem recounted to a crowd of about 800 private sector businesspeople and federal and local law enforcement attendees about her decision to lead the Department of Homeland Security and the efforts to implement new tools that "are going to change the way that we operate in this country." "We're going to deploy new technologies, not only at the border, but at our ports of entry and in our interior to make sure that we're sharing information with other agencies at all levels," Noem said. "We're also going to be sharing more information, biometrics, DNA testing, and being much more efficient, working to get everybody more authorities that they need to be able to take action in every single interdiction that we have." The Homeland Security Department has made it a top priority to equip federal law enforcement officers across its agencies to be able to deal with whatever illicit activity they may face in the field, Noem said.

Arizona Republic: 'We need more': Homan praises drop in illegal crossings, calls for more resources
Arizona Republic [4/8/2025 8:02 PM, Raphael Romero Ruiz and Ray Stern] reports U.S. border czar Tom Homan delivered the opening keynote address at the Border Security Expo at the Phoenix Convention Center, where he praised a steep drop in apprehensions at the southern border and called for more resources to hire immigration officers and boost collaboration with local agencies. Homan doubled down on recent controversial immigration enforcement actions and dismissed critics who have labeled him a racist, saying, "I don't care." He contrasted the early weeks of President Donald Trump's second term with previous administrations, crediting Trump for allowing federal authorities to enforce immigration laws, he said. "Border Patrol under the Trump administration secured the border in a matter of weeks. They did what the Biden administration couldn't or wouldn't do in 4 years," Homan told the crowd April 8. According to a preliminary release from U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Border Patrol agents recorded 7,180 arrests between ports of entry along the U.S.-Mexico border in March. Homan called the roughly 94% drop in illegal crossings compared with the same time last year an "unprecedented success." "I'm happy with the numbers, but I'm not satisfied," Homan said. "We need more, and that's where the budget comes in."

Reported similarly:
Arizona Republic [4/8/2025 6:49 PM, Cheryl Evans and Raphael Romero Ruiz]

ABC News/NewsNation/New York Post/AP/CBS News/NBC News: IRS, DHS sign data-sharing agreement for taxpayer data of those illegally in US

ABC News [4/8/2025 1:20 PM, Benjamin Siegel and Luke Barr, 34586K] reports that the IRS and Department of Homeland Security have reached a data-sharing agreement to support the Trump administration's immigration enforcement agenda, according to a court filing late Monday night. Under the terms of the agreement, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement would submit names and addresses of immigrants living in the United States without legal status who have final removal orders, which would be used to check against IRS taxpayer records. A spokesperson for the Treasury Department confirmed the MOU and said the basis is legal. "The Internal Revenue Service and the Immigration and Customs Enforcement have entered into a memorandum of understanding to establish a clear and secure process to support law enforcement's efforts to combat illegal immigration," the Treasury spokesperson said. "The bases for this MOU are founded in longstanding authorities granted by Congress, which serve to protect the privacy of law-abiding Americans while streamlining the ability to pursue criminals," the spokesperson added. "After four years of Joe Biden flooding the nation with illegal aliens, President Trump's highest priority is to ensure the safety of the American people." A senior DHS official said that under the Trump administration, "the government is finally doing what it should have all along: sharing information across the federal government to solve problems." "Biden not only allowed millions of illegal aliens to flood into our country -- he lost them due to incompetence and improper processing," a DHS official said. NewsNation [4/8/2025 3:15 PM, Taylor Delandro, 6900K] reports that "Information sharing across agencies is essential to identify who is in our country, including violent criminals, determine what public safety and terror threats may exist so we can neutralize them, scrub these individuals from voter rolls, as well as identify what public benefits these aliens are using at taxpayer expense," said Assistant DHS Secretary Tricia McLaughlin in a statement to NewsNation. The New York Post [4/8/2025 4:50 PM, Diana Glebova, 54900K] reports that "Under President Trump's leadership, the government is finally doing what it should have all along: sharing information across the federal government to solve problems," DHS spokesperson Tricia McLaughlin told The Post. The new interagency sharing mechanism will be used to determine which migrants are not legally in the country, as well as what benefits they are using, McLaughlin said. "[Former President Joe] Biden not only allowed millions of illegal aliens to flood into our country—he lost them due to incompetence and improper processing," the spokesperson added. "Information sharing across agencies is essential to identify who is in our country, including violent criminals, determine what public safety and terror threats may exist so we can neutralize them, scrub these individuals from voter rolls, as well as identify what public benefits these aliens are using at taxpayer expense." The AP [4/8/2025 3:21 PM, Fatima Hussein, 48304K] reports that the Internal Revenue Service has agreed to share immigrants' tax data with Immigration and Customs Enforcement for the purpose of identifying and deporting people illegally in the U.S., according to a document signed by Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent and Department of Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem. The new data-sharing arrangement was signed on Monday in the form of a "memorandum of understanding" — found in federal court filings — and will allow ICE to submit names and addresses of immigrants inside the U.S. illegally to the IRS for cross-verification against tax records. Treasury argues that the agreement will help carry out President Donald Trump's agenda to secure U.S. borders and is part of his larger nationwide immigration crackdown, which has resulted in deportations, workplace raids, and the use of an 18th century wartime law to deport Venezuelan migrants. Advocates, however, say the IRS-DHS information sharing agreement violates longstanding privacy laws and diminishes the privacy of all Americans. Representatives from DHS and ICE did not immediately respond to a request for comment. CBS News [4/8/2025 5:02 PM, Staff, 51661K] reports that the IRS disclosed its memorandum of understanding with the

Department of Homeland Security in a court filing in a lawsuit filed by Public Citizen, which seeks to bar the Treasury Department from disclosing tax return information to immigration enforcement authorities. According to the exhibit, the IRS will review all requests and account for disclosures made under the memorandum. While some of the memo is highly redacted, it reveals that the IRS will disclose to ICE the names and addresses of immigrants, among other information. The new data-sharing arrangement will allow ICE to cross-verify the names and addresses of immigrants inside the U.S. illegally with their IRS tax records. Todd Lyons, acting ICE director, told reporters at the Border Security Expo in Phoenix on Tuesday that the agreement would help ICE find people who are collecting benefits they aren't entitled to and are "kind of hiding in plain sight" using someone else's identity. Working with Treasury and other departments is "strictly for the major criminal cases," Lyons said. NBC News [4/8/2025 3:46 PM, Suzanne Gamboa, 44742K] reports that according to the DHS' court filing, ICE, in its requests to the IRS, must ask for the name and address of the person whose information it wants, the tax periods relating to its request, the federal criminal statute under which the individual is being investigated or relating to any nontax-related criminal proceeding involving the individual, and reasons why disclosing the information might be relevant to the nontax-related criminal investigation or proceeding.

Reported similarly:
Los Angeles Times [4/8/2025 3:58 PM, Fatima Hussein, 13342K]
Breitbart [4/8/2025 2:55 PM, John Binder, 2923K]
NPR [4/8/2025 5:59 PM, Joel Rose, 29983K]
Bloomberg Law [4/8/2025 1:53 PM, David Voreacos, 120K]
Axios [4/8/2025 2:30 PM, Brittany Gibson, 13200K]
(B) CNN News Central [4/8/2025 3:23 PM, Staff]
USA Today [4/8/2025 5:26 PM, Eduardo Cuevas, 75858K]
Univision [4/8/2025 3:24 PM, Staff, 5325K] Video: HERE
Telemundo [4/8/2025 2:13 PM, Staff, 2454K]
Washington Examiner [4/8/2025 4:49 PM, Ross O'Keefe, 2296K]

AP/Wall Street Journal/New York Times: IRS acting commissioner is resigning over deal to send immigrants' tax data to ICE, AP sources say
The AP [4/8/2025 8:50 PM, Fatima Hussein, 48304K] reports the acting commissioner of the Internal Revenue Service is resigning over a deal to share immigrants' tax data with Immigration and Customs Enforcement for the purpose of identifying and deporting people illegally in the U.S., according to two people familiar with the decision. Melanie Krause, who had served as acting head since February, will step down over the new data-sharing document signed Monday by Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent and Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem. The agreement will allow ICE to submit names and addresses of immigrants inside the U.S. illegally to the IRS for cross-verification against tax records. The Treasury Department says the agreement will help carry out President Donald Trump's agenda to secure U.S. borders and is part of his larger nationwide immigration crackdown, which has resulted in deportations, workplace raids and the use of an 18th century wartime law to deport Venezuelan migrants. Advocates, however, say the IRS-DHS information-sharing agreement violates privacy laws and diminishes the privacy of all Americans. Todd Lyons, acting ICE director, told reporters at the Border Security Expo in Phoenix on Tuesday that the agreement will help ICE find people who are collecting benefits they aren't entitled to and are "kind of hiding in plain sight" using someone else's identity. Working with Treasury and other departments is "strictly for the major criminal cases," Lyons said. The Wall Street Journal [4/8/2025 10:30 PM, Richard Rubin, 646K] reports Krause took a

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deferred-resignation offer available to many federal employees, and is expected to depart the government April 28. She is concerned about the consequences of recent Trump administration decisions about the IRS and doesn't think she can affect those decisions, one of the people said. Krause will become the third IRS chief to exit this year, and her replacement would be the agency's fourth leader in four months. Danny Werfel, who had been nominated and confirmed to the job under President Joe Biden, left on Inauguration Day. His successor, longtime agency official Douglas O'Donnell, exited in late February. President Trump has nominated Billy Long to run the IRS, but he hasn't yet had a Senate confirmation hearing. The New York Times [4/8/2025 9:04 PM, Andrew Duehren, 153395K] reports that the two agencies have not yet shared any information, the filings said. Federal law tightly controls taxpayer information, protecting home addresses, earnings and other data from disclosure even to other government agencies. I.R.S. officials have for weeks raised concerns about the Trump administration's plan to use the agency to help with deportations, warning it could be illegal in negotiations over the agreement. The deal has fueled further turmoil at the top of the agency, which had already been rocked by mass layoffs and several leadership changes during its busiest period of the year, when millions of Americans file their taxes. Among those leaving is Melanie Krause, the acting leader of the I.R.S., who is expected to take the administration's latest deferred resignation offer, according to five people familiar with her plans.

Reported similarly:
New York Times [4/9/2025 3:18 AM, Andrew Duehren, 330K]
New York Post [4/9/2025 2:43 AM, Shane Galvin, 54903K]
The Hill [4/8/2025 10:02 PM, Lauren Irwin, 12829K]
AP [4/8/2025 8:50 PM, Fatima Hussein, 1089K]
Reuters [4/8/2025 7:00 PM, Staff, 41523K]
CNN [4/8/2025 9:51 PM, Rene Marsh and Marshall Cohen, 908K]
USA Today [4/8/2025 10:00 PM, Zac Anderson, 75858K]

Politico/Daily Caller/FOX News: DHS revokes parole for hundreds of thousands who entered via the CBP One app

Politico [4/8/2025 3:43 PM, Ali Bianco, 11600K] reports the Trump administration is revoking parole status for immigrants who entered the U.S. via the Biden-era CBP One app, in a push to get immigrants to voluntarily leave the country. "Under federal law, Secretary [Kristi] Noem — in support of the president — has full authority to revoke parole. Canceling these paroles is a promise kept to the American people to secure our borders and protect national security," a Department of Homeland Security spokesperson told POLITICO in a statement. Some immigrants began receiving formal email notices from the DHS on Tuesday stating that the department would be using its discretionary authority to revoke parole. The move could leave over 900,000 immigrants vulnerable to deportation. The Daily Caller [4/8/2025 2:10 PM, Jason Hopkins, 1082K] reports that foreign nationals paroled into the U.S. through the CBP One app have received final termination notices and must self-deport or else face daily fines and forcible removal, DHS confirmed to the Daily Caller News Foundation Tuesday. Since January 2023, more than 900,000 non-citizens successfully scheduled asylum appointments through the CBP One before it was scrapped by the Trump administration in January. "The Biden Administration abused the parole authority to allow millions of illegal aliens into the U.S. which further fueled the worst border crisis in U.S. history," a DHS spokesperson said in a statement provided to the DCNF. "Formal termination notices have been issued, and affected aliens are urged to voluntarily self-deport using the CBP Home App," the spokesperson continued. "Those who refuse will be

found, removed, and permanently barred from reentry." "Illegal aliens should use the CBP Home app to self deport and leave the country now," the DHS spokesperson stated to the DCNF. "If they don't, they will face the consequences." FOX News [4/8/2025 7:26 PM, Michael Dorgan Fox, 46189K] reports that the app was used by nearly 1 million migrants to schedule appointments at official ports of entry before they were paroled into the U.S. The migrants were permitted to seek asylum and given temporary work authorization for two years while they waited for the outcomes of their respective proceedings. Trump ended the use of the CBP One app to parole migrants on his first day in office. His administration has also paused applications for parole programs and allowed ICE to cancel parole statuses of migrants. The Trump administration has now begun notifying migrants who used the app, telling them their legal status has been revoked, according to a report by CBS, citing a Homeland Security message the outlet obtained. "If you do not depart the United States immediately you will be subject to potential law enforcement actions that will result in your removal from the United States — unless you have otherwise obtained a lawful basis to remain here," the message reads, per the outlet. The notification encourages migrants to sign up for self-deportation through the CBP One app, which is now called CBP Home. "Again, DHS is terminating your parole. Do not attempt to remain in the United States — the federal government will find you," the notice says. "Please depart the United States immediately." "Formal termination notices have been issued, and affected aliens are urged to voluntarily self-deport using the CBP Home App," a DHS spokesperson said, per the outlet. "Those who refuse will be found, removed, and permanently barred from reentry."

Reuters/Daily Wire: Trump plans to fine migrants $998 a day for failing to leave after deportation order

Reuters [4/8/2025 11:16 AM, Ted Hesson and Kristina Cooke, 41523K] reports the Trump administration plans to fine migrants under deportation orders up to $998 a day if they fail to leave the United States and to seize their property if they do not pay, according to documents reviewed by Reuters. The fines stem from a 1996 law, that was enforced for the first time in 2018, during President Donald Trump's first term in office. The Trump administration plans to apply the penalties retroactively for up to five years, which could result in fines of more than $1 million, a senior Trump official said, requesting anonymity to discuss non-public plans. The Trump administration is also considering seizing the property of immigrants who do not pay the fines, according to government emails reviewed by Reuters. In response to questions from Reuters, U.S. Department of Homeland Security spokesperson Tricia McLaughlin said in a statement that immigrants in the U.S. illegally should use a mobile app formerly known as CBP One - rebranded as CBP Home under Trump - to "self deport and leave the country now." "If they don't, they will face the consequences," McLaughlin said. "This includes a fine of $998 per day for every day that the illegal alien overstayed their final deportation order." DHS warned, of the fines in a March 31 social media post. Emails reviewed by Reuters show the White House has pressed U.S. Customs and Border Protection to handle the issue of penalties, property seizures for migrants who don't pay, and the sale of their assets. The Department of Justice's civil asset forfeiture division could be another option for the seizures, one email said. President Donald Trump kicked off a sweeping immigration crackdown after taking office in January, testing the bounds of U.S. law to increase arrests and deportations. The planned fines target the roughly 1.4 million migrants who have been ordered removed by an immigration judge. Trump invoked the 1996 law during his first term to levy fines of hundreds of thousands of dollars against nine migrants seeking sanctuary in churches. The administration withdrew the penalties, but then proceeded with smaller fines of about $60,000 per person against at least four of the migrants, according to court records.

President Joe Biden stopped issuing the fines and rescinded, related policies when he took office in 2021. Scott Shuchart, a top ICE policy official under Biden, said migrants and their supporters could challenge the fines in court but that the threat alone could have a chilling effect. "Their point isn't really to enforce the law, it's to project fear in communities," he said. DHS did not immediately respond to a request for comment. The Daily Wire [4/8/2025 2:35 PM, Spencer Lindquist] reports that the administration says it will enforce the penalties retroactively to cover up to five years, resulting in fines of more than $1 million against offenders. The government could even seize the assets of migrants who refuse to leave the United States on their own accord despite having an order of removal. U.S. Department of Homeland Security spokesperson Tricia McLaughlin explained that migrants can inform the government of their intent to depart the country via the Customs and Border Patrol Home app, an overhauled version of the CBP One app that the Biden administration used to streamline the flow of migrants into the United States.

Reported similarly:
Bloomberg [4/8/2025 3:26 PM, Hadriana Lowenkron, 16228K]
Breitbart [4/8/2025 2:22 PM, Warner Todd Huston, 2923K]
NPR [4/8/2025 4:27 PM, Joel Rose, Sergio Martínez-Beltrán, 29983K]
NewsMax [4/8/2025 7:31 AM, Ted Hesson, Kristina Cooke, 4998K]
CBS News [4/8/2025 7:24 AM, Staff, 51661K]
San Diego Union Tribune [4/8/2025 7:57 AM, Staff, 1682K]

Reuters/ABC News/AP: US given one day to show evidence for deporting Columbia University protester Khalil
Reuters [4/8/2025 7:55 PM, Jonathan Allen and Luc Cohen, 41523K] report an immigration judge on Tuesday gave the U.S. government a day to show evidence that Columbia University student Mahmoud Khalil should be deported and said she would rule on the case on Friday, a month after his arrest in New York and transfer to a rural Louisiana jail 1,200 miles (1,931.21 km) away. "If he's not removable, I'm going to be terminating this case on Friday," Assistant Chief Immigration Judge Jamee Comans said during a hearing at the LaSalle Immigration Court in Jena, Louisiana. If the government's deportation case is terminated at the hearing scheduled for Friday afternoon, Khalil, 30, is free under immigration law. The government cannot challenge the termination, but if the judge terminates the case without prejudice it can attempt to file the removal case again. Khalil sat at a table in the courtroom, wrapping prayer beads around his right hand as he listened to his attorney Marc Van Der Hout appear remotely from California on a nearby screen to tell the court he had not received a single document of the government's evidence. "There's nothing more important to this court than Mr. Khalil's due process rights," Comans told Van Der Hout after he asked for more time to review the government's evidence. "I'm also not going to keep Mr. Khalil detained while attorneys go back and forth about documents." Department of Homeland Security lawyers told Comans they would provide the evidence by her 5 p.m. Wednesday deadline. In a statement later, Khalil's attorney Van Der Hout said he was concerned the judge would rule without giving the defense time to respond to the government's case, a concern he had raised earlier in court. "What this case is really about is whether lawful permanent residents — and other immigrants to this country — can speak out about what is happening in Gaza, or any other important matters of discussion in the national discourse without fear of deportation for expressing beliefs that are completely protected by the First Amendment," Van Der Hout said. "Are U.S. citizens going to be next?" ABC News [4/8/2025 4:50 PM, Armando Garcia and Nadine El-Bawab, 34586K] reports Khalil, a leader of the encampment protests at Columbia last spring, was detained

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on March 8, then taken to an immigration detention facility in Elizabeth, New Jersey, before ending up in a Louisiana detention center, his attorneys said. At an immigration hearing in Jena, Louisiana, on Tuesday, Judge Jamee Comans set another hearing for Friday to give Khalil's team time to review the evidence and respond to it. Comans said she will then make a determination whether he is removable or order him to be released. Comans conveyed a sense of urgency to get these issues resolved, noting Khalil had already spent several weeks in detention. She told both parties she was "not going to keep him detained" while they argued over his removability. The AP [4/8/2025 5:55 PM, Sara Cline and Jake Offenhartz, 48304K] reports that on March 8, Khalil became the first in a growing number of foreign-born students targeted for deportation by the Trump administration for participating in campus protests against Israel and the war in Gaza. As Khalil's immigration case plays out in Louisiana, his attorneys have also challenged his detention and potential deportation before a federal judge in New Jersey. That judge last week rejected the Trump administration's effort to transfer jurisdiction of the legal battle to Louisiana, but has yet to rule on the petition for his release.

Reported similarly:
NPR [4/8/2025 11:48 PM, Adrian Florido, 29983K]
NBC News [4/8/2025 10:31 PM, Chloe Atkins, 44742K]
CNN [4/8/2025 8:46 PM, Gloria Pazmino, 908K]
FOX News [4/8/2025 5:23 PM, Sarah Rumpf-Whitten, Sarah Alegre, 46189K]

FOX News: More than 900 illegal aliens charged with immigration-related crimes during first week of April: DOJ
FOX News [4/9/2025 4:39 AM, Elizabeth Pritchett, 46189K] reports U.S. attorneys for six southwestern border districts charged nearly 1,000 illegal aliens with immigration-related crimes during the first week of April under Operation Take Back America, the Department of Justice said on Tuesday. The districts involved include Arizona, Central California, Southern California, New Mexico, Southern Texas and Western Texas. The District of Arizona brought charges against 204 illegal aliens; 83 of whom were charged with illegal reentry and 107 were charged with illegal entry. Fourteen people, including Ivan Mauricio Hernandez-Mosqueda, were also charged with smuggling humans into and within the district. Hernandez Mosqueda, a Mexican national, was sentenced to 46 months in prison for smuggling more than 100 illegal aliens into the U.S., the DOJ said, adding that he coached some of them to "claim asylum under false pretenses" when entering the country. The Southern District of California filed 97 cases, bringing charges against defendants for transporting illegal aliens, bringing them in for financial gain, bribery by a public official, illegal reentry and bringing in controlled substances. One of the illegal immigrants charged is Mexican national Francisco Anguiano Rios, who attempted to bring 209 packages containing 547 pounds of cocaine across the border at the Otay Mesa Port of Entry. There were 24 defendants charged in the Central District of California for reentering the U.S. following removal, including criminals who were found guilty of felonies prior to previous deportation.

Wall Street Journal: Trump Team to Freeze Nearly $2 Billion at Cornell and Northwestern Universities
Wall Street Journal [4/8/2025 11:33 PM, Douglas Belkin and Meridith McGraw, 646K] reports the Trump administration has frozen more than $1 billion in federal funding for Cornell and $790 million for Northwestern, according to a Trump administration official. The

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federal government is investigating both schools for alleged civil-rights violations, as part of a rapidly expanding crackdown on elite research universities across the U.S. The latest funding at issue relates to grants and contracts with the departments of agriculture, defense, education and health and human services. A Northwestern University spokesman said the school hasn't received any official notification about a freeze. Cornell President Michael I. Kotlikoff said in a letter to the school community that while the university hadn't received information confirming the $1 billion figure, earlier Tuesday the school had "received more than 75 stop work orders" from the Department of Defense related to national defense, cybersecurity, and health research. "The affected grants include research into new materials for jet engines, propulsion systems, large-scale information networks, robotics, superconductors, and space and satellite communications, as well as cancer research," Kotlikoff said. More than $10 billion in funding has now been pulled, paused or is under review at prominent schools including Columbia, Harvard, Princeton, Brown and the University of Pennsylvania. President Trump has vowed to go after campuses that his team views as liberal hotbeds that failed to protect Jewish students during the pro-Palestinian protests that have disrupted campuses over the last two academic years. The administration also has targeted funding in university diversity, equity and inclusion, or DEI, initiatives and other programs it says aren't aligned with the Trump team's priorities.

Reported similarly:
AP [4/9/2025 12:57 AM, Staff, 2923K]
CNN [4/9/2025 3:30 AM, Samantha Waldenberg, TuAnh Dam and Taylor Romine, 908K]

AP: Judge rejects new trials for 2 convicted of human smuggling in death of family of 4 from India

AP [4/8/2025 3:08 PM, Steve Karnowski, 48304K] reports a federal judge on Tuesday rejected requests for new trials for two men convicted on human smuggling charges in the deaths of four members of a family from India who froze to death while trying to cross the Canadian border into Minnesota during a blizzard in 2022. U.S. District Judge John Tunheim declined to set aside the guilty verdicts that a jury returned last November against Harshkumar Ramanlal Patel and Steve Anthony Shand. His order clears the way for the two defendants to take their cases to a federal appeals court after he sentences them on May 7. Attorneys for both men argued that the evidence was insufficient. The judge found that there was sufficient evidence for the jury to find both Shand and Patel guilty on all four counts. He said the failure of prosecutors until late in the trial to disclose a prior disciplinary action against a Border Patrol agent who testified, while troubling, had a minimal impact on the overall case. He also stood by his decision to try the defendants together rather than separately.

The Hill: Senate Democrats demand return of wrongfully deported Maryland man

The Hill [4/8/2025 3:22 PM, Tara Suter, 12829K] reports Senate Democrats demanded the return of a wrongfully deported Maryland man in a Tuesday letter. "We write to express our concerns regarding the deportation of Kilmar Abrego Garcia to El Salvador, an action which the Administration admitted in a recent court filing was an 'administrative error,'" reads the letter, addressed to Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem and Immigration and Customs Enforcement acting Director Todd Lyons. The senators also pressed Lyons and Noem on whether there are other similar cases and asked for how the administration would make certain protected immigrants receive "appropriate due process."

ABC News: Lawyer for man deported in error to El Salvador expects him to be returned to US

ABC News [4/8/2025 4:32 PM, Laura Romero, 34586K] reports the government says it can't get Kilmar Armando Abrego Garcia back. The attorney for Kilmar Armando Abrego Garcia, the Maryland man who was deported in error to El Salvador, said Tuesday that he expects Abrego Garcia to be returned to the U.S. Abrego Garcia -- despite having protected legal status preventing his deportation to El Salvador, where he escaped political violence in 2011 -- was sent to that country's notorious CECOT mega-prison following what the government said was an "administrative error." Trump administration officials have said Abrego Garcia is a member of the criminal gang MS-13, but his attorney Simon Sandoval-Moshenberg has disputed that, saying the government has provided no proof of their allegations. U.S. District Judge Paula Xinis ordered the Trump administration to return Abrego Garcia from El Salvador by Monday at midnight, before Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts on Monday issued a temporary administrative stay delaying the midnight deadline in order to give the court more time to consider the arguments presented by both sides.

AP: Who is Kilmar Abrego Garcia, the man ICE mistakenly deported to an El Salvador prison?

AP [4/8/2025 2:57 PM, Ben Finley, 48304K] reports as it stands, Kilmar Abrego Garcia's story begins and ends in his native El Salvador. When he was a boy, a local gang extorted his family, tried to indoctrinate him and threatened to kill him, according to his immigration case. He fled to the U.S. at 16. He was forced back last month at 29, mistakenly deported by President Donald Trump's administration to a notorious prison that observers say is rife with abuse. In between was his American life: Working construction, getting married and raising children with disabilities, according to court records. He was also accused by local police in Maryland of being an MS-13 gang member. Abrego Garcia denied the allegation and was never charged, according to court records. A U.S. immigration judge ultimately granted him protection from being deported back to El Salvador in 2019 because he likely faced persecution there by local gangs. Abrego Garcia is now at the center of a legal battle that has reached the U.S. Supreme Court and raises questions about due process and the Trump administration's ability — or willingness — to retrieve him from El Salvador.

CNN: Supreme Court ruling on Alien Enemies Act raises new due process concerns for migrants

CNN [4/8/2025 2:53 PM, John Fritze, 22131K] reports the Supreme Court ruling that permits President Donald Trump to use a centuries-old wartime authority to speed deportations is drawing sharp criticism from immigration experts who fear the decision could erode migrants' due process rights to have their cases reviewed before they're sent to a foreign prison. The court's 5-4 ruling Monday night requires those challenging Trump's use of the Alien Enemies Act to rely on a complicated and rarely successful legal process known as habeas corpus, and to potentially file those claims in some of the most conservative federal courts in the nation. The lack of clarity around how people facing deportation under the 1798 law will be notified and whether they'll be able to access a lawyer to help them navigate that process is prompting questions about whether Trump's targets under the act will actually receive the due process the Supreme Court majority promised in its unsigned opinion.

AP: The Alien Enemies Act: What to know about a 1798 law that Trump has invoked for deportations

AP [4/8/2025 4:07 PM, Tim Sullivan and Mark Sherman, 48304K] reports the Supreme Court has allowed the Trump administration to use a 1798 wartime law, the Alien Enemies Act, to deport Venezuelan migrants it accuses of being gang members, ending the temporary halt on deportations ordered by a federal district judge. But the court also ruled that the administration must give Venezuelans it claims are gang members the chance to legally fight any deportation orders. The ruling did not address the constitutionality of the act. The Monday ruling came after the wartime law was used last month to fly more than 130 men accused of being members of the gang Tren de Aragua to El Salvador, where the U.S. has paid to have the men held in a notorious prison. The Trump administration argues that the gang has become an invading force. The Venezuelans deported under the act under the act did not get a chance to challenge the orders, and attorneys for many of the men say there's no evidence they are gang members. It remains unclear how the ruling will affect those men. American Civil Liberties Union attorney Lee Gelernt said it was an "important victory" that people must now be given the right to challenge their removal orders.

AP: Trump touts Supreme Court deportation ruling as a major victory, but legal fight is far from over

AP [4/8/2025 4:04 PM, Lindsay Whitehurst and Alanna Durkin Richer] reports the Trump administration is touting a Supreme Court ruling allowing it to resume deportations under the Alien Enemies Act as a major victory, but the immigration fight is far from over. The divided court found that President Donald Trump can use the 18th century wartime law to deport Venezuelan migrants accused of being gang members to a notorious prison in El Salvador, a finding Trump called a "GREAT DAY FOR JUSTICE IN AMERICA!" in a social media post. But the justices also decided people accused of being members of the Tren de Aragua gang have to get a chance to challenge their removals — a finding their lawyers called an "important victory." The legal landscape could be more challenging, though, since it appears the people being held will have to file individually and in the district where they are detained. For many, that's in Texas. Meanwhile, the Supreme Court is also weighing another case against a Maryland man deported by mistake that could shed light on the fate of more than 100 men accused of being gang members who have already been sent to prison in El Salvador. The ruling doesn't let the deportations under the law resume right away.

USA Today: Trump claimed victory on SCOTUS Alien Enemies Act ruling. So did the ACLU. Who's right?

USA Today [4/8/2025 5:56 PM, Aysha Bagchi and Eduardo Cuevas, 75858K] reports that a temporary restraining order blocking the Trump administration from deporting migrants to a notorious Salvadoran mega-prison under an obscure 18th-century law was tossed out by the Supreme court Monday – but that doesn't mean the Supreme Court was actually rubber-stamping the deportations. In mid-March, Trump invoked the 1798 Alien Enemies Act to expedite deportations. The administration zeroed in migrants alleging they were criminals or members of Tren de Aragua, a Venezuelan gang the administration labeled a terrorist organization. Last month, officials placed the first of more than 200 Venezuelan migrants in El Salvador's Terrorism Confinement Center, also known as CECOT. The prison has been criticized by human rights observers for its harsh and dangerous conditions, as well as its treatment of people held in custody without due process. Family

members and advocates of the expelled Venezuelan migrants have said the evidence of their alleged ties to gangs is scant, as USA TODAY reported, focusing on tattoos of images such as crowns. The Supreme Court didn't rule on whether the evidence in the government's possession was enough to justify the deportations. Administration officials celebrated the ruling. Federal officials have said the U.S. paid the Salvadoran government $6 million to house the migrants. Salvadoran President Nayib Bukele has said the U.S. will play little to house them for one year that is "renewable." Kristi Noem, Homeland Security secretary, visited the facility in late March after officials flew the first migrants to El Salvador and placed them in the prison. CECOT doesn't allow visitations or outdoor recreation. It's located at the base of a volcano in a rural region southeast of the capital San Salvador.

FOX News: Boasberg contempt showdown looms after Supreme Court hands Trump immigration win

FOX News [4/8/2025 8:00 AM, Breanne Deppisch, 46189K] reports a federal judge is weighing whether to hold Trump administration officials in civil contempt after they defied a court order blocking deportation flights last month – even as the Supreme Court on Monday handed the administration a temporary legal victory, allowing it to resume use of the 1798 Alien Enemies Act to deport illegal immigrants. President Donald Trump's immigration agenda is colliding with the federal judiciary as his administration races to fulfill a central campaign promise: mass deportations. The aggressive pace – which has included the removal of alleged members of violent transnational gangs – has triggered a wave of legal challenges from critics who claim the administration is unlawfully ejecting migrants from the country. The high court's 5–4 decision, which Trump praised on X as a "great day for justice in America," lifted a lower court's injunction and allows deportations to resume for now, though with added due process protections. The unsigned, four-page ruling focused narrowly on the lower court's order and permits the administration to invoke the wartime-era Alien Enemies Act to expedite removals. However, the ruling does little to halt the escalating feud between the Trump administration and U.S. District Judge James Boasberg, who has signaled he may hold administration officials in contempt for defying his order last month to ground deportation flights. Boasberg is set to preside over a hearing Tuesday to address the administration's use of the state secrets privilege to block the court from accessing information about the flights. It will mark the judge's first opportunity to respond since the Supreme Court sided with Trump. Though Trump and his allies celebrated the Supreme Court's intervention, the decision offers only a narrow and potentially short-lived reprieve. The ruling requires the administration to provide detainees slated for removal with proper notice and an opportunity to challenge their deportation in court. However, the justices said those legal challenges must be filed in Texas – not in Washington, D.C. – a jurisdictional shift that injects fresh uncertainty into the lower court proceedings. The decision drew a scathing dissent from Justice Sonia Sotomayor, who warned that the ruling would make it significantly harder for individuals to contest their removals on a case-by-case basis. "We, as a Nation and a court of law, should be better than this," she said.

The Hill: ACLU files suit to block Alien Enemies Act deportations

The Hill [4/8/2025 4:05 PM, Rebecca Beitsch, 12829K] reports the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) filed a suit on behalf of two Venezuelan migrants who expect to be deported under the Alien Enemies Act (AEA) and face possible removal to a Salvadoran prison. The suit is the first in the wake of a Supreme Court decision lifting a temporary restraining order from a lower court that had blocked the Trump administration from using the law to deport people. The two men were parties to the original suit from the ACLU seeking to bar the

Trump administration from using the Alien Enemies Act as a basis for deportations. A late Monday ruling from the Supreme Court determined that the D.C. court did not have jurisdiction over the matter, saying that the men would have to sue where they were detained, promoting the suit in New York, where both men are being held in the Orange County Correctional Facility. But the decision also made clear the Trump administration must provide reasonable notice for Venezuelans to challenge their deportation — an instruction that comes as many of those deported have denied any affiliation with the gang. The new suit alleges the Trump administration has failed to do so now that it is free to resume deportation flights under the Alien Enemies Act.

Roll Call/Washington Post: Advocates restart efforts to block expulsions under the Alien Enemies Act

Roll Call [4/8/2025 4:58 PM, Chris Johnson, 503K] reports civil liberties groups filed a new lawsuit Tuesday to challenge the Trump administration's use of the 1798 law known as the Alien Enemies Act to deport alleged members of a Venezuelan gang, the day after the Supreme Court clarified how migrants can bring those legal challenges. The American Civil Liberties Union and others asked a judge in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York to halt the removal of two migrants in detention in the area and stop President Donald Trump's effort to use the old national security law against others in their situation. The Supreme Court on Monday allowed the Trump administration to move forward on enforcing a presidential proclamation to remove members of Tren de Aragua, but said the government must give them a chance to challenge their detention in the court with jurisdiction over where they are being held. The Washington Post [4/8/2025 6:57 PM, Maria Sacchetti and Marianne LeVine, 31735K] reports immigrant advocates re-upped their legal challenges Tuesday to the Trump administration's use of a wartime powers act to swiftly deport alleged Venezuelan gang members, fighting the issue in court districts where immigrants are being held one day after the Supreme Court dismissed their nationwide legal challenge on technical grounds. As the Trump administration celebrated the Supreme Court ruling, lawyers for immigrants said the justices made clear they could challenge the expulsions in areas where immigrants are being detained pending deportation, and they filed the first lawsuit in Manhattan on behalf of two immigrants being held in New York. Others could follow in federal judicial districts that house thousands of detainees, such as Texas and Louisiana. In the lawsuit, lawyers asked the court to declare President Donald Trump's proclamation last month invoking the Alien Enemies Act of 1798 to summarily deport immigrants "unlawful" and bar him from removing anyone from the court's district under the act. U.S. District Judge Alvin K. Hellerstein, who was appointed by President Bill Clinton, scheduled a hearing for 10 a.m. Wednesday in New York, and immediately barred the government from deporting the plaintiffs in the case, immigrants identified only by their initials, G.F.F. and J.G.O. The president secretly signed the proclamation targeting alleged members of the Venezuelan gang Tren de Aragua, enabling officers to deport more than 130 men without a hearing — or advance warning — to a mega-prison in El Salvador on March 15 in one of the most shocking and high-profile acts of Trump's term. "Contrary to the administration's wishful characterization, the Supreme Court emphatically rejected the government's position that they could whisk people away without giving them an opportunity to challenge their removal to a foreign prison," said American Civil Liberties Union lawyer Lee Gelernt, who is arguing the case. "The Court simply issued a technical ruling that the challenges should be by habeas corpus, but in no way remotely suggested the Trump administration would win these challenges." A Justice Department spokesperson said in a statement Tuesday that the department "has vigorously defended President Trump's policies and will continue to do so whenever challenged in federal court by rogue judges

who think they can control the President's foreign policy and national security agenda. The Supreme Court's recent decisions have validated the DOJ's ongoing arguments to this end in court."

Breitbart: Marlow: Alien Enemies Act Decision Marks Beginning of the End of Judicial Tyranny from District Court Judges

Breitbart [4/8/2025 8:09 PM, Staff, 2923K] Video: HERE reports on Tuesday's "Alex Marlow Show," host and Breitbart Editor-in-Chief Alex Marlow discussed the Supreme Court's deportation ruling. Marlow stated that "the most important part of this decision…it was clear from the context…the court's opinion is that Boasberg went out of his jurisdiction. His jurisdiction should have been confined to a district, he's a district judge, this case should have been brought in Texas. Instead, it was brought in D.C. … to judge-shop…this is the beginning of the court pushing back on the idea that these district judges can overwhelm the executive branch and have, essentially, a veto over President Trump's executive actions."

FOX News: 'Enough is enough': House Republican touts GOP effort to pass bill cracking down on 'rogue' judges

FOX News [4/8/2025 8:00 AM, Andrew Mark Miller, 46189K] reports that, as House Republicans move forward with legislation this week that they say would wrangle "rogue" judges across the country who have been blocking President Trump's agenda, Fox News Digital spoke to GOP Rep. Abe Hamadeh about the importance of that quest. "If you look at what President Trump has been going through compared to previous presidents, it's unheard of," Hamadeh told Fox News Digital about the dozens of injunctions already issued against Trump since taking office. "It's unprecedented the amount of injunctions trying to stop President Trump's America First agenda, which, overwhelmingly, the American people support, and to have one district court judge be able to determine the direction of our country is not what the judiciary is meant for." The No Rogue Rulings Act (NORRA), introduced by Rep. Darrell Issa, R-Calif., would limit district court judges' ability to issue orders blocking Trump policies nationwide, and Republicans are expected to advance the legislation out of the House Rules Committee and vote this week. Hamadeh says he supports Issa's bill, which Issa told Fox News Digital when he introduced it was introduced in February, will push back on the current judge-shopping climate in the United States that he says represents "judicial tyranny" and "weaponization of courts." Hamadeh explained that he has signed onto several efforts to impeach some of the judges who have issued nationwide injunctions, knowing that the efforts are unlikely to succeed but to send the message that the sentiment in Congress and with Trump voters is one that believes "enough is enough." One of those judges facing impeachment calls, U.S. District Court Judge James Boasberg, issued an emergency order temporarily halting the Trump administration's deportation flights under the Alien Enemies Act, which Hamadeh took particular issue with. [Editorial note: consult video at source link]

FOX News: New GOP proposal builds off Laken Riley Act with slew of crimes targeting illegals

FOX News [4/8/2025 4:59 PM, Cameron Arcand, 46189K] reports legislation will be introduced Tuesday to expand the list of crimes that would require a migrant to be taken into custody. The "Safeguarding American Property Act" would add arson, vandalism and trespassing to the crimes that would require those in the country illegally to be placed into federal custody. Specifically, it would amend the Immigration and Nationality Act. The

Montana Republican's legislation is meant to help rural communities, which could have limited law enforcement resources to protect property.

NPR: Shortage of immigration judges could slow down Trump deportation goals
NPR [4/8/2025 4:58 PM, Ximena Bustillo, 29983K] Audio: HERE reports these judges, and their staff, are caught in the crosshairs of Trump's twin efforts to increase deportations — and reduce the size of the federal government.

AP/FOX News: New offers for buyouts and early retirement offered to Homeland Security staff
The AP [4/8/2025 3:24 PM, Rebecca Santana, 48304K] reports the Department of Homeland Security is offering buyouts and early retirement options to staffers, as the Trump administration pushes forward with efforts to reduce and reshape the federal workforce, according to an email obtained by The Associated Press. In the email, titled "Reshaping of the DHS Workforce," Secretary Kristi Noem said the department would give staffers who want to leave three options: deferred resignation, early retirement and a voluntary separation payment. The email, which was sent Monday night, said the last option offers a lump-sum payment of up to $25,000 in some cases. Staff have until April 14 to decide on whether to apply for the offer. Homeland Security has so far avoided the widespread, sweeping layoffs seen in other agencies across the federal government. In fact, the department has been advertising on social media that it's looking for more staff in areas critical to immigration enforcement, such as Immigration and Customs Enforcement and Homeland Security Investigations. Some areas of the department have seen cuts, including at a center focused on reducing targeted violence and terrorism. Also, 200 probationary FEMA employees were fired earlier this year, and three offices designed to provide oversight of the department were gutted. Noem said that law enforcement officials would generally be exempt from the buyout offer. FOX News [4/8/2025 11:44 AM, Danielle Wallace, 46189K] reports "I am writing to share important news regarding new voluntary workforce transition programs approved for immediate implementation across the Department," Noem wrote, according to Politico. She said the options "reflect our commitment to aligning our workforce with the evolving mission needs while supporting the personal and professional goals of our dedicated employees." "By offering these options, we intend to provide flexibility for employees who may be considering a change, retirement or new career opportunities while also supporting the Department's operational readiness," Noem added, according to Axios. A DHS spokesperson told Axios about the voluntary exit offers that "the American people deserve a government that works for them, something President Trump has promised." "Every dollar spent and position filled at DHS should be focused on our core mission of securing our homeland and keeping the American people safe," the spokesperson reportedly added. Noem is aiming to reduce the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) by as much as a third, and if the voluntary offers don't adequately shrink the agency, "reduction in force" notices could come next, Axios reported, citing sources familiar with the matter. At a Cabinet meeting last month, Noem said she would "eliminate" the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), as the Trump administration moves to hand powers on disaster response back to the states.

Reported similarly:
(B) WJLA 24/7 News ON YOUR SIDE at 2 [4/8/2025 2:52 PM, Staff]

NextGov/FCW: DHS cancels S&T grants under a new mission focus for the directorate

NextGov/FCW [4/8/2025 10:26 AM, Alexandra Kelley, 92K] reports the Department of Homeland Security halted all funding to grants and cooperative agreements housed in its Science and Technology Directorate, part of a larger transformation effort to realign the directorate's mission areas of focus, according to two sources familiar with the decision. In a memo sent to S&T staff last week and obtained by Nextgov/FCW, titled "Termination of the Centers of Excellence," DHS leadership called for cutting all S&T financial assistance. S&T's Centers of Excellence program is a collaborative research effort composed of nine centers that pairs government resources with colleges and universities. The letter was signed by DHS Acting Undersecretary Julie Brewer and sent to DHS Secretary Kristi Noem. As justification for terminating the COEs, the memo cited a risk of "potential misalignment with current strategic priorities" and conflict with new departmental guidance. "The purpose of this memorandum is to request your approval to terminate all current and pending grants and cooperative agreements administered by the Science and Technology Directorate, including all Centers of Excellence cooperative agreements and any other S&T grants managed through the DHS grants and Financial Assistance Division," the memo said. While ongoing funding for select S&T programming has been halted, the Trump administration identified new national security priorities the directorate will focus on, according to a second memo obtained by Nextgov/FCW and dated March 4 that was also sent by Brewer.

Miami Herald: Federal lawmakers slam Homeland Security for shutting down immigration watchdog offices

Miami Herald [4/8/2025 8:51 AM, Veronica Egui Brito and Syra Ortiz Blanes, 3973K] reports that dozens of Democratic federal lawmakers slammed the Department of Homeland Security for shuttering key agency watchdogs amid reports of overcrowding and civil rights violations of immigrant detainees at the Krome Detention Center, among other facilities. In a letter Tuesday to Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem, 49 members of the House said the "closure of these offices raises serious questions about DHS's transparency and compliance with the law." The lawmakers' correspondence highlighted a Miami Herald investigation about detainees at Krome suffering overcrowding, guard-perpetrated mistreatment, and days-long confinement in small rooms with delayed access to medical care, showers, and legal counsel. The letter also comes as the Trump administration ramps up immigration arrests as part of its mass deportation efforts. The lawmakers said they were outraged that Homeland Security had "effectively closed" several oversight offices on March 21, including the Citizenship and Immigration Services Ombudsman, the Immigration Detention Ombudsman, and the Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties. DHS spokesperson Tricia McLaughlin told NPR that said the reason for shutting down the offices was because they have obstructed immigration enforcement by "adding bureaucratic hurdles and undermining the mission," and that "rather than supporting law enforcement efforts, they often function as internal adversaries that slow down operations."

Washington Examiner: White House tight-lipped on External Revenue Service on eve of tariff implementation

Washington Examiner [4/8/2025 2:58 PM, Christian Datoc, 2296K] reports White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt declined to answer questions about how President Donald Trump's yet-to-be-launched External Revenue Service will work, just hours before he's set to enact a wave of tariffs on nearly 90 countries. In January, Trump signed an executive order directing Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick to establish the ERS to collect

revenue from the president's tariffs and potentially even supplant the Internal Revenue Service. White House officials, including Leavitt, had previously stated the administration would deliver more details about the ERS when Trump's tariffs went into effect but directed inquiries on the agency to the Department of Commerce when pressed for information Tuesday. Currently, U.S. Customs and Border Protection handles tariff oversight, including revenue collection and evasion enforcement. Experts warned the Washington Examiner after Trump's "Liberation Day" announcement last week that CBP might not be fully equipped to take on the increase in responsibilities. CBP officials, however, told the Washington Examiner that the agency is fully equipped to continue its tariff oversight, including potentially housing the ERS itself.

Union Leader: [NH] Dartmouth student from China sues Trump administration officials over revoked student status

Union Leader [4/8/2025 9:47 PM, Jonathan Phelps] reports a Dartmouth College doctoral student from China filed a lawsuit against federal authorities after his student immigration status was "unlawfully and abruptly terminated" last week, the ACLU of New Hampshire said. Xiaotian Liu, 26, worked with the American Civil Liberties Union and Shaheen & Gordon law firm to file the suit against Kristi Noem, secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, and Todd Lyons, acting director of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, in federal court. Dartmouth College is aware of two students who have had their records terminated in the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS), college spokeswoman Jana Barnello said in a statement. "Dartmouth is in direct contact with the two affected individuals, and, more broadly, is committed to helping impacted community members connect with legal and support resources," she said. Students at other universities across the country have faced similar status changes. The college told Liu that the system could have found that he failed to maintain his status because of a criminal records check or that his visa was revoked, according to the lawsuit. Liu, who has been in New Hampshire since September 2023, has no criminal record, no traffic violations and has never participated in any protest, according to the lawsuit.

Miami Herald: [NH] Dartmouth student's dream jeopardized as he's at risk of deportation, suit says

Miami Herald [4/8/2025 1:05 PM, Julia Marnin, 3973K] reports that an international student's future in America is uncertain after the U.S. Department of Homeland Security suddenly revoked his student immigration status, jeopardizing his doctoral program at Dartmouth College and putting him at risk of deportation, a new federal lawsuit says. Xiaotian Liu, who's been working toward a PhD degree since he enrolled as a doctoral student at Dartmouth in September 2023, is one of several students in the U.S. who had their F-1 student status revoked without warning or reason by DHS on April 4, according to the lawsuit filed on his behalf by the ACLU of New Hampshire and Shaheen & Gordon P.A. law firm. Now, the ACLU of New Hampshire and the law firm are challenging DHS' authority, arguing that Liu's student status was protected by the Student and Exchange Visitor program, which is managed by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. "Xiaotian's dream of finishing his doctoral program and obtaining a Ph.D. at Dartmouth College is now in severe jeopardy because of DHS's decision to abruptly terminate his F-1 student status under the (Student and Exchange Visitor) system without affirmatively notifying him or even his school on or about Friday, April 4, 2025," a federal complaint filed April 7 says. DHS and ICE didn't immediately return McClatchy News' request for comment April 8. With his student immigration status no longer valid, Liu could potentially be detained

and deported by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, according to the filing, which names DHS Secretary Kristi Noem and ICE Acting Director Todd Lyons as defendants.

AP/Blaze/New York Times/New York Post: [NY] Trump administration cancels $188M in grants New York City was using to shelter migrants

The AP [4/8/2025 3:18 PM, Anthony Izaguirre, 48304K] reports the Trump administration canceled $188 million in federal grants meant to reimburse New York City for sheltering migrants, saying the money was being spent to support illegal immigration and leading the city's mayor to vow to fight the clawback. In a letter sent April 1 and shared with The Associated Press on Tuesday, the Federal Emergency Management Agency informed city officials that it was canceling the grants, which included roughly $80 million that the agency withdrew from city's bank account in February. The latest move would require the city to return an additional $106 million that officials said was used to house and care for migrants. Mayor Eric Adams, whose administration has sued for the return of the initial $80 million, said his office would also fight the wider grant cancellations. In his letter to city officials, FEMA's acting director, Cameron Hamilton, wrote that the grant program is inconsistent with Trump administration priorities and that "individuals receiving these services often have no legal status and are in the United States unlawfully." Blaze [4/8/2025 1:35 PM, Candace Hathaway, 1668K] reports that the action prompted Mayor Eric Adams (D) to take legal action against the administration, which remains ongoing. "Like their previous actions clawing back appropriated funds, these steps are unlawful, and the New York City Law Department is currently determining the best legal recourse to take to ensure that this money remains in New York City, where it was allocated and belongs," Adams stated. "As I have repeatedly said, New York City did not create this crisis — it was caused by decades of federal inaction and failure to pass comprehensive immigration reform," he added. Cameron Hamilton, FEMA acting administrator, stated that the funding is "not consistent" with Trump's mission to clamp down on illegal immigration and secure the border. "The Department, consistent with President Trump's direction, is focused on advancing the essential mission of enforcing immigration laws and securing the border," Hamilton stated. "Consequently, grant programs that support, or have the potential to support, illegal immigration through funding illegal activities or support illegal aliens that is not consistent with DHS's enforcement focus do not effectuate the agency's current practices," he said. The New York Times [4/9/2025 3:18 AM, Jeffery C. Mays, 330K] reports that the city's lawsuit to recoup the $80 million is still active. "Like their previous actions clawing back appropriated funds, these steps are unlawful, and the New York City Law Department is currently determining the best legal recourse to take to ensure that this money remains in New York City, where it was allocated and belongs," the mayor said in a statement. The saga is part of an effort by the Trump administration to claw back money granted to the city under FEMA's Shelter and Services Program, which was designed to help cities and others groups who were helping migrants once they were released from federal custody after crossing the border to seek asylum. The federal government is allowed to recover grants if it determines that the payments were improper, according to the Congressional Research Service. The New York Post [4/8/2025 7:00 AM, Craig McCarthy and David Propper, 54903K] reports that the federal funding was first congressionally appropriated during the Biden presidency in response to New York's migrant crisis, in which more than 230,000 asylum seekers had descended on Gotham. Adams called the federal plan "unlawful" and said the city's law department is "currently determining the best legal recourse to take to ensure that this money remains in New York City, where it was allocated and belongs." He added the grants from the feds are the "bare minimum New York taxpayers deserve," and the federal dollars are to reimburse the city for money already spent on migrants. "As I have

repeatedly said, New York City did not create this crisis — it was caused by decades of federal inaction and failure to pass comprehensive immigration reform. Yet, New Yorkers — and residents of other major cities across the country — have been forced to pay the price," Adams said in a statement. "With minimal help from the federal government, our administration has skillfully managed an unprecedented migrant crisis, during which more than 234,000 people have entered our city seeking shelter, costing taxpayers over $7.5 billion in just three years."

Washington Examiner: [NY] Eric Adams blasts 'minimal help' from federal government after Trump pulls grants

Washington Examiner [4/8/2025 12:31 PM, Ross O'Keefe, 2296K] reports that Trump administration officials notified New York City that it is cutting $188 million in federal funding for migrants and $325 million in disaster relief grants. Included in the $188 million is the $80 million in Federal Emergency Management Agency funds that the Trump administration previously clawed back from the city, citing its support for illegal immigrants. Another $106 million is now at risk, and an additional $37 million has been paused. The cuts leave the city with just $106 million of the original $223 million earmarked in its budget. New York Mayor Eric Adams blasted the efforts in a statement to the Washington Examiner, blaming Congress and President Donald Trump's predecessors for failing to take action against illegal immigration. "Like their previous actions clawing back appropriated funds, these steps are unlawful, and the New York City Law Department is currently determining the best legal recourse to take to ensure that this money remains in New York City, where it was allocated and belongs," he said. "As I have repeatedly said, New York City did not create this crisis — it was caused by decades of federal inaction and failure to pass comprehensive immigration reform," Adams added. "Yet, New Yorkers — and residents of other major cities across the country — have been forced to pay the price." "The Department, consistent with President Trump's direction, is focused on advancing the essential mission of enforcing immigration laws and securing the border," acting FEMA administrator Cameron Hamilton wrote. "Consequently, grant programs that support, or have the potential to support, illegal immigration through funding illegal activities or support for illegal aliens that is not consistent with DHS's enforcement focus do not effectuate the agency's current priorities."

New York Times: [NY] Lawyers for Venezuelans Try Again to Stop Deportations, Now in New York

New York Times [4/8/2025 5:03 PM, Jonah E. Bromwich, 145325K] reports lawyers for the American Civil Liberties Union on Tuesday renewed their efforts to prevent the Trump Administration from deporting Venezuelan migrants under a wartime powers act, asking a Manhattan judge to again block the White House from using the law. The filing followed a Supreme Court decision on Monday that had allowed the government to resume deportations, an early ruling on an issue that has set up a major clash between President Trump and the federal judiciary. The Supreme Court addressed few of the case's substantive issues. Instead, it ruled on narrow procedural grounds: The justices said that, because the migrants were confined in Texas, the A.C.L.U.'s case should have been filed there, rather than in Washington. But on Tuesday, the A.C.L.U. filed a similar petition in a New York federal court, noting that two migrants who were subject to deportation were being held in a jail in Goshen.

Axios: [AZ] Homan and Kennedy tout Trump admin policies at Arizona Capitol

Axios [4/8/2025 7:55 PM, Jeremy Duda and Jessica Boehm, 13163K] reports two high-profile members of President Trump's administration — border czar Tom Homan and Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. — visited the Arizona Capitol on Tuesday. Homan's trip comes as the administration continues its immigration and border security crackdowns, which he said have drastically reduced the number of people entering the country illegally. Homan told lawmakers and guests that Trump gave him three priorities — secure the border, carry out the largest deportation operation in U.S. history, and find hundreds of thousands of missing migrant children brought into the country. Homan touted a 94% drop in illegal border crossings under Trump — a statistic reflected in U.S. Customs and Border Protection's reported decrease from February 2024 to February 2025. But "I'm not satisfied … I want more," he said of the administration's immigration arrests from the dais as he addressed the Arizona Legislature. Homan said Trump has prioritized deporting people who are public safety or national security threats, but "if we find a non-criminal illegal alien, they're coming, too." "If you're in the country illegally, you should be looking over your shoulder ... It's a crime," he warned.

Reported similarly:
(B) NBC News Daily [4/8/2025 3:23 PM, Rachel Cole]

DailySignal: [AZ] Arizona Lawmaker Introduces Resolution Supporting Trump's Removal of Venezuelan Gang Members
DailySignal [4/8/2025 3:18 PM, Jacob Adams, 495K] reports a border state congressman has introduced a resolution in the House of Representatives to recognize and declare members and affiliates of the Venezuelan gang Tren de Aragua as "alien enemies" under the Alien Enemies Act of 1798 and the criminal organization itself as a "terrorist organization perpetrating an invasion of the United States directly and at the direction of a foreign government." Biggs' measure would make clear in law that the president "is exercising his constitutional and legal authority to repel an invasion of alien enemies by apprehending, restraining, securing, and removing members and affiliates of Tren de Aragua from the United States of America."

Los Angeles Times: [CA] California lawmakers take steps to shield immigrants from Trump policies
Los Angeles Times [4/8/2025 6:37 PM, Sandra McDonald, 13342K] reports California legislators announced several bills to protect the state's immigrants being targeted by President Trump's aggressive new policies, including federal enforcement raids at schools, hospitals and religious buildings. Members of the influential California Latino Legislative Caucus, made up of 35 Democratic lawmakers, announced the proposals to protect undocumented immigrants as among their top priorities in the upcoming session. "It's unfortunate that at the national level, we are seeing deliberate efforts to crash our economy, deport our communities and continue to villainize our Latino communities, and these bills are efforts to combat all of that," state Sen. Lena Gonzalez (D-Long Beach), caucus chair, said at a news conference at the Capitol on Tuesday. The legislative package included Assembly Bill 1261 by Assemblymember Mia Bonta (D-Alameda), which would establish a right to legal representation for unaccompanied children in federal immigration court proceedings. In March, the Trump administration ended a federal contract that provides legal representation to nearly 26,000 migrant children who entered the country without a parent or guardian. The decision was criticized immigration attorneys, who said it would leave the children, many of whom do not read or speak English or are too young to read or

speak at all, vulnerable to rapid deportation. A federal judge in Northern California last week ordered the Trump administration to temporarily restore legal funding for migrant children in immigration court. A separate bill by Gonzalez, SB 48, would expand existing laws and require school officials to deny federal immigration officials access to school records and school grounds without a judicial warrant. It also keeps local law enforcement from working with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials near school grounds. "California's school resources and spaces should be dedicated to educating young minds and should never be utilized to tear apart families," Gonzalez said, adding that immigration actions around schools cause a chilling effect on school attendance. Legislation proposed by Sen. Sasha Renée Peréz (D-Alhambra), SB 98, would require schools and universities to notify students, staff and parents when immigration officers are on campus. "This bill will give our communities the peace of mind that they deserve while also maintaining the state's commitment that schools are safe places," Renée Peréz said.

Telemundo: [Mexico] U.S. analyzes drone attacking Mexican cartels with drones
Telemundo [4/8/2025 6:42 PM, Dan De Luce, Ken Dilanian and Courtney Kube, 11K] reports President Donald Trump's administration is considering launching drone strikes against drug cartels in Mexico as part of an ambitious effort to combat drug gangs that traffic narcotics across the southern border, according to six current and former U.S. officials in the military, law enforcement and intelligence fields with knowledge of the matter. Discussions between White House officials, the Defense and Intelligence Department, who are still at an early stage, have included possible drone strikes against cartel figures and their logistics networks in Mexico with the cooperation of the Mexican government, the sources said. Still, the government has not made a final decision or reached a final agreement on how to counter the cartels. And the unilateral covert action, without Mexico's consent, has not been ruled out and could be an option of last resort, the sources said. It is unclear whether U.S. officials have raised the possibility of drone strikes on the Mexican government. If Mexico and the United States come together with drone strikes or other action, it would not be the first time they have launched a joint effort to confront the cartels, nor would it be the first time the U.S. military and intelligence have worked in concert with the application of the law and the Mexican army. But what the Trump administration is contemplating could be unprecedented in both the number of U.S. personnel involved and the use of U.S. drones to bomb the cartel's personnel and assets. Government officials and nominees have repeatedly refused to rule out drone strikes in public statements.

Reported similarly:
NewsMax [4/8/2025 7:06 AM, Staff, 4998K]
Univision [4/8/2025 3:29 PM, Staff, 5325K]

Los Angeles Times: [Mexico] Mexico warns against potential U.S. drone strikes on cartels
Los Angeles Times [4/8/2025 6:29 PM, Patrick J. McDonnell, 13342K] reports amid reports that the Trump administration is considering drone strikes against cartels, Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum reiterated her staunch opposition to any such military action. "We do not agree with any kind of intervention or interference," Sheinbaum told reporters Tuesday at her daily morning news conference. "This has been very clear: We coordinate, we collaborate, [but] we are not subordinate and there is no meddling in these actions." The president's comments, reaffirming her already-stated views on the sensitive topic, come as various reports have suggested the Trump administration may be considering aerial strikes

on cartel targets — and that the administration is prepared to act unilaterally if Washington cannot secure Mexican support. On Tuesday NBC News cited six current and former U.S. officials saying that the Trump administration was weighing drone strikes in Mexico "to combat criminal gangs trafficking narcotics across the southern border." The Trump White House has already designated six Mexican cartels as foreign terrorist organizations, a move that Mexico opposed vociferously. Many in Mexico viewed the designation as moving the United States toward its first military strike on neighboring Mexico in more than a century. Sheinbaum has agreed to stepped-up military and Central Intelligence Agency surveillance flights over Mexico in a bid to gather intelligence on cartel operations, officials have said. But military strikes would probably cross a red line and could trigger a sharp deterioration in U.S.-Mexico relations — and, experts say, could result in curtailed cooperation in battling illegal immigration and drug smuggling, and resolving other cross-border issues. "Unilateral U.S. strikes on Mexican soil would be devastating for the bilateral relations and could be detrimental to the objective of fighting drug cartels," Gustavo A. Flores-Macías, professor of government at Cornell University, wrote via email. "The Mexican government would face tremendous domestic pressure to respond in the strongest possible terms — including severing diplomatic relations with the U.S. and collapsing binational cooperation on migration and security, among other topics," wrote Flores-Macías. Sheinbaum has won widespread praise at home and abroad for her administration's "cool-headed" talks with the Trump administration on the contentious issue of tariffs. The White House has imposed duties on imports of automobiles, steel and aluminum from Mexico, but has largely maintained the free-trade regimen of the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement, signed in 2020, during Trump's first White House term. Under the leadership of Sheinbaum, who took office in October, Mexico has stepped up actions against organized crime, arresting scores of alleged traffickers, making record busts of fentanyl and other illicit drugs, and shipping 29 purported cartel capos to the United States to face trial. She has quietly dropped the "hugs not bullets" approach of her predecessor and mentor, former President Andrés Manuel López Obrador, who reduced U.S.-Mexico coordination on anti-drug efforts and was widely criticized for not taking a more aggressive stance toward cartels that dominate wide swaths of Mexican territory. Trump has praised Sheinbaum's actions, calling her a "marvelous woman." But the U.S. president has still insisted that the United States should "wage war" against drug cartels.

AP: [Mexico] Pentagon official: US military has no authority to do drone strikes on drug cartels in Mexico

AP [4/8/2025 7:08 PM, Lolita C. Baldor, 48304K] reports a top Pentagon official said Tuesday that special operations forces do not have the authority to launch drone attacks at drug cartels in Mexico, even though President Donald Trump has designated them foreign terrorist organizations. Colby Jenkins, who is currently working as the assistant defense secretary for special operations, told a Senate committee that Trump's designation doesn't automatically give the U.S. military the authority to take direct action against the cartels. Under questioning from Sen. Elissa Slotkin, a Michigan Democrat, Jenkins said it "helps us unlock the doors" for a broader government approach to the drug problem. Slotkin noted that Elon Musk, a top adviser to Trump on overhauling the federal government, has said the foreign terrorist designation means the U.S. can conduct drone strikes against the cartels. Musk posted that on Feb. 19 on X. Jenkins said it doesn't, but that now the military can provide options and be ready if Trump needs more done to protect the border. U.S. Northern Command has increased manned surveillance flights along the U.S.-Mexico border to monitor drug cartels and the movement of fentanyl and is increasing its intelligence sharing with Mexico from those flights, Gen. Gregory Guillot told senators in

February. There are also unmanned U.S. drones conducting surveillance over Mexico's airspace, according to Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum.

New York Post: [El Salvador] Tens of thousands more migrants could be headed to El Salvador's hellhole prison, Kristi Noem says — as she warns all illegal migrants are now criminals

New York Post [4/8/2025 1:26 PM, Jennie Taer and Chris Nesi, 54903K] reports that Kristi Noem said tens of thousands more criminal migrants could be rounded up and sent to El Salvador's brutal Center for Terrorism Confinement (CECOT) prison following a ruling by the Supreme Court this week. "You'll see us continuing to partner with El Salvador. CECOT has the capacity for 40,000 individuals, and [El Salvador President Nayib Bukele] has said they'll take as many as we want to send," the Department of Homeland Security secretary said. "There's 14,000 there now, and he said he plans to build another prison right next to it." The revelation came during a federal raid in Phoenix Tuesday morning led by Noem in which three convicted felon migrants were busted. Noem told The Post that there's plenty of room in the notorious hellhole prison, and that the Trump administration won't shy away from using the 1798 Alien Enemies Act after getting the green light from the high court on Monday. "We're going to continue using that act in order to return people from these terrorist organizations to face consequences and be removed from our country," she said. Noem also highlighted new provisions of the Alien Registration Act of 1940, which are set to go into effect on April 11. The law requires foreign nationals who have been in the US 30 days or longer to register with the federal government or be subject to fines, imprisonment or deportation. As a result of that act, she said, "everyone in this country illegally" will be subject to criminal charges. She also highlighted that following the expiration of the Alien Registration Act, "everyone in this country illegally" is now subject to criminal charges.

Daily Wire: [El Salvador] 'They'll Take As Many As We Want To Send': Noem Says El Salvador Prison Ready For More Deportees

Daily Wire [4/8/2025 4:34 PM, Nathan Gay] reports following a successful federal raid in Phoenix Tuesday morning, Department of Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem revealed that tens of thousands more criminal migrants are likely to be sent to El Salvador's brutal CECOT prison. "You'll see us continuing to partner with El Salvador. CECOT has the capacity for 40,000 individuals, and [El Salvador President Nayib Bukele] has said they'll take as many as we want to send," Noem stated after the DHS operation in which three convicted felon migrants were busted. According to Noem, "There's 14,000 there now" and the President of El Salvador "plans to build another prison right next to it," per the New York Post. A crucial component in the Trump administration's deportation strategy has been the 1798 Alien Enemies Act, which significantly expedites the deportation process for suspected gang members, giving the president significant authority to protect the country against "invasion or predatory incursion." The DHS Secretary also emphasized that new provisions under the Alien Registration Act of 1940 will take effect on April 11, requiring foreign nationals who have resided in the United States for more than 30 days to register with the federal government or risk severe penalties. "Everyone should know that because we're enforcing the Alien Registration Act, if you've been here longer than 30 days and haven't registered with the government, we are now coming after you criminally," Noem warned. She added that violations could result in fines "up to $1,000 per day" and stressed that federal agencies would now fully enforce the law "to make sure American citizens are the only ones afforded the rights of being in this country."

NPR: [El Salvador] Why Trump is sending Venezuelans to El Salvador
NPR [4/9/2025 3:00 AM, Sergio Martínez-Beltrán, Gene Demby, Christina Cala, Courtney Stein, Dalia Mortada, Luis Trelles, Xavier Lopez, Jess Kung, B.A. Parker, Veralyn Williams, 29983K] reports one of President Trump's main campaign promises was carrying out mass deportations. Now, the administration has removed legal protections for people from certain countries, like Venezuela, invoked a 18th century wartime law, and arrested immigrants regardless of their legal status or criminal record. We look at how the Trump administration is testing the U.S. legal system to make good on its promise, starting with the story of one family trying to find their 18-year-old son after immigration agents showed up at their doorstep. [Editorial note: consult audio at source link]

Washington Examiner: [El Salvador] US lowers El Salvador's travel advisory to lowest level
Washington Examiner [4/8/2025 8:11 PM, Brady Knox, 2296K] reports the United States has lowered El Salvador's travel advisory to its lowest level in another sign of warm relations between the two countries. The travel advisory change was long a concern for El Salvador as the country looks to boost its new tourism industry. Throughout most of the Biden administration, El Salvador was granted a Level 3 travel advisory, "Reconsider Travel," the second-highest rating possible. On Nov. 12, the advisory was reduced to Level 2 following protests from the newly formed congressional El Salvador Caucus. On Tuesday, the Trump administration gave it the lowest rating possible, Level 1, reflecting the growing alliance between Salvadoran President Nayib Bukele and the new administration. "Keeping Americans safe overseas is our highest priority. President @nayibbukele's leadership has been crucial in improving the security of his country for foreign travelers," Secretary of State Marco Rubio wrote in a post on X on Tuesday. "Gang activity, violent crime, and murders in El Salvador have significantly dropped. The Trump Administration updated our Travel Advisory." Bukele was quick to celebrate the change, hailing it as the "U.S. State Department's travel gold star." He shared an analysis from Santander, highlighting El Salvador's "impressive tourism potential." "Now, with the updated travel advisory from @StateDept, unmatched security, new infrastructure, and fresh destinations in the works, we're aiming for new all-time highs," Bukele said, attaching a rocket emoji. The El Salvador Caucus took credit for the move in a post on X, telling possible tourists, "Enjoy your vacation to surf city!". Homeland security adviser Stephen Miller joined the celebrations on X. "El Salvador is now certified as one of the safest tourism destinations on planet earth. Congrats @nayibbukele!" he said. El Salvador's ambassador to the United States, Milena Mayorga, said the change was a "recognition of the achievements" of Bukele, adding they were working on a similar change with Australia, Japan, and Switzerland.

Opinion – Op-Eds

New York Times: This Is Not the Right Way to Curb Migration
New York Times [4/8/2025 3:23 AM, Rebecca Hanson, David Smilde and Verónica Zubillaga, 330K] reports the Trump administration last month deported scores of Venezuelan men to El Salvador, sending them to a maximum-security prison for gang members. The administration claimed that most of the men were members of the Venezuelan gang Tren de Aragua, a group that, according to the executive order decreeing the deportations, is "conducting irregular warfare and undertaking hostile actions against the United States." Tren de Aragua is not invading America. While the research organization InSight Crime, which has tracked the gang for years, has found that it does have a limited

presence in the United States, researchers have seen no evidence that it has organized cells in the country that cooperate with one another, much less receive directions from abroad. The exaggerated government claims and ensuing public concern about the group's activities in the United States amount to a classic moral panic, in which a handful of crimes are cited by politicians as evidence of an urgent threat to society. To be sure, Tren de Aragua is a dangerous group, responsible for horrendous crimes in Venezuela and elsewhere in South America. The three of us have spent decades studying violence in Venezuela precisely because we understand its ability to destroy lives, families and neighborhoods. But central to creating a more secure world is getting the facts, causes and solutions right. So far, many American politicians, police officers and journalists have failed to do so, and instead have perpetuated significant misconceptions about Tren de Aragua. The biggest misconception concerns the group's organizational capacity. Tren de Aragua was recently designated a terrorist organization by the United States, alongside much more established groups like the Mara Salvatrucha in El Salvador and cartels in Mexico. Calling criminal groups terrorist is always a stretch since they usually do not aim at changing government policy.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement

Breitbart: Trump Plan to Expand Detention of Illegals Is Far Cheaper than Cost of Illegal Immigration to Americans
Breitbart [4/8/2025 2:38 PM, John Binder, 2923K] reports President Donald Trump's administration is looking to hugely expand detention space for illegal aliens, a move that will cost billions but is still far cheaper than the annual cost of illegal immigration to American taxpayers. A federal proposal by the Trump administration, detailed in the New York Times, suggests that Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is seeking to open new detention facilities across the United States that agents could readily use to hold arrested illegal aliens. That $45 billion in spending over two years is vastly less than the annual cost of illegal immigration to American taxpayers, which totals more than $150 billion.

Washington Post: Judged by the content of their tattoos and the color of their skin.
Washington Post [4/8/2025 7:35 PM, Robin Givhan, 31735K] reprots in the complicated calculus of immigration, asylum and visas, life-altering decisions now can seem predicated on whether the Trump administration likes the looks of you or, put simply, does not. Family man? Hard worker? Nonviolent offender? Complete unknown? So what. But one thing that most certainly matters for those presenting themselves at the border — or simply going about their life as best as they can once they've been given the green light to be in this country legally — is having forearms covered in tattoos. The U.S. government can't get over tattoos as a kind of bodily evidence of membership in violent gangs. The administration displays them at every turn as if they are all smoking guns of guilt. To be clear, some gang members are known to etch out their allegiances on their body, just as others signify their violent affiliations through their attire. Sometimes those symbols are read accurately. Sometimes they are not. Sometimes they remain in dispute. Just ask President Donald Trump's own Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth. He knows what it's like to be demonized for tattoos. His have been interpreted as celebrating white nationalism and Islamaphobia. Hegseth begs to differ. The tattoos of the greatest concern are those of crowns, which the Trump administration has linked to the Venezuelan gang Tren de Aragua, although many experts have cautioned that tattoos are not a reliable indicator of anything. Nonetheless, the government has presented pictures of detainees with these crown tattoos in immigration

court as evidence that they are the “bad hombres” about whom Trump began warning in 2016. And that circumstantial evidence, the government has argued, gave the administration license to banish these men to an El Salvador mega prison. This seems to be the case with Andry Hernandez Romero. The Venezuelan hairdresser had sought asylum at the U.S.-Mexico border in San Diego. Romero, the administration argued, was part of a Venezuelan gang that was essentially at war with the United States. The evidence against Romero boiled down to the tattoos. The gang Tren de Aragua does favor crown ink. But so, too, do those who simply like tattoos. Or, as Romero did, work in the world of beauty pageants.

NPR: What is Tren de Aragua’s footprint in the U.S.? Experts say smaller than federal officials say

NPR [4/8/2025 2:28 PM, Allison Sherry and Martin Kaste, 29983K] reports that the U.S. Supreme Court on Monday handed the Trump administration a victory, backing the legality of the administration’s effort to deport accused members of the Venezuelan criminal gang known as Tren de Aragua under the Alien Enemies Act. The court also required the government to give the Venezuelans "reasonable time" to contest their deportations. Federal officials have framed the gang as a national scourge and an "invasion," something gang experts say is likely overstated. To justify the deportations, the federal government has relied heavily on clothing and tattoos to identify people as Tren de Aragua, for purposes of summary deportation — which eliminates the right to appear before a judge or to apply for legal status — under the Alien Enemies Act, according to court filings. The global roster of Tren de Aragua gang members is unclear -- though the administration has cited the arrest of migrants with past alleged connections as reason for the drive to remove Tren de Aragua from the United States. Tricia McLaughlin, assistant secretary for public affairs at the Department of Homeland Security, in a statement to NPR took issue with experts and local officials who argue the gang’s presence in the U.S. is overstated. "You should ask the families of those killed, raped and maimed by gang members if they think the threat these terrorists pose to Americans are ‘overstated,’" she said. "ICE’s mission is public safety," ICE Denver Field Office Director Robert Guadian said in a post on X. "Criminal aliens will not be allowed to roam free."

CNN: [NY] A mom and her 3 kids were detained by ICE last month at a New York dairy farm. They were just released

CNN [4/8/2025 1:42 PM, Alisha Ebrahimji, 22100K] reports a mother and her three children are on their way back home to New York following their detention by immigration enforcement officials last month at a dairy farm, New York Gov. Kathy Hochul announced Monday. The third grader, two teenagers and their mother, who have not been named publicly, were taken into custody March 27 as officials carried out a search warrant at the farm for a person accused of having “child sexual abuse materials,” Tricia McLaughlin, a spokesperson for the Department of Homeland Security, wrote on X Monday. During the operation at Old McDonald’s Farm in Sackets Harbor, officials “encountered seven additional illegal aliens on the premises,” including the mother and her children,” McLaughlin said. The mother and her children were taken to the Karnes County Detention Facility in Texas, nearly 1,800 miles away, according to the New York Immigration Coalition.

NPR: [NY] ‘We love them’: Small N.Y. town embraces a family freed from immigration detention

NPR [4/8/2025 1:41 PM, Bill Chappell, 29983K] reports when the three children come back to Sackets Harbor Central School, they'll find signs and decorations celebrating their return — and the end of an ordeal that started in late March. "We've had third graders bringing in cards and leaving it on their classmate's desk," principal Jamie Cook told NPR. "And the third grade class has created a large welcome back sign that they have hung in their classroom." Hundreds of people — kids, parents, teachers and neighbors — have called for federal authorities to bring the students and their mother back. And now, their call has been heeded. They were being held in an Immigration and Customs Enforcement detention center in Karnes County, Texas. The children and their mother weren't charged with a crime; they were swept up during an operation to arrest a South African man accused of using his cell phone to share child pornography. The criminal search warrant centered on Old McDonald's Farm, the Department of Homeland Security said in a statement to NPR. The children's mother works at the family-owned farm and lives nearby. During the operation there, Homeland Security says, officers "arrested seven illegal aliens, including a mother and her three children."

CNN: [PA] Philadelphia's Carnaval de Puebla canceled amid concerns of ICE presence

CNN [4/8/2025 9:43 PM, Taylor Romine, 908K] reports an annual festival in Philadelphia dedicated to celebrating Mexican culture and history has been cancelled, with organizers citing fear that US Immigration and Customs Enforcement might be present and target attendees. Since President Donald Trump's inauguration, ICE has detained thousands of people, using aggressive methods like the rarely-used Alien Enemies Act to deport them quickly and chilling the immigrant community. El Carnaval de Puebla, which saw about 15,000 spectators from across the US and Mexico in 2024, has been held in April for the past 18 years. But the community "does not feel safe" attending a large gathering this year, organizer Olga Renteria said. People in the community, regardless of if they have legal status or are undocumented, are afraid that ICE will detain people in the crowd, she told CNN. "We are not going to take a chance," Renteria said. "Everyone is being cautious, no celebrating, no big gatherings." Philadelphia Mayor Cherelle Parker's office declined to comment as the event is not city sponsored. The festival had also been cancelled in 2017, months after Trump first took office when organizers were worried about the community's safety from ICE. In 2017, ICE told CNN its "actions are targeted and lead driven" and it doesn't "conduct sweeps or raids that target aliens indiscriminately." "We don't want any incidents. There's a little bit of fear in the community," organizer Edgar Ramirez told CNN in 2017. "It's sad to cancel the event, but we don't want difficulties for anyone." Organizers are considering a smaller event for the community to celebrate, but details have not been officially decided, she said. In the meantime, she encourages those who wanted to come for the festival to still visit Philadelphia and its many Mexican businesses.

Washington Examiner: [MD] Wes Moore weighs signing Maryland bill to block ICE from schools and libraries

Washington Examiner [4/8/2025 2:20 PM, Anna Giaritelli, 2296K] reports that Gov. Wes Moore (D-MD) is weighing whether to sign into law a recently passed bill from the Maryland state legislature that would block federal immigration officers from accessing parts of schools, libraries, and state government buildings, his office told the Washington Examiner. The Maryland Senate passed Senate Bill 828 by a vote of 34-13 shortly after 11:45 p.m. local time Monday, advancing a state effort to safeguard child and adult illegal immigrants from arrest by Immigration and Customs Enforcement at sensitive locations. The bill

prohibits "certain schools, libraries, and units of State government that operate at certain sensitive locations from allowing certain federal personnel to access certain areas, subject to certain exceptions." It doesn't specify whether it will honor ICE's administrative warrants. "As Governor Moore reviews the hundreds of bills put forward this session, he will continue to work with the State Legislature, local leaders, and all partners involved to ensure that we are passing legislation that will make Maryland safer, more affordable, more competitive, and the state that serves," Carter Elliott, IV, Moore's press secretary, said Tuesday when asked whether the governor would sign the bill into law. The legislation also includes House Bill 1222, which would strip local police's ability to work with federal immigration authorities through the 287(g) program in arresting and detaining illegal immigrants. ICE did not respond to a request for comment.

NBC News: [MD] How a Chicago Bulls hat led to a Maryland dad being mistakenly shipped to an El Salvador prison

NBC News [4/8/2025 5:16 PM, Matt Lavietes, 44742K] reports police believed Kilmar Abrego Garcia was a member of the MS-13 gang for two reasons: He was wearing a Chicago Bulls hat and hoodie, and an unnamed informant had told them so. The two pieces of evidence were not enough to keep Abrego Garcia in federal immigration custody in 2019, when authorities in Maryland arrested him, according to a court filing last month. Nearly six years later, they appear to be the basis for shipping him to a foreign megaprison with no legal recourse. The Trump administration admitted last week that his deportation was an "administrative error" due to his protected status, but refused to commit to bringing him home.

Breitbart: [MD] Maryland Politicians Dump Plans to Block Police Cooperation with ICE

Breitbart [4/8/2025 7:12 PM, Warner Todd Huston, 2923K] reports the Maryland legislature quietly dropped plans to prohibit state law enforcement agencies from working with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). The bill to prevent 287(g) agreements between local law enforcement agencies and ICE was filed in March as a reply to the Trump administration's crackdown on illegal immigration, according to CBS News. A 287(g) agreement authorizes the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to deputize local law enforcement to act as adjuncts to help enforce federal immigration policy. Local officials receive training in interviewing migrants to determine status, access, and to use federal computer systems to input data. They can also be used to serve warrants and notices to appear. Like Democrats elsewhere, Maryland legislators sought to prevent the cooperation between local authorities and federal officers and proposed the Maryland Values Act, Protecting Sensitive Locations Act, and the Maryland Data Privacy Act to prevent it. Several Maryland sheriff's offices have already entered into such agreements with federal officials, according to the Baltimore Banner.

FOX News: [MD] Boyfriend of missing woman detained by ICE amid investigation into her disappearance: police

FOX News [4/8/2025 7:18 PM, Greg Wehner, 46189K] reports U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detained a man in Maryland as local investigators searched for his girlfriend, who was last seen March 31. The Charles County Sheriff's Office said it is investigating the disappearance of Lesbia Mileth Ramirez Guerra, 23, of Waldorf, Maryland. While Guerra was last seen on the night of March 31 at her home on Adams Court, her boyfriend, who the sheriff's office has not named, reported her missing on April 2. Along

with living with several other individuals at the residence, Guerra also reportedly lived with her boyfriend, who is the father of her two children. During the investigation, detectives reportedly learned about "unusual and suspicious activity" at the residence on the day Guerra was last seen, and the sheriff's office said it believes foul play is suspected in her disappearance. Detectives executed a search warrant on Guerra's home, but she was not found during the search. But what they did find were federal documents belonging to Guerra's boyfriend, which the sheriff's office said appeared to be counterfeit. Detectives reached out to ICE to verify the boyfriend's identity and learned the documents in the home were fraudulent and that he was not in the country legally. As a result, ICE agents responded and took the boyfriend into custody.

Dallas Morning News: [TX] 'I dare you to arrest me': North Texas man accused of threatening to kill ICE agents

Dallas Morning News [4/8/2025 12:16 PM, Matt Kyle] reports a North Texas man was arrested last week and faces both federal and state charges after police said he made several posts on social media threatening to shoot U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents. Robert Wilson King, 35, also allegedly made posts wishing death and harm on government officials, including President Donald Trump, Vice President JD Vance, Texas Gov. Greg Abbott, Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem and U.S. Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene, R-Ga., investigators said in a federal arrest affidavit. In several posts, King compared the U.S. government and government officials to Nazi Germany. In another post, King allegedly wrote that the "current director of the FBI" should be shot and killed. "I hope he sees this I'm so serious. I dare you to arrest me..." King wrote in the post. King was arrested Wednesday on a third-degree felony charge of terroristic threat in Kaufman County. He also faces a federal charge of transmitting an interstate threat. He remained in the Kaufman County jail on Tuesday, and records show a hold from the U.S. Marshals was added to his charges on Friday.

FOX News: [MT] Mexican man convicted of killing his child to be deported after encountering ICE officers in Montana jail

FOX News [4/8/2025 6:03 AM, Elizabeth Pritchett, 46189K] reports an illegal immigrant convicted of killing his own child is in U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement custody after he encountered ICE officers in a Montana prison last month. Carlos Ambriz, a 53-year-old Mexican national, made contact with ICE officers while serving a 40-year sentence in the Montana State Prison for a deliberate homicide conviction and was served a notice to appear before an immigration judge. He was arrested near his residence in Catoosa, Oklahoma, on March 25, ICE said. Josh Johnson, acting director for ICE Enforcement and Removal Operations Dallas Field Office, said Ambriz poses a "significant danger" to the community, especially because he was convicted of killing his own child. "This subject's criminal record underscores the significant danger he represents to our community, particularly with the serious charge and conviction for killing his own child," Johnson said. "Our officers remain committed to enhancing public safety by apprehending and removing criminal aliens who violate immigration laws." Ambriz will remain in ICE custody until he is sent back to Mexico, and his upcoming deportation will not be his first. He was ordered removed on July 3, 1999, by an immigration judge near Seattle, Washington. He was physically deported to Mexico near the Paseo Del Norte, Texas, Bridge on Jan. 26, 2006, according to ICE.

San Francisco Chronicle: [CA] Ultra budget airline Avelo exits Northern California airport to conduct ICE deportation flights

San Francisco Chronicle [4/8/2025 8:16 PM, Aidin Vaziri, 5046K] reports Avelo Airlines will cease its operations at Sonoma County's Charles M. Schulz Airport on May 1, just one year after launching services in the North Bay. The decision comes in the wake of the Houston-based budget carrier's recent agreement with the Department of Homeland Security to conduct deportation flights for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement from Mesa, Ariz., starting next month. "We realize this is a sensitive and complicated topic," Andrew Levy, Avelo's founder and CEO, said in a statement. "After significant deliberations, we determined this charter flying will provide us with the stability to continue expanding our core scheduled passenger service and keep our more than 1,100 Crewmembers employed for years to come." The airline will operate flights using three Boeing 737-800 aircraft, which will be based at Mesa Gateway Airport. In a job listing for flight attendants, Avelo noted that the "flights will be both domestic and international trips to support DHS's deportation efforts," adding that "our DHS charter service may consist of local day trips and/or overnights." Avelo will continue three of its eight routes that currently operate from the Bay Area's smallest commercial airport in Santa Rosa, but these will now depart from Burbank. The remaining routes include Las Vegas, Palm Springs and Bend/Redmond, Ore., with the latter two being seasonal. The airline is discontinuing flights to Boise, Salt Lake City, Ontario (Riverside County) and Kalispell, Mont.

New York Post: [CA] Youth soccer coach, 43, charged in murder of 13-year-old player, accused of sexually assaulting another boy, is illegal migrant from El Salvador: report

New York Post [4/8/2025 3:00 PM, Jared Downing and Richard Pollina, 54903K] reports the Los Angeles area soccer coach charged with the murder of a 13-year-old player whose body was found in a ditch more than 70 miles from his home is reportedly an illegal migrant from El Salvador — who is also accused of sexually assaulting another teen boy. Mario Edgardo Garcia Aquino, 43, was residing in the United States illegally when he allegedly killed teen Oscar Omar Hernandez, "multiple law enforcement sources" told Bill Melugin of Fox News. Hernandez "was an innocent child who was exploited and killed by this depraved illegal alien who should have never been in this country," Department of Homeland Security spokesperson Tricia McLaughlin told the outlet. The LA County Sheriff's Office, District Attorney's Office and Los Angeles Police Department have not officially confirmed Garcia Aquino's immigration status, but unidentified sources also told the Los Angeles Times that the accused killer is in the country illegally.

CNN: [El Salvador] In notorious Salvadoran prison, US deportees live in identical cells to convicted gangsters

CNN [4/8/2025 4:57 PM, David Culver, Abel Alvarado, Evelio Contreras and Rachel Clarke, 22131K] reports men deported by the United States to El Salvador's notorious Cecot prison are living in "the same" conditions as convicted gangsters, prison director Belarmino García said on Tuesday, during an exclusive tour for CNN, the first US news organization to visit the facility since the latest deportation flight. That would mean the deportees' heads have been shaved and they are kept in communal cells holding up to 100 men each for 23½ hours a day. Two sources told CNN the situation is less regimented for the deportees, but the facilities are the same. The cells have no privacy, and no furniture beyond rows of stacked metal bunks with no mattresses or pillows. Some 278 men have been deported by the Trump administration to El Salvador, accused of being members of the Venezuelan

Tren de Aragua gang or Salvadorans who are said to be part of MS-13. But they also include Kilmar Armando Abrego Garcia, a sheet metal worker and father-of-three from Maryland, who was mistakenly removed from the US through an "administrative error."

Citizenship and Immigration Services

USA Today: Trump cancels hundreds of student visas, forcing rapid departures
USA Today [4/8/2025 3:25 PM, Trevor Hughes, 75858K] reports the Trump administration has revoked hundreds of international student visas across the country, setting off a desperate scramble for them to leave the United States within days. Universities have reported some students being forced to leave immediately, in many cases after discovering their visas were cancelled in the federal Student Exchange and Visitor Information System, or via an unexpected text or email. The cancellations reflect a small percentage of the estimated 1.5 million international students studying in the United States, but have sent shockwaves through the collegiate community. Some of the cancellations appear to be connected to things as minor as roommate disputes or as off-campus traffic tickets, university officials said, while others appear to be connected to pro-Palestinian protest participation.

Wall Street Journal: Student Visas Are Being Revoked Without Reason or Warning, Colleges Say
Wall Street Journal [4/8/2025 7:32 PM, Jsoeph Pisani, Michelle Hackman, and Sara Randazzo, 646K] reports colleges and universities across the country say the visas of some international students have been revoked in recent days without notice, causing confusion on campuses and panic among students, some of whom have filed lawsuits. Schools including Columbia University, Harvard University and University of California, San Diego, said they weren't told the visas were being revoked or even given a reason why. The schools found out by monitoring their databases of international students, or in some cases because immigration agents have made arrests. At least 300 visas had been revoked, Secretary of State Marco Rubio confirmed last month, adding that the department would continue to identify student visa holders who it felt had abused its parameters. There are roughly 1.1 million international student visa-holders in the U.S. When international students lose their visas, they are immediately vulnerable to deportation.
Education Secretary Linda McMahon said in an interview Tuesday that universities should do more to vet whether students have any terrorist leanings or "are not necessarily supportive of the United States" before they come to campuses. She cited the increased activity by Rubio in taking away student visas. The Trump administration has been escalating its crackdown on international students, which began with arrests of several students who participated in pro-Palestine protests. Though the number of visas revoked remains relatively small, recent cases have created widespread fear among foreign students that they could be targeted for unpredictable reasons.

Axios: What to know about the wave of student visa cancellations
Axios [4/8/2025 2:03 PM, Steph Solis, 13163K] reports that the feds are expanding their revocation of student visas nationwide, sidestepping the regulations governing visa status, attorneys say. The big picture: The Trump administration has moved beyond penalizing international students over pro-Palestinian activism and stripped scores of students' visas without explanation, university officials and attorneys say. A student at Emerson College

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and a doctoral candidate at Dartmouth College who never partook in protests or had any criminal record were among those stripped of their visas. Catch up quick: Schools across the country, including Boston University, Emerson and Harvard University, learned that some students abruptly had their visas revoked without explanation. This comes weeks after the Trump administration made international headlines for detaining Columbia University graduates and Tufts University student Rumeysa Öztürk over pro-Palestinian activism. The move surprised university officials, who usually are the ones who start the revocation process if they suspect a student violated the terms of their visa. State of play: International students and their attorneys are scrambling to find out why their visas were revoked and how to avoid meeting the same fate as Öztürk and other detainees. In the weeds: Khan and attorneys representing Liu, the Dartmouth student, say another unusual factor is that the Department of Homeland Security terminated the visa statuses.

Bloomberg Law News: Trump's Student Visa Revocations Jeopardize H-1B Talent Pipeline

Bloomberg Law News [4/8/2025 10:48 AM, Andrew Kreighbaum, 120K] reports that a spree of visa cancellations by the Trump administration imperils enrollment of foreign students across the country and threatens the long-term international recruitment that is critical to colleges and employers in the US. The State Department in recent weeks began quietly revoking hundreds of F-1 student visas. Many of those terminations were linked to students' participation in campus protests or pro-Palestinian activism, but others may be based on a variety of infractions—even if they were never convicted of a crime. That's been followed by Homeland Security officials deleting records in the Student Exchange Visitor Program, attorneys and college officials say, effectively ending their F-1 status. Colleges and foreign students, who may not even be directly notified of the terminations, are scrambling to figure out their options. Higher education associations are pressing the Trump administration for clarity on its student visa policies. The uncertainty students suddenly face could stymie growth in international enrollment that had slowed even before Trump's election, threatening the bottom line of schools that rely on their tuition money. "They want certainty that they'll be able to stay here and finish their degree," said Sarah Spreitzer, vice president and chief of staff for government relations at the American Council on Education. Colleges in many cases are having to identify those terminations themselves. The American Council on Education and other higher ed groups requested a briefing on visa policies in an April 4 letter to Rubio and DHS Secretary Kristi Noem.

Breitbart: [MA] Harvard Advises Foreign Students to Reconsider Travel, Warns of Consequences from Anti-Israel Protests

Breitbart [4/8/2025 7:53 AM, Alana Mastrangelo, 2923K] reports Harvard is reportedly advising foreign students to reconsider travel outside of the United States, as well as warning them of the consequences that may stem from pro-Palestinian and anti-Israel protests. During a "Know Your Rights" webinar on Wednesday, Harvard International Office Director of Immigration Services Maureen Martin and Harvard Representation Initiative Staff Attorney Jason Corral discussed "hypothetical scenarios" with students, according to a report by the Harvard Crimson. After being asked about international students engaging in protests, Corral said he would advise foreigners to take more caution during President Donald Trump's second term, claiming, "The difference is we have seen situations where it seems as though people's visas are being revoked" due to protests. Corral also suggested that international students go through their previous public statements and academic work in order to assess their travel risk. "If you have a bunch of photos on your phone that

suggest something that may be contrary to what they deem as a foreign policy interest and a reason for why they're revoking these student visas — pictures of protests or something like that — that could go into their discretionary decision-making too," he said. But deleting images or messages could also raise suspicion among Customs and Border Protection (CBP) agents, Corral added. Corral also advised students to "consider for themselves how essential their travel is and do a risk assessment based on the importance of the travel," claiming he feels "very concerned about international students traveling at this time."

San Francisco Chronicle: [CA] Trump administration sows panic at California universities after revoking over 100 student visas

San Francisco Chronicle [4/8/2025 8:22 PM, Anna Bauman, St. John Barned-Smith and Bob Egelko, 5046K] reports federal officials have terminated visa eligibility for at least 121 international students across at least a dozen college campuses in California since last week, a move that immigration advocates denounced as an unlawful attempt to intimidate foreign students into leaving the country. California State University confirmed Tuesday that the government revoked visas for 36 current and former students, while the University of California said roughly 50 students and recent graduates had their visas voided. Representatives from several California universities said they were not provided detailed reasons for the terminations. "The government has not coordinated with UC leaders on their decisions or provided advance notice to us, but has indicated in government databases that the terminations were due to violations of the terms of the individuals' visa programs," UC President Michael V. Drake said in a statement Tuesday, noting that international students have "enriched our excellence" and are "integral to our academic and civic life." Drake said the visa revocations were not preceded by on-campus visits from federal law enforcement agencies, including Immigration and Customers Enforcement, so far as he was aware. In most cases, university officials said the federal government provided no rationale for terminating the student visas. A growing number of lawsuits in California and other states claim the revocations have been unjustified. The suits also offer a glimpse into the circumstances of the students whose lives could be upended by the visa revocations. The administration has revoked at least 300 visas, including student visas, Secretary of State Marco Rubio said last month at a news conference in Guyana. The more than 100 student visa revocations in California as of Tuesday represent about a third of that total. That's a small fraction of the more than 1.5 million international students who study in the U.S. every year, but the visa revocations have nevertheless alarmed international students and their advocates. U.S. Department of State spokesperson Tammy Bruce declined to answer specific questions about the reasons behind similar student visa revocations across the country during a Tuesday press briefing. She also declined to release the number of visa revocations due to the "fluidity of the situation." "The department revokes visas every day in order to secure our borders and to keep our communities safe, and we'll continue to do so," she said.

CNN: [South Sudan] South Sudan to admit man deported by US after blanket visa ban

CNN [4/8/2025 11:53 AM, Nimi Princewill, 908K] reports that South Sudan has reversed its decision to deny entry to a man it said was a Congolese national deported by the United States after Washington imposed a blanket visa ban on South Sudanese citizens. In a dramatic U-turn on Tuesday, South Sudan's foreign ministry said the government had chosen to admit the deportee, identified as Makula Kintu, "in the spirit of the friendly relations between South Sudan and the United States." US President Donald Trump has

heavily cracked down on immigration since his return to power in January and has launched a series of deportation actions in recent months. On Saturday, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio announced that visas held by South Sudanese citizens were being revoked and no new visas would be granted to people from the country over their government's failure to receive deportees "in a timely manner." South Sudan, the world's youngest nation and one of its poorest is already troubled by armed conflict in its northern region that threatens to plunge it back into another civil war. On Monday, the South Sudanese foreign ministry clarified that Kintu arrived at the Juba International Airport in the country's capital on Saturday with a travel document that was not his. The South Sudanese foreign ministry cited information on Kintu's travel history supplied by the US Department of Homeland Security which stated that he initially arrived in the US in 2003 "and voluntarily departed for the Democratic Republic of Congo in 2009."

Customs and Border Protection

Washington Post: Border agents ask lawyer with pro-Palestinian client to give up phone

Washington Post [4/8/2025 7:55 PM, Gaya Gupta and Angie Orellana Hernandez, 31735K] reports when Amir Makled, a civil rights lawyer representing a pro-Palestinian activist, handed over his passport for review at the Detroit Metropolitan Airport on Sunday, he was immediately flagged and led to an interview room for further questioning. The federal border officers told Makled, a U.S. citizen, that they knew he was a lawyer with prominent cases, the Dearborn-based attorney recounted in an interview with The Washington Post. The officers told him he could either hand over his phone and passcode, or they would confiscate it and return the device back to him later. Makled refused, and after nearly two hours, he said, he was allowed to leave with his phone. But Makled and other legal experts said they believe that his questioning is part of an alarming pattern of American lawyers facing retribution for representing clients whose interests conflict with President Donald Trump's agenda. Makled represents Samantha Lewis, an activist who was arrested and charged by Michigan's attorney general in connection with a pro-Palestinian encampment at the University of Michigan. Lewis is a U.S. citizen and therefore not at risk of deportation, Makled added. There's "no question in my mind that this was an attempt by Trump regime agents to intimidate Mr. Makled," said Patrick G. Eddington, a senior fellow in homeland security and civil liberties at the Cato Institute, calling the situation an improper detention. "And in my view, if they tried this tactic in Detroit, they'll try it elsewhere if they think they can get away with it." Hilton Beckham, a U.S. Customs and Border Protection assistant commissioner who also worked in Trump's first administration, confirmed that Makled was held and questioned but said in a statement that his accusations are "blatantly false and sensationalized," calling his inspection "a routine, lawful process that occurs daily, and can apply for any traveler." "Claims that this was an attack on his profession or were politically motivated are baseless. Our officers are following the law, not agendas," she wrote.

News Max: Increased Border Security Affecting US Tourism

News Max [4/8/2025 10:13 AM, Charlie McCarthy, 4998K] reports that increased security at the U.S. borders appear to be affecting the tourism industry, it was reported. With increased scrutiny at the border since President Donald Trump took office in late January, Canadian flight reservations to the U.S. are down 70% from last year, and European bookings this summer are down 25%, Bloomberg reported. That could result in a $9 billion loss in tourist spending, the outlet added. The tourism industry contributed $2.3 trillion to the U.S.

economy in 2022 and supported about 9.5 million jobs, but the current border policies may lead to a decade-long slump in international visitors, Bloomberg reported. Adam Sacks, president of Tourism Economics, told the media outlet that travel won't normalize until 2029. "That will essentially be an entire decade between pre-pandemic and full recovery," said Sacks, who predicted a 20% reduction from Canada, and 9.4% overall, compared with 2024. Besides the increased border security, Trump's tariffs could incentivize Europeans and Canadians to travel elsewhere. Many Canadians also are peeved due to the president's suggestion that the country should become the 51st state. "All of those things are compounding one another and making the US somewhat of a global pariah when it comes to tourism," Sacks said. "Another irony is that tariffs are being designed to help right the U.S. trade deficit, but the immediate effects in terms of travel is to hurt the U.S. trade balance."

Washington Examiner/AP: [CA] Noem bypasses environmental regulations to expedite border wall construction in California

The Washington Examiner [4/8/2025 10:16 AM, Anna Giaritelli] reports the Department of Homeland Security gave U.S. Customs and Border Protection permission to ignore environmental and land regulations and immediately begin constructing a border wall between the United States and Mexico in Southern California, the Washington Examiner confirmed. DHS Secretary Kristi Noem issued the department's first waiver since taking office in January. The waiver allows the federal government to bypass environmental rules to build 2.5 miles of barrier in Jacumba Hot Springs and San Diego, California — regions that experienced high levels of illegal immigration during the Biden administration. "Acting under President Trump's Executive Orders, Secretary Noem is taking bold, decisive steps to secure the southern border and achieve full operational control," the DHS said in a statement to the Washington Examiner. "To cut through bureaucratic delays, DHS is waiving environmental laws — including the National Environmental Policy Act — that can stall vital projects for months or even years." The Federal Register published the waiver Tuesday, which allows the government to construct physical barriers quickly where they are needed most rather than wait for studies to ensure the land will not be negatively affected, according to the DHS. Noem cited her authority under Section 102 of the Illegal Immigration Reform And Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 to waive the regulations. The AP [4/8/2025 4:24 PM, Staff, 48304K] reports that it's the first environmental waiver of President Donald Trump's second term. Officials said the decision will fast-track U.S. Customs and Border Protection's construction of about 2 1/2 miles (4 kilometers) of the wall south of San Diego and further east near Jacumba Hot Springs, California. "This waiver clears the path for the rapid deployment of physical barriers where they are needed most, reinforcing our commitment to national security and the rule of law," the statement said. The advocacy group Earthjustice derided the decision to sidestep environmental laws. "Waiving environmental, cultural preservation, and good governance laws that protect clean air and clean water, safeguard precious cultural resources, and preserve vibrant ecosystems and biodiversity will only cause further harm to border communities and ecosystems," Cameron Walkup, an associate legislative representative for Earthjustice, said in a statement.

Reported similarly:
Los Angeles Times [4/8/2025 9:51 PM, Andrea Castillo, 13342K]
The Hill [4/8/2025 11:50 AM, Rebecca Beitsch, 12829K]
NewsMax [4/8/2025 2:34 PM, James Morley III, 4998K]

Univision: [CA] Two border inspectors arrested in San Ysidro accused of accepting thousands in bribes to cross migrants

Univision [4/8/2025 6:30 PM, Staff, 5325K] reports two border inspectors, assigned to the port of entry of San Ysidro, were charged with receiving bribes to allow vehicles to pass with undocumented migrants across the border between Mexico and California. The officers, identified as Farlis Almonte and Ricardo Rodriguez, allegedly informed their accomplices in Mexico about their shifts and the lanes they supervised, to facilitate the illegal crossing of people without documentation. The investigation was initiated following the arrest of traffickers who claimed to have collaborated with Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers. Inspectors were charging thousands of dollars for every vehicle they allowed entry without immigration review, prosecutors said. Evidence presented in the criminal complaint includes text messages exchanged with human traffickers, unjustifiable cash deposits in their accounts and recordings that capture vehicles entering with undocumented passengers. One of the surveillance videos showed a vehicle with two occupants, where only the driver had entry documents. In addition, the phone of an alleged dealer contained a message from "Farli USA," allegedly linked to Almonte. During Almonte's arrest, investigators confiscated nearly $70,000 in cash, which his partner allegedly tried to move to Tijuana. Prosecutors said additional charges could be filed for money laundering and obstruction of justice. Border inspectors now face charges of conspiracy to bring foreigners to the United States for profit and acceptance of bribes. Both remain in custody while the appeal on their bail conditions is resolved. In the past two years, at least five CBP agents assigned to the San Diego region have faced similar charges. Among them, an inspector who was sentenced to 23 years in prison for crimes related to drug trafficking and people.

Transportation Security Administration

Federal News Network: For safeguarding critical infrastructure, stronger governance alone isn't a magic bullet

Federal News Network [4/8/2025 5:37 PM, Dean Parsons, 1089K] reports in November 2024, the Transportation Security Administration published a notice of proposed rulemaking about potentially mandating cyber risk management and reporting requirements for surface transportation owners and operators. The proposed rule calls for certain pipeline, passenger and freight rail operators and rail system companies with high-risk profiles to develop comprehensive cyber risk management programs. Pipeline, rail and certain bus transportation or transit systems would be required to report cybersecurity incidents to the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, and the sectors would report any physical security risk concerns to TSA. The proposed mandates follow years of work to strengthen cybersecurity oversight on industrial control system (ICS) and operational technology (OT) environments, which were accelerated after the 2020 SolarWinds SUNBURST attacks and the 2021 Colonial Pipeline breach. However, today's threats extend far beyond traditional ransomware. Modern attack frameworks like Pipedream demonstrate adversaries' growing capability to not just encrypt data, but potentially destroy physical infrastructure. These threats are increasingly scalable and capable of targeting multiple regions and system types simultaneously, raising the stakes for ICS/OT security. While the TSA's new requirements would establish a crucial governance framework, stricter compliance alone isn't enough to secure U.S. critical infrastructure from accelerating threats. Alongside meeting regulatory requirements, it is crucial for organizations to align their cyber defense strategies with the unique intricacies of industrial security environments, starting with the five critical controls to effective ICS/OT security. The five critical controls that every industrial control system

environment should implement serve as both tactical defense measures and strategic enablers of compliance. But their implementation requires careful consideration of operational realities and safety implications.

NewsNation: [LA] TSA Officers find hidden weapons inside cane
NewsNation [4/8/2025 8:00 PM, Isabella Cheng, 6866K] reports TSA officers at the Shreveport Regional Airport security checkpoint discovered a cache of weapons hidden inside a metal cane last week. According to the news release, 'The cane contained a gutting knife, a double-edged blade, and a knife that could function as a small machete. Any of these could be used to incapacitate or kill. Each knife was screwed into part of the cane structure. The handle of the cane was also fashioned into the type of escape hammer used to smash glass.'. "Our officers receive expert training on identifying threats that could be camouflaged as an everyday object or hidden inside a seemingly innocent belonging," said TSA Spokesperson Sari Koshetz. "Our officers frequently find stun guns fashioned to appear like a cell phone, knives hidden in belt buckles, and knives hidden in the handles of combs and hairbrushes."

Federal Emergency Management Agency

New York Post: At least 24 dead as historic flooding leaves towns underwater after barrage of severe weather
New York Post [4/8/2025 9:38 AM, Steven Yablonski, 54903K] reports that a deadly barrage of severe weather, tornadoes, and torrential rain has come to an end, but the danger is far from over in communities across the Midwest and South as angry rivers continue to rise, forcing families from their homes. At least 24 people in seven states have been killed due to the severe weather or flooding, including children and first responders. President Donald Trump approved emergency disaster declarations for Arkansas, Tennessee, and Kentucky, allowing the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to provide additional support for communities grappling with the scope of the historic disaster. "I just want to stress that we do not want to lose another individual," Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear said at a news conference on Monday. "Remember. This event is not over until the waters have receded. Until the areas that are flooded are fully dry. Until we don't have saturated ground that could create mudslides over roads and bridges." The National Guard, Kentucky State Police, and other state and local leaders have been working tirelessly to keep people safe and have urged people to avoid travel if possible. Beshear said on Monday that more than 500 roads across the state were closed due to historic flooding, mudslides, and landslides. [Editorial note: consult video at source link]

NPR: [KY] Flooding is still a threat in Kentucky after storms
NPR [4/8/2025 5:15 PM, Justin Hicks, 29983K] Audio: HERE reports storms have caused flooding and deaths in the Midwest and South over the past several days. Kentucky was one of the hard-hit areas, and some creeks and rivers are still on the rise.

NBC 5 Seattle: [WA] Potential loss of FEMA grants to Hoquiam and Aberdeen would be a 'gut punch'
NBC 5 Seattle [4/8/2025 9:08 PM, Drew Mikkelsen, 1600K] reports when the federal government awarded the cities of Hoquiam and Aberdeen with more than $80 million in grants in 2023, Hoquiam City Administrator Brian Shay called the funding a "game-

changer." Last week Shay found out the grants could be cut. "If it is lost, it would be the biggest gut punch ever," Shay said Tuesday. As the Trump administration weighs the future of the federal agency tasked with responding to disasters, it is ending a key program that has been used by communities across the country to pay for projects designed to help them prepare for natural disasters like flooding and fires. In a news release Friday, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) said it was ending the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities program, calling the move part of efforts to eliminate "waste, fraud and abuse." "The BRIC program was yet another example of a wasteful and ineffective FEMA program. It was more concerned with political agendas than helping Americans affected by natural disasters," the agency said in a statement.

Secret Service

FOX News: [MD] California man angry about abortion, gun rights cases pleads guilty to trying to kill Justice Brett Kavanaugh
FOX News [4/8/2025 9:20 PM, Louis Casiano, 46189K] reports a California man angry about abortion and gun rights cases pleaded guilty on Tuesday to attempting to kill U.S. Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh at his Maryland home, the Justice Department said. Nicholas John Roske, 29, of Simi Valley, admitted to flying from Los Angeles to Washington, D.C., on June 7, 2022 with a firearm and ammunition in his suitcase in an effort to target the high court justice, federal prosecutors said. "This calculated attempt on the life of a sitting U.S. Supreme Court Justice was a heinous attack on the Court itself," said Attorney General Pamela Bondi. "Anyone who thinks they can use violence or intimidation to influence our courts will be met with the full force of the law and face up to life in prison." After arriving in Washington, Roske took a taxi in the middle of the night to Montgomery County, Maryland, with the intention of killing Kavanaugh, authorities said. At around 1:05 a.m. on June 8, 2022, two Deputy U.S. Marshals protecting Kavanaugh's home saw Roske arrive in front of the residence. He was wearing black clothing and had a backpack and suitcase, prosecutors said. The U.S. Marshals, who were in a vehicle, got out as Roske began to walk down the street. Shortly after, Roske called the Montgomery County Emergency Communications Center saying he was having homicidal and suicidal thoughts, had a gun in his suitcase, and flew from California to kill Kavanaugh. Local authorities arrived at the scene where they searched Roske's suitcase and found a firearm; black tactical chest rig and tactical knife; two magazines, each containing 10 rounds of ammunition; 17 additional rounds; pepper spray; zip ties; a hammer; screwdrivers; a nail punch; a crowbar; a pistol light; duct tape; hiking boots with padding on the outside of the soles; and lock-pick tools, along with other items.

Reported similarly:
New York Post [4/8/2025 6:25 PM, Ryan King, 54903K]
Axios [4/8/2025 1:13 PM, Avery Lotz, 13163K]

CBS News: [FL] Trump's would-be assassin Ryan Routh sought weapon to shoot down his plane, DOJ says
CBS News [4/9/2025 3:56 AM, Jacob Rosen, Scott MacFarlane, 51661K] reports federal prosecutors say Ryan Routh, the man accused of trying to assassinate President Trump as he golfed last September during the 2024 campaign, also attempted to acquire an anti-aircraft weapon to shoot down Mr. Trump's plane. In a filing Monday, the government said that in August, "Routh sought to purchase the devices online from an associate Routh

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believed to be a Ukrainian with access to military weapons." Routh allegedly told an associate to "'send me an rpg [rocket propelled grenade] or stinger and I will see what we can do,'" according to the court document. "I need equipment so that Trump cannot get elected," Routh told his associate. The government said Routh also sought to purchase a .50 caliber rifle the same month, and this rifle would have been an even more destructive and powerful version of the one he had already allegedly obtained. Prosecutors said Routh hoped to purchase the .50 caliber rifle at a gun show, but his contact was ultimately not able to locate the type of gun Routh wanted until after the assassination attempt at the golf course. Routh is suspected of hiding in some bushes with a gun near Trump International, about 300-500 yards away from Mr. Trump, who was then the Republican presidential nominee, while he was playing golf in West Palm Beach in September 2024. A member of Mr. Trump's Secret Service detail spotted his rifle in the tree line and opened fire at the suspect, who didn't fire back. He fled by car, and Routh was detained about 50 miles north of the golf course. According to the Secret Service, Routh did not have a line of sight to Trump, who was playing a few holes away from where Routh was allegedly located. [Editorial note: consult video at source link]

Blaze.com: [FL] Elderly Florida man arrested for threatening to kill Trump on social media, Jupiter police say

Blaze.com [4/8/2025 5:36 PM, Staff, 1668K] reports an elderly man in Florida was arrested after making threats to kill President Donald Trump on social media, according to a press release from Jupiter police. Police said 73-year-old Glen DeCicco was arrested on Friday on a charge of making written threats to kill after he allegedly posted on Facebook that the president should be assassinated. Police said they were tipped off about the threats and reviewed DeCicco's posts before coordinating the arrest with the United States Secret Service. Federal and local officers interviewed the man and arrested him without incident. He was booked into the Palm Beach County jail. The probable cause statement said DeCicco appeared agitated about politics in the interview and tried to downplay the threats as creative wordplay. When asked why he said he wrote that he would kill the president, DeCicco reportedly responded, "It was a thought that I had."

Coast Guard

Breaking Defense: After Trump's promise of 40 'big' icebreakers, Coast Guard says eight or nine will do

Breaking Defense [4/8/2025 11:06 AM, Lee Ferran, 464K] reports while it's "exciting" to hear President Donald Trump promise dozens of new, big icebreakers, current assessments show that eight or nine of that size would do for now, a senior Coast Guard officer said this week. "Whenever your boss is interested in 40 icebreakers, you are very happy, right? I mean, this has been something that we've been trying to do for a long time," Vice Adm. Thomas Allan, the Coast Guard's acting deputy commandant for operations, said at the Sea Air Space conference Monday in response to a question from Breaking Defense. "I will tell you that when you look at what the strategic studies have said for the Coast Guard, I kind of go back to that eight or nine [number], right? Eight or nine big, heavy icebreakers — at least three of them in that role," he said, echoing a fleet size determined in a 2023 analysis. In addition to the "at least" three heavy icebreakers, Allan said elsewhere during a polar security panel that the Coast Guard would need at least another three or so "medium" polar-capable icebreakers. Still, he emphasized, "I'd just say it's very exciting to see your boss point towards a vision that we've had for a long time."

National Defense Magazine: SAS NEWS: New Drones Delivered to Coast Guard This Summer

National Defense Magazine [4/8/2025 10:56 AM, Stew Magnuson] reports Coast Guard National Security Cutters will receive all new vertical take-off and landing drones as early as this summer, an executive with the new provider, Shield AI, said April 8. The new Shield AI V-BAT drones have been altered for Coast Guard missions, Brandon Troup, the company's business development executive, said in an interview on the sidelines of the Navy League's Sea-Air-Space symposium. "It's our most updated aircraft," he said. It has increased endurance over the company's previous versions, which have flown with the Marine Corps and several overseas customers. The Coast Guard wanted about 24 hours of flight time, he added. Other changes to the drone include a diesel engine, which matches the fuel the cutters bring aboard, he said. However, Troup noted that the public won't be seeing a V-BAT overhead painted in the Coast Guard's traditional bright orange, as was the case for the model in the Shield AI booth at the trade show. That was just for display, he noted. The Coast Guard wants the V-BATs to be gray so they are harder to spot, he added.

Maritime Executive: U.S. Coast Guard Cancels New Logistics IT System to Save Money

Maritime Executive [4/8/2025 11:06 PM, Staff, 325K] reports the U.S. Coast Guard is set to save $32.7 million following the termination of an information technology program that was once deemed critical in "integrating capabilities," but which is now said to be ineffective. In a move instigated by the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) and in line with the Coast Guard's Force Design 2028 (FD 2028) initiative, the agency announced the termination of the Logistics Information Management System (CG-LIMS), with its program activities expected to cease no later than May 1, 2025. With the termination of the "ineffective" program, the agency is expected to save $32.7 million, funds that have already been appropriated and which will now be redirected to address emerging needs. "Another win for government efficiency," said Kristi Noem, Secretary of Homeland Security. "$32 million in taxpayer savings thanks to the Coast Guard eliminating an ineffective IT program. I'm proud of the men and women of the Coast Guard, who continue to deliver on the President's agenda and deliver efficiency while securing our borders and maritime approaches."

Newsmax: Trump Admin Touts Enhanced Border Security

Newsmax [4/8/2025 9:19 PM, Staff] reports even Trump administration's most vocal critics cannot possibly dispute the fact that the southern border is more secure now than at any other point, at least in recent memory. The U.S. Coast Guard reported that during the period from December to March, some 200 boats filled with migrants. from adversarial countries, were encountered near San Diego. [Editorial note: consult video at source link]

ABC 8 New Haven: [CT] Sailboat missing after leaving New Haven for North Carolina: U.S. Coast Guard

ABC 8 New Haven [4/8/2025 4:08 PM, Bailey Wright, 1000K] reports the United States Coast Guard is searching for a sailboat they say is missing after it left New Haven with three people aboard. In a social media post Tuesday, Coast Guard officials said they're seeking any information about the overdue sailing vessel named "HOT CHOCOLATE." The boat was headed to Ocracoke, North Carolina, operating off the continental shelf. Officials did not say when the group departed from New Haven.

Reported similarly:
New Haven Register [4/8/2025 11:58 AM, Liz Hardaway]

ABC 10 Miami: [FL] Cuban human smugglers await sentencing after caught in boat with 18 Ecuadorians, feds say
ABC 10 Miami [4/8/2025 4:26 PM, Andrea Torres] reports after a U.S. Coast Guard crew reported a suspicious go-fast boat in the Bahamas, U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers joined a pursuit. Yordany Capote-Leon and Yuniel Cabrera departed in the boat from the U.S. before the USCG Coast saw them picking up a group of migrants, according to prosecutors. The Oct. 24 pursuit ended with officers arresting Capote-Leon, Cabrera, and three Ecuadorians who had been deported from the U.S., according to Homeland Security Investigations. The USCG Cutter Manowar crew returned 15 out of the 18 undocumented migrants to the Bahamas, according to the USCG. Border Protection officers reported firing "warning shots" at the cuddy-cabin-style boat after Capote-Leon, 31, and Cabrera, 44, ignored their orders to stop off Key Largo.

Reported similarly:
NBC 6 Miami [4/8/2025 4:33 PM, Staff]
FOX 7 Miami [4/8/2025 2:30 PM, Patrick Chalvire, 864K]
Telemundo51 [4/8/2025 3:06 PM, Staff, 171K]

600 AM San Diego: [CA] Another Human Smuggling Attempt Broken Up
600 AM San Diego [4/8/2025 8:10 AM, Staff] reports another human smuggling attempt off the cost of San Diego has been broken up the U.S. Coast Guard and Navy. Eight people, all of whom claimed Mexican nationality were arrested and turned over to the Department of Homeland Security. [Editorial note: consult audio at source link]

ABC 10 San Diego: [CA] Coast Guard Stops Boat Carrying 22 Migrants
ABC 10 San Diego [4/8/2025 10:57 AM, Staff] reports the Coast Guard said they intercepted a ship over the weekend carrying 22 undocumented migrants. The Coast Guard transferred all them to Border Patrol in Imperial Beach. [Editorial note: consult video at source link]

CISA/Cybersecurity

CNN: Trump is dismantling election security networks. State officials are alarmed
CNN [4/9/2025 5:00 AM, Bob Ortega, 908K] reports that, Misha Pride, then the mayor of South Portland, Maine, was greeting voters early on Election Day when police cars suddenly swarmed outside the city's community center with lights flashing. "Possible shooting," the city manager texted Pride. Officers locked down the center. Authorities quickly determined the call to police was a hoax, one of hundreds of threats and cyberattacks last November aimed at disrupting the presidential election – some pushed by partisan zealots, others perpetrated by foreign state actors including Russia and China. Voting at the community center was delayed by only ten minutes. The attacks in Maine, and elsewhere across the US, had minimal impact because of strong preparation and quick work by an information-sharing and analysis network of hundreds of federal, state and local election, cybersecurity and law-enforcement officials. But now key parts of this network, much of it built over the past eight years, are being systematically dismantled by the Trump

administration and Elon Musk's Department of Government Efficiency, a CNN investigation has found – leaving election offices across the country scrambling to protect against future threats. In early February, Musk's team laid off 130 staffers at the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, or CISA, including 10 regional security specialists who worked with local and state election officials. The Trump administration is also advancing plans to strip civil service protections from 80% of the remaining CISA workforce, potentially allowing them to be fired for political reasons. Attorney General Pam Bondi that month disbanded a key FBI task force charged with investigating foreign efforts to influence elections. She also left in the wind the fate of another FBI task force that investigated threats against election workers and polling places. Homeland Security chief Kristi Noem, meanwhile, on March 6 canceled the funding for national information sharing efforts that helped state and local election officials detect and ward off coordinated hacking attacks and other threats. Those moves come as Trump has appointed to key positions officials who embrace his false claims of widespread voting fraud, including Bondi, Noem and FBI Director Kash Patel, among others – and as Trump has cashiered the head of the National Security Agency and the US Cyber Command, Gen. Timothy Haugh, who was involved in countering Russian interference in past elections. Trump officials argue that some of the election security agencies targeted for cuts were improperly hurting the president's allies. During her confirmation hearing in January, Noem said that CISA has "gotten far off mission" in trying to combat foreign disinformation. She pledged to help "rein in" the agency, which critics say pushed social media companies to target conservative commentators. Bondi said disbanding the Foreign Influence Task Force was necessary to end the "risk of further weaponization … of prosecutorial discretion."

Bloomberg: Hackers Spied on US Bank Regulators' Emails for Over a Year

Bloomberg [4/8/2025 3:00 PM, Margi Murphy and Jake Bleiberg] reports hackers intercepted about 103 bank regulators' emails for more than a year, gaining access to highly sensitive financial information, according to two people familiar with the matter and a draft letter to Congress seen by Bloomberg News. The attackers were able to monitor employee emails at the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency after breaking into an administrator's account, said the people, asking not to be identified because the information isn't public. OCC on Feb. 12 confirmed that there had been unauthorized activity on its systems after a Microsoft Corp. security team the day before had notified OCC about unusual network behavior, according to the draft letter. OCC on Tuesday notified Congress about the compromise, describing it as a "major information security incident." The incident was reported to the Department of Homeland Security's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, and there was no indication of any impact on the financial sector "at this time," OCC said in its initial disclosure.

FOX News: US bank regulator tells Congress it suffered 'major' hack that exposed sensitive information

FOX News [4/8/2025 6:31 PM, Louis Casiano, 46189K] reports the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, which regulates and supervises national banks, on Tuesday said it notified Congress of a February hack that it called a "major information security incident." The breach was first disclosed in February when it learned of "unusual interactions between a system administrative account in its office automation environment and OCC user mailboxes," an OCC news release states. According to Bloomberg, the hackers had access to more than 150,000 emails after breaching the system in June 2023. "The confidentiality and integrity of the OCC's information security systems are paramount to fulfilling its

mission," said Acting Comptroller of the Currency Rodney Hood. The OCC first learned of the incident on Feb. 11. Compromised administrative accounts were shut off the next day. "The OCC discovered that the unauthorized access to a number of its executives' and employees' emails included highly sensitive information relating to the financial condition of federally regulated financial institutions used in its examinations and supervisory oversight processes," the agency said. The OCC said it has reached out to third-party cybersecurity experts to conduct a review of IT security protocols to prevent future attacks.

CyberScoop: Microsoft patches zero-day actively exploited in string of ransomware attacks

CyberScoop [4/8/2025 5:54 PM, Matt Kapko] reports Microsoft addressed 126 vulnerabilities affecting its systems and core products, including a zero-day in the Windows Common Log File System (CLFS) that's been actively exploited in a series of ransomware attacks, the company said in its latest security update Tuesday. A group Microsoft tracks as Storm-2460 has exploited CVE-2025-29824 to initiate ransomware attacks "against a small number of targets," Microsoft Threat Intelligence said in a research note released Tuesday. Victims include organizations in the IT and real estate sectors in the United States, the financial sector in Venezuela, a Spanish software company and the retail sector in Saudi Arabia, according to Microsoft. Microsoft said it's unsure how Storm-2460 gained initial access to devices on these networks, but noted successful exploitation of the software defect allows an attacker running a standard user account to escalate privileges. The zero-day, which Storm-2460 deployed via PipeMagic malware, has a CVSS score of 7.8. Mike Walters, president and co-founder at Action1, said CVE-2025-29824 "is significant because it affects a core component of Windows, impacting a wide range of environments, including enterprise systems and critical infrastructure." Attackers can exploit the vulnerability to gain the highest privilege on a Windows system, Walters said. This allows attackers to install malware, modify system files and registry settings, disable security features, access sensitive data and maintain persistent access, resulting in full system compromise and lateral movement across networks, Walters added.

Terrorism Investigations

Reuters: US Senate Democrat questions FBI on domestic terrorism staff reassignments

Reuters [4/8/2025 2:07 PM, Andrew Goudsward, 48128K] reports a top U.S. Senate Democrat pressed the FBI on Tuesday to explain why it reassigned staff from domestic terrorism investigations, accusing Republican President Donald Trump's administration of imperiling efforts to confront violent extremists in the U.S. Reuters reported last month that the FBI transferred about 16 agents and intelligence analysts from its Domestic Terrorism Operations Section, which supports investigations run by the FBI's 55 field offices and provides information on domestic threats. The letter from Senator Dick Durbin, the top Democrat on the Senate Judiciary Committee, asked the FBI how many personnel remain in the section and how the agency is managing investigations previously assigned to its staff. "I strongly urge you to put the safety of the American people first, reverse these resource reallocations, and reaffirm the Administration's commitment to tackling domestic violent extremism with the full force and attention this significant threat demands," Durbin of Illinois wrote to FBI Director Kash Patel and Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem. The move raised fears that investigations into violence fueled by white supremacist and anti-

government ideologies may be a lower priority under Patel, who has criticized the FBI's past work on domestic terrorism.

RiverBender.com: Durbin Pushes DHS Secretary Noem, FBI Director Patel To Reverse Course On Cuts To Domestic Terrorism Prevention Efforts
RiverBender.com [4/8/2025 2:27 PM, Josh Sorbe] reports U.S. Senate Democratic Whip Dick Durbin (D-IL), Ranking Member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, pressed Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Kristi Noem and Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Director Kash Patel to reverse course on their deprioritization of domestic terrorism prevention efforts, which leaves our nation less secure and Americans less safe. Durbin began by condemning recent actions, writing: "I write to strongly object to the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) recent diversion of agency resources and institutional focus away from domestic terrorism prevention efforts." The FBI has reassigned staff from the Domestic Terrorism Operations Section (DTOS), which provides operational support to all 55 FBI field offices in investigating domestic terrorism threats, and is contemplating disbanding it entirely. DHS has dismantled a national database used to help curb domestic terrorism and hate crimes, as well as gutted funding for key domestic terrorism prevention programs that help support community groups and law enforcement agencies. Durbin outlined the vulnerabilities exacerbated by the changes, writing: "Taken together, these moves represent a broad institutional pullback from confronting the full scope of domestic terrorism threats at a time when experts continue to warn about intensifying danger, and the data points to the rising threat of attacks motivated by anti-government ideologies."

NewsNation: What are the biggest cartels in the US?
NewsNation [4/8/2025 7:00 PM, Patrick Djordjevic, 6866K] reports President Donald Trump has committed to going to war with Mexican drug cartels and is reportedly considering a drone strike. According to NBC News, the president is mulling over an attack against the cartels to combat drug trafficking into the U.S. Last month, Bill O'Reilly told NewsNation's "On Balance" that he expected Trump to carry out a weaponized drone attack should cartels not end their operations in the U.S. Arguably the most far-reaching of its kind from Mexico, the Sinaloa cartel was formerly led by Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman, who now resides in prison at ADX Florence, Colorado, where he is serving a life sentence. On March 31, the United States Treasury sanctioned six people and seven companies for alleged money laundering for factions of Mexico's Sinaloa cartel. It followed a collaborative investigation between U.S. and Mexican government agencies. The Sinaloa cartel and seven other criminal groups across Latin America were designated as "Foreign Terrorist Organizations" by President Trump after his return to office. This week, a longtime fugitive and associate of El Chapo was caught by Mexican special forces commandos in Mexico City.

AP: [VA] 3 dead, 3 injured in mass shooting in Virginia
AP [4/8/2025 9:57 PM, Staff, 48304K] reports three people have been killed and three others have been injured in a shooting in Virginia Tuesday evening, according to law enforcement. At about 5:30 p.m., law enforcement received 911 calls about a shooting at a town house complex in Spotsylvania County, about 65 miles southwest of Washington, D.C., said Major Elizabeth Scott, spokesperson for the Spotsylvania Sheriff's Office. No arrests have been made. "There's dozens upon dozens of officers out actively looking for suspects and preserving the crime scene," Scott said. The people injured in the mass

shooting have been taken to hospitals. Their condition is unknown. No additional information about the victims was immediately available. Scott said they are urging the public to stay clear of the area.

NewsMax: [WA] Seattle FBI Probes Damage to Tesla Charging Station
NewsMax [4/8/2025 4:00 PM, Mark Swanson, 4998K] reports the FBI is investigating another alleged case of vandalism on a Tesla charging station, this time near Olympia, Washington, according to local reports. Reports of a fire followed by an explosion came in early Tuesday in Lacey, Washington, according to Seattle's KOMO-TV. FBI agents from the Seattle field office joined Lacey Police Department detectives in probing the latest in a rash of attacks on Tesla-based properties and products linked to protests against White House senior adviser Elon Musk, CEO of the electric vehicle giant. The FBI on March 24 launched a multiagency task force to investigate 50 reported attacks on Tesla vehicles, charging stations, and dealerships. Attorney General Pam Bondi has described the vandalism as domestic terrorism.

National Security News

The Hill: Gabbard creates task force to probe intelligence community
The Hill [4/8/2025 9:07 PM, Lauren Irwin, 12829K] reports Director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard announced Tuesday that she was creating a task force to investigate the intelligence community to increase "transparency and accountability." The Director's Initiatives Group (DIG) has plans to execute President Trump's executive order "aimed at rebuilding trust" in the intelligence community, according to a statement from Gabbard. The group will be "investigating weaponization, rooting out deep-seeded politicization, exposing unauthorized disclosures of classified intelligence, and declassifying information that serves a public interest." The group will target "wasteful spending" in addition to "streamlining outdated processes, reviewing documents for declassification, and leading ongoing efforts to root out abuses of power and politicization," Gabbard said. So far, the task force is "well underway" reviewing documents for potential declassification on various topics including the COVID-19 pandemic, Trump's Crossfire Hurricane investigation, Anomalous Health Incidents, the Biden administration's "domestic surveillance" and censorship against Americans. The group is also in the process of revoking security clearances for individuals who "no longer have an active role in national security," including former President Biden, former Rep. Liz Cheney (R-Wyo.) and former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. "President Trump promised the American people maximum transparency and accountability. We are committed to executing the President's vision and focusing the Intelligence Community on its core mission," Gabbard's statement said.

FOX News: Trump admin fires Navy admiral at NATO targeted by conservative group
FOX News [4/8/2025 8:19 AM, Michael Dorgan Fox, 46189K] reports the Trump administration has sacked a senior NATO official who was recommended by a conservative research group to be fired as part of a broader effort to purge wokeness from the Pentagon. Navy Vice Admiral Shoshana Chatfield, the only woman on NATO's military committee, was dismissed from the alliance over the weekend without explanation, according to multiple reports. She is one of only a handful of female Navy three-star officers and was the first woman to lead the Naval War College, a job she held until 2023. Chatfield reportedly got a call from Adm. Christopher Grady, the acting chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and was

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told the administration wanted to go in a different direction with the job, according to the Associated Press, citing officials. The officials said they believe the decision was made last week by Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth, but it was unclear whether he received any direction from President Donald Trump. Reuters was first to report on her termination. It was unclear if her firing was related to any U.S. policy direction on the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. Trump and Hegseth have been vocal in their insistence that so-called woke policies are dead and have vigorously sought to remove leaders who promoted diversity, equity and inclusion and to erase DEI programs and online content. The U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, is ditching almost 400 books from its library with DEI content. In December, the American Accountability Foundation (AAF), a conservative research group, sent a letter to Hegseth with a list of 20 general officers or senior admirals whom it said were excessively focused on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) and other similar left-wing initiatives. AAF wrote that focusing on such policies is an impediment to national security and Chatfield was one of eight women who made the list. Chatfield made the list due in part to a 2015 speech where she bemoaned that lawmakers in the House of Representatives at the time were 80% males, proclaiming that "our diversity is our strength." The group said she also quoted a slide from a presentation by the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute highlighting "Investing in gender equality and women's empowerment can unlock human potential on a transformational scale."

Reuters: Musk's DOGE using AI to snoop on U.S. federal workers, sources say
Reuters [4/8/2025 9:11 AM, Alexandra Ulmer, Marisa Taylor, Jeffrey Dastin and Alexandra Alper, 41523K] reports Trump administration officials have told some U.S. government employees that Elon Musk's DOGE team of technologists is using artificial intelligence to surveil at least one federal agency's communications for hostility to President Donald Trump and his agenda, said two people with knowledge of the matter. While much of Musk's Department of Government Efficiency remains shrouded in secrecy, the surveillance would mark an extraordinary use of technology to identify expressions of perceived disloyalty in a workforce already upended by widespread firings and severe cost cutting. The DOGE team is also using the Signal app to communicate, according to one other person with direct knowledge of the matter, potentially violating federal record-keeping rules because messages can be set to disappear after a period of time. And they have "heavily" deployed Musk's Grok AI chatbot – an aspiring ChatGPT rival – as part of their work slashing the federal government, said that person. Reuters could not establish exactly how Grok was being used. The White House, DOGE and Musk did not respond to requests for comment. The use of AI and Signal reinforces concerns among cybersecurity experts and government ethicists that DOGE is operating with limited transparency and that billionaire Musk or the Trump administration could use information gathered with AI to further their own interests, or to go after political targets. Kathleen Clark, a government ethics expert at Washington University in St. Louis, said DOGE's use of privacy-focused Signal adds to growing concerns over data security practices after top Trump administration officials came under fire last month for the mistaken inclusion of a journalist in a group chat about high-level planning for military operations in Yemen. "If they're using Signal and not backing up every message to federal files, then they are acting unlawfully," she said. Reuters' interviews with nearly 20 people with knowledge of DOGE's operations – and an examination of hundreds of pages of court documents from lawsuits challenging DOGE's access to data – highlight its unorthodox usage of AI and other technology in federal government operations. At the Environmental Protection Agency, for instance, some EPA managers were told by Trump appointees that Musk's team is rolling out AI to monitor workers, including looking for language in communications considered hostile to Trump or Musk, the two people said.

NBC News: Ex-Facebook employee to tell Congress the company undermined U.S. national security

NBC News [4/8/2025 9:21 PM, Allan Smith, 44742K] reports Sarah Wynn-Williams, a former Facebook employee who alleged misconduct and sexual harassment at the company in a memoir published last month, will testify before Congress on Wednesday that Meta executives undermined U.S. national security and briefed Chinese officials on emerging technologies like artificial intelligence. In her introductory statement, obtained by NBC News, Wynn-Williams will tell the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime and Counterterrorism that Meta executives "lied about what they were doing with the Chinese Communist Party to employees, shareholders, Congress, and the American public." "I saw Meta executives repeatedly undermine US national security and betray American values," she will say, according to the prepared remarks. "They did these things in secret to win favor with Beijing and build an $18 billion dollar business in China," her statement says, referring to China-based advertisers. Wynn-Williams, a former New Zealand diplomat, worked at Facebook from 2011 to 2017. She believes she was fired in 2017 as retaliation for accusing her boss, Joel Kaplan, who at the time was a vice president for global public policy, of sexual harassment. Meta, which owns Facebook, said that an investigation cleared Kaplan in 2017 and that Wynn-Williams' book, "Careless People," included "false accusations about our executives." Meta also said other claims in the book were "out-of-date and previously reported," and a former supervisor said she was fired for performance reasons. In a statement Tuesday night, Meta spokesperson Andy Stone criticized Wynn-Williams' planned remarks. "Sarah Wynn-Williams' testimony is divorced from reality and riddled with false claims," Stone said in a statement. "While Mark Zuckerberg himself was public about our interest in offering our services in China and details were widely reported beginning over a decade ago, the fact is this: we do not operate our services in China today." Wednesday's hearing is an indication of the scrutiny that Meta continues to receive in Washington, despite a monthslong effort by Meta and its CEO, Mark Zuckerberg, to pivot the company's politics to the right, aligning more closely with the Trump administration and the Republican-controlled Congress.

Reuters: Western intelligence agencies warn spyware threat targeting Taiwan, Tibetan rights advocates

Reuters [4/8/2025 7:33 PM, A.J. Vicens, 41523K] reports Western intelligence agencies warned on Tuesday of an increasing threat from Beijing's security services to use malicious mobile phone applications to surveil Taiwanese independence activists, Tibetan rights advocates and others opposed by the Chinese government. An advisory, issued late on Tuesday warned of "the growing threat" posed by malicious surveillance software deployed by a Chengdu-based contractor reported to have ties to China's Ministry of Public Security. The advisory was signed by cybersecurity agencies in Britain, the U.S., Canada, New Zealand, Australia and Germany. Those most at risk include people connected to Taiwanese independence, Tibetan rights, Uyghur Muslims and other minorities in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, democracy advocates (including in Hong Kong) and the Falun Gong spiritual movement, according to Britain's National Cyber Security Centre in the advisory. The warning comes amid increasing tensions surrounding Taiwan, including April 1 Chinese military drills around the island and a March 28 visit to the Philippines by U.S. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth in which he reaffirmed Washington's commitment to deterring Chinese aggression in the region. The Chengdu-based contractor, Sichuan Dianke Network Security Technology Co., Ltd., was linked to the deployment of a pair of distinct malware packages. They were tracked as "BADBAZAAR" and "MOONSHINE" and used to ferret sensitive information from mobile devices while also giving operators remote

access to devices' cameras, microphones and location data, the advisory said. The warning is for non-governmental organizations, journalists, businesses and other individuals who advocate for or represent the groups, the NCSC said in the advisory. "The indiscriminate way this spyware is spread online also means there is a risk that infections could spread beyond intended victims," it said. Liu Pengyu, spokesperson for the Chinese Embassy in Washington, told Reuters that China "firmly opposes the smear attacks against China without any factual basis," and that the tracing of cyberattacks is complex. "We hope that relevant parties will adopt a professional and responsible attitude when characterizing cyber incidents, basing their conclusions on sufficient evidence rather than unfounded speculation and accusations."

New York Times: Trump Pressed Ahead With Sweeping Tariffs

New York Times [4/8/2025 6:09 PM, Matthew Cullen, 145325K] reports aust hours from now, at midnight, President Trump is set to impose steep new tariffs on many of America's biggest trading partners. The fee on imports from China, for example, will rise from 30 percent to at least 104 percent. America's top trade official defended the levies today as "a moment of drastic, overdue change." At least 70 governments have already approached the U.S. to discuss rolling back the tariffs, and the administration signaled today that it was ready to negotiate. But the president and his advisers have been clear that the appeals will not stop the tariffs from going into effect. China has vowed to "fight to the end"; other countries, like Japan, indicated a willingness to compromise; the E.U. is trying to do a bit of both. Billionaire investors, worried that the tariffs will drag down the economy, have been calling the White House to push Trump to reverse course — though it's not clear that they've had any effect. That uncertainty has translated into massive volatility in the stock market. This morning, the S&P 500 was up 4 percent; it finished down about 1.6 percent. The early rally, seemed "to be pinned, in part, on the prospects for deals to lower tariffs," Jason Karaian, our deputy business editor, said. That optimism may have faded. Trump signed an executive order this afternoon aimed at expanding the use of coal in the U.S. It will direct federal agencies to remove barriers to coal leasing and mining and loosen environmental reviews of coal projects. The president's push appears designed to reverse a decades-long decline in the use of coal, the most polluting of all fossil fuels and the main driver of global warming. But utilities have switched to cheaper and cleaner electricity sources like natural gas, wind and solar power, and some analysts said a major coal revival is unlikely.

Washington Examiner: Clock strikes midnight: Trump's 'Liberation Day' tariffs take effect

Washington Examiner [4/9/2025 12:01 AM, Christian Datoc, 2296K] reports President Donald Trump's wave of tariffs went into effect at 12:01 a.m. Wednesday as the vast majority of U.S. trading partners look to head off the barrier taxes with last-minute deals with the White House. Trump's "Liberation Day" announcement outlined a two-phased rollout of the new tariffs, which Trump has described as reciprocal. First, the 10% flat tariff on all trading partners was put into effect over the weekend, with a midnight deadline for "tailored" rates for 86 individual countries. The new tariff regime, on friends and foes alike, upended years of global trade relationships and prompted rare voices of dissent from congressional Republicans concerned about risks of inflation, recession, and executive overreach. Trump, however, sought to reassure House Republicans at a fundraising dinner Tuesday night that tariffs will work by bringing countries to the negotiating table. "I really think we're helped a lot by the tariff situation that's going on, which is a good situation, not a bad," Trump said at

a National Republican Congressional Committee dinner. "It's going to be legendary. You watch — legendary in a positive way."

NewsMax: Stephen Miller to Newsmax: Whole World Coming to U.S. to Negotiate Trade

NewsMax [4/8/2025 9:26 PM, Nick Koutsobinas, 4998K] reports the whole world is coming to the United States to negotiate as a result of President Donald Trump's tariff policy, White House deputy Chief of Staff for Policy Stephen Miller told Newsmax on Tuesday. "Because of President Trump's action to protect and defend our national security and our manufacturing base, the entire world that has abused and misused and mistreated the United States, is now coming to the table to establish a new and fair global trading framework," Miller told "Rob Schmitt Tonight." Throughout Miller's eight-minute interview, the White House deputy covered a range of topics, mainly concerning the U.S.'s trade relationship with China and the implementation of a permanent tariff policy. When asked by Schmitt if the goal of the tariffs was to negotiate fair trade deals or make them permanent to fund the government, Miller replied both levers should be used. "I don't think" those methods are the "contradiction that people have portrayed them to be," Miller said. He went on to add, giving the example of Europe, that the continent operates on a "20%" value-added tax on all imports. "Most advanced economies in the world collect some kind ... of revenue off imports," he added. "So the United States, without preordaining what the final outcome of different negotiations will be, can always maintain a baseline of import collection to fund the general treasury." "At the same time, where you see some of these countries that have engaged in the worst practices — that have higher rates of tariffs — they can enter into negotiations with the United States to come down to where the rest of the world is. So the answer is that, of course, you can do both of these things, and both of these goals, in fact, work in concert."

The Hill: Democrats use DOGE hearing to target Trump tariffs

The Hill [4/8/2025 1:37 PM, Julia Manchester, 12829K] reports that House Democrats used a DOGE subcommittee hearing to target President Trump on tariffs on Tuesday. "Unfortunately, Republicans in Congress want to debate office space and furniture while the president torches the global economy," said Rep. Robert Garcia (D-Calif.), flanked by a sign depicting a dip in the market with a picture of Elon Musk jumping. In her closing remarks, the committee's ranking member, Rep. Melanie Stansbury (D-N.M.), argued that DOGE's approach is "troubling" because, like Trump's handling of the economy, it does not have a plan. "It goes along with the troubling theory of the case that Donald Trump seems to have about the economy overall because as my colleague pointed out, we're sitting here talking about microphones and furniture in an office building while the economy is tanking and trillions of dollars in losses are happening and we know that a potential for both a recession and costs are going to go up which will cost the federal government more money," Stansbury said. "One of my colleagues quoted Milton Friedman which I found actually quite funny because Elon Musk himself has also been quoting Milton Friedman over the weekend because he thought that international trade was good and tariffs were bad," Stansbury said. "Anybody? Anybody? Donald Trump is crashing the economy over tariffs." Rep. Jasmine Crockett (D-Texas) accused Republicans of being "hellbent" on firing government workers and setting fire to government programs like Social Security, Medicaid and Medicare.

The Hill: [Panama] Hegseth rebuffs China's influence at Panama Canal

The Hill [4/8/2025 7:01 PM, Ellen Mitchell, 12829K] reports Hegseth, who was in Panama on Tuesday to meet with its government officials, spoke from a new U.S.-financed pier at the Vasco Nuñez de Balboa Naval Base on the canal. He said Beijing would not be allowed to "weaponize" the waterway via a commercial presence. "The United States of America will not allow communist China or any other country to threaten the canal's operation or integrity," he said. He noted that the U.S. and Panama strengthened their defense and security cooperation in recent weeks and together "will take back the Panama Canal from China's influence." "China did not build this canal. China does not operate this canal and China will not weaponize this canal," Hegseth said from the pier. "Together, with Panama in the lead, we will keep the canal secure and available for all nations." The message had a more conciliatory tone compared with that of his boss, President Trump, who has vowed to take back the Panama Canal from Panama. Trump has claimed that China effectively controls the trade route via two major ports on either end of the shipping lane. Panama has rejected these assertions, pointing to its withdrawal earlier this year of its Belt and Road Initiative agreements with Beijing, made in 2017. Trump has not ruled out the use of military force in taking over the canal, and last month NBC News reported that the White House had directed the Pentagon "to draw up options to increase the American troop presence in Panama."

NBC News: [Panama] Trump was touting his Panama victory. Then China stepped in.
NBC News [4/8/2025 12:00 PM, Mithil Aggarwal, 44742K] reports that a huge deal touted by President Donald Trump as a victory in his campaign to "take back" the Panama Canal from China could be on the rocks amid pushback from Beijing. The $23 billion sale involving two ports run by CK Hutchison, a private company based in the Chinese territory of Hong Kong, to a consortium led by U.S. investment firm BlackRock had originally been scheduled to be signed last week. But an agreement between the two has been delayed under pressure from China, whose market regulator launched a review of the deal as state-run newspapers attacked it as undermining China's national interests. NBC News takes a look at the sale and what it may mean politically and economically for the United States and China, the world's two biggest economies. During Trump's inaugural speech in January, he claimed without providing evidence that China controlled the 50-mile canal, and vowed that the U.S. will take back the waterway, which he said was "vital" to national security. Trump did not rule out military action and has directed the Defense Department to draw up plans to send more troops to Panama to "reclaim" the canal, through which 40% of U.S. trade passes. Panama denies Trump's accusations about the neutrality of the canal, which is enshrined in its constitution. But in an attempt to relieve the pressure from Washington, in January the country launched an audit of CK Hutchison's Panama Ports Company (PPC), which since 1997 has operated two ports along the canal, Balboa on the Pacific side and Cristóbal on the Atlantic side. On Monday, Panama's comptroller general said the audit had found that the contract was overly favorable to Hutchison PPC, costing Panama $1.3 billion in revenue, and that authorities would file a lawsuit against officials involved in its renewal in 2021.

Reuters: [China] US intelligence agency warns China is trying to recruit government employees
Reuters [4/8/2025 8:45 PM, Jasper Ward, 41523K] reports the U.S. warned on Tuesday that Chinese intelligence was using deceptive methods to target current and former U.S. government employees for recruitment. The warning from the National Counterintelligence and Security Center comes amid mass federal firings led by Elon Musk's Department of

Government of Efficiency. "Foreign intelligence entities, particularly those in China, are targeting current and former U.S. government (USG) employees for recruitment by posing as consulting firms, corporate headhunters, think tanks, and other entities on social and professional networking sites," the center said in a bulletin. The center said deceptive online job offers and other approaches have become more sophisticated in targeting individuals with U.S. government backgrounds seeking new employment. It warned current and former federal employees of such approaches. It added that clearance holders were obligated to protect classified data even after leaving federal employment. The Chinese foreign ministry said on Wednesday it was not aware of the situation and accused the U.S. of spying on China. Ministry spokesperson Lin Jian called the U.S. actions "irresponsible practices" and said it was engaging in "global espionage without any disguise". Reuters previously reported about a network of companies operated by a secretive Chinese tech firm that had been trying to recruit recently laid-off U.S. government workers.

AP: [China] China says it will 'fight to the end' after Trump threatens to impose still more tariffs

AP [4/8/2025 7:25 AM, Staff, 13342K] reports China said Tuesday it would "fight to the end" and take countermeasures against the United States to safeguard its own interests after President Donald Trump threatened an additional 50% tariff on Chinese imports. The Commerce Ministry said the U.S.'s imposition of "so-called 'reciprocal tariffs'" on China is "completely groundless and is a typical unilateral bullying practice." China, the world's second-largest economy, has announced retaliatory tariffs and the ministry hinted in its latest statement that more may be coming. "The countermeasures China has taken are aimed at safeguarding its sovereignty, security and development interests, and maintaining the normal international trade order. They are completely legitimate," the ministry said. "The U.S. threat to escalate tariffs on China is a mistake on top of a mistake and once again exposes the blackmailing nature of the U.S. China will never accept this. If the U.S. insists on its own way, China will fight to the end," it added. Trump's threat Monday of additional tariffs on China raised fresh concerns that his drive to rebalance the global economy could intensify a financially destructive trade war. Stock markets from Tokyo to New York have become more unstable as the tariff war worsens. Trump's threat came after China said it would retaliate against U.S. tariffs he announced last week. "If China does not withdraw its 34% increase above their already long term trading abuses by tomorrow, April 8th, 2025, the United States will impose ADDITIONAL Tariffs on China of 50%, effective April 9th," Trump wrote on Truth Social. "Additionally, all talks with China concerning their requested meetings with us will be terminated!" If Trump implements his new tariffs on Chinese products, U.S. tariffs on Chinese goods would reach a combined 104%. The new taxes would be on top of the 20% tariffs announced as punishment for fentanyl trafficking and his separate 34% tariffs announced last week. Not only could that increase prices for American consumers, it could also give China an incentive to flood other countries with cheaper goods and seek deeper relationships with other trading partners, particularly the European Union.

CNN: [China] Tariffs on China set to rise to at least 104% on Wednesday, White House say

CNN [4/8/2025 11:53 PM, Elisabeth Buchwald and Nectar Gan, 908K] reports President Donald Trump is set to impose an astounding 104% in levies across all Chinese imports on Wednesday, White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt announced on Tuesday. This comes on top of Chinese tariffs that were in place prior to Trump's second term. China was

already set to see tariffs increase by 34% on Wednesday as part of Trump's "reciprocal" tariffs package. But the president tacked on another 50% after Beijing didn't back off on its promise to impose 34% retaliatory tariffs on US goods by noon Tuesday, adding an additional 84% in duties. Earlier Tuesday, China's Commerce Ministry said it "firmly opposes" the additional 50% tariffs on Chinese imports, calling it "a mistake upon a mistake." The ministry vowed to escalate its retaliation on US exports. US stocks, which soared Tuesday morning, began moving lower following Leavitt's comments. Markets ultimately ended the day markedly lower. The Dow fell 320 points, or 0.84%. The broader S&P 500 fell 1.57%. The tech-heavy Nasdaq Composite slid 2.15%. "Countries like China, who have chosen to retaliate and try to double down on their mistreatment of American workers, are making a mistake," Leavitt told reporters on Tuesday. "President Trump has a spine of steel, and he will not break." "The Chinese want to make a deal, they just don't know how to do it," she added. She declined to share what, if any, terms Trump would consider to lower tariffs on China. Asian markets largely tracked Wall Street's losses, with Japan's Nikkei 225 opening about 3% lower on Wednesday. Hong Kong's Hang Seng also fell 3%. South Korea's Kopsi and Australia's benchmark ASX 200 index were each down about 1%. Along with increasing China's overall tariff rate, President Trump also signed an executive order Tuesday night tripling tariffs on goods worth less than $800 from the country. As it stands, packages under $800 have been exempt from tariffs through the so-called "de minimus" exemption.

Bloomberg: [China] Trump's Tariffs Collide With Deepening China Shock

Bloomberg [4/8/2025 7:00 AM, Shawn Donnan, 16228K] reports that, for a quarter century at least the world has been living with the effects of an epochal economic shock as China's rise has reshaped whole industries and communities around the world. But that jolt to the global economy has been joined by another over the past week: The Trump Shock is truly here. The initial impact has been on markets and been manifested in the turmoil that has rolled over trading floors and investors around the world since President Trump last week announced the largest package of US tariffs in a century. But as we write in today's Big Take, that's just the beginning of the story. The flow of goods and capital around the world is set to undergo a fundamental change over the next five years, a new Bloomberg Economics analysis finds. That's exactly what Trump and his cheerleaders are unabashedly aiming for. They want to rewrite the rules of global commerce in America's favor. Supply chains will be tangled, investment plans rewritten, prices for imports will spike, and trade and security relationships with both allies and rivals will be remade. Trump's whole bold gamble hinges on upheaval. The thing is that tariff-driven Trump Shock is also likely to amplify the enduring China Shock as the world's second largest economy will be forced to find a replacement for a US market that remains a significant destination for its exports. That in turn will lead to countries putting up their own tariffs against Chinese goods. Think of that rolling shock that hit financial markets over the past week turning into a wave of tariffs circulating around the world. It's a tale of twin shocks that are not just colliding but hitting the rest of the global economy. The new story is who is getting shocked hardest by whom. It seems unlikely to have a happy ending for a world that only just escaped the human and economic carnage of a pandemic.

Newsweek: [China] US Ally Confronts China in Contested Waters

Newsweek [4/8/2025 3:47 PM, Micah McCartney, 52220K] reports that Chinese coast guard ships repeatedly attempted to ram Philippine vessels over the weekend, according to Manila. The incidents, captured on video, took place west of the Philippines' main island of

Luzon, where Chinese ships have maintained a steady presence since early this year in what analysts call a show of force. China claims more than 90 percent of the South China Sea under its self-declared ten-dash line, citing vague historical rights that overlap with claims by the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Indonesia, Brunei, and Taiwan. A 2016 international tribunal sided with the Philippines and rejected Beijing's claims. China has dismissed the ruling as invalid and continues to send its heavily armed coast guard, naval warships, and paramilitary maritime militia hundreds of miles from its coast to enforce its claims. Newsweek reached out to the Chinese Foreign Ministry and Philippine Coast Guard for comment. In a statement posted to X (formerly Twitter), Philippine Coast Guard spokesperson Jay Tarriela accused Chinese ship CCG-3302 of "reckless and dangerous maneuvers" on Saturday and Sunday, including multiple attempts to ram the BRP Cabra, a smaller Philippine patrol vessel. Manila released a video showing the Cabra's crew hailing the Chinese vessel and warning it had no right to patrol within the Philippines' exclusive economic zone (EEZ).

The Hill: [China] TikTok extension, potential deal may violate law: Top Senate Democrat

The Hill [4/8/2025 11:40 AM, Julia Shapero, 12829K] reports that the top Democrat on the Senate Intelligence Committee warned Monday that President Trump's additional extension for TikTok's parent company to divest from the app, as well as a potential divestment deal on the table, may violate the law. In a letter to Trump, Sen. Mark Warner (D-Va.) said he has "deep reservations with how you and other involved parties are carrying out the negotiations around the sale of TikTok." He emphasized that the law passed by Congress last April, which required TikTok's parent company ByteDance to divest from the app or face a U.S. ban, allowed a single 90-day extension. "This second delay is a clear violation of the law, while also continuing to leave Americans vulnerable to malign influence operations conducted by an adversary country," Warner wrote. Trump signed an executive order Friday halting enforcement of the law for another 75 days, saying his administration had made "tremendous progress" toward a deal but that it "requires more work to ensure all necessary approvals are signed." He initially gave TikTok a 75-day reprieve from the divest-or-ban law shortly after taking office with aspirations of reaching a deal to keep TikTok available in the U.S. A source familiar with the negotiations told The Hill that a deal was finalized last week that would have seen TikTok's U.S. operations spun off into a new company owned and operated by a majority of American investors. ByteDance would maintain a minority stake in the company under the agreement.

{End of Report} RETURN TO TOP

From: (b)(7)(E) @techmis.com]
Sent: 10/25/2025 12:09:50 PM
To: (b)(7)(E) @techmis.com
Subject: DHS Morning Briefing (10-25-25)
Attachments: DHS Morning Briefing (10-25-25).pdf

DHS MORNING BRIEFING

Prepared for the Office of Public Affairs (OPA)
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

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Editorial Note: The DHS Daily Briefing is a collection of news articles related to Department's mission. The inclusion of particular stories is not intended to reflect their importance, nor is it intended to endorse the political viewpoints or affiliations included in news coverage.

TO: **Homeland Security Secretary & Staff**
DATE: **Saturday, October 25, 2025 8:00 AM ET**

Top News

Reuters/SFGate/New York Times/Axios: Immigration surge called off for entire San Francisco Bay Area, officials say

Wall Street Journal: Inside the Tech CEO Campaign to Stop Trump From Sending Troops to San Francisco

AP: Shots fired, driver hurt and held after truck rams into Coast Guard base in California

AP: After truck ramming incident in San Francisco, Noem warns sending National Guard is on the table

FOX News: Dems urged to 'stop siding with illegal aliens' after activist rams agents in sanctuary city

ABC 5 Minneapolis/KTTC 10 Rochester: Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem discusses ICE operations in Twin Cities on Friday

NewsNation: Noem: 4,300-plus migrants removed from Minneapolis since Jan.

The Hill: Senate Democrats press Education secretary on immigration enforcement near schools

Reuters: Trump's troop deployments to Portland and D.C. face tests in court

NewsMax: Troop Deployments to Portland, D.C. Face Tests in Court

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Washington Examiner: Trump prepares for Portland troop deployment as he awaits three separate National Guard court decisions

Daily Wire: Trump Admin Warns California Democrats: Arresting ICE Agents Is A 'Criminal Conspiracy'

New York Times: How the San Francisco Mayor Avoided Trump's Enforcement Surge

NPR: DOJ hires immigration judges after months of layoffs

Bloomberg Law: Border Patrol's Bovino Ordered to Appear in Chicago Courtroom

CBS News: Border Patrol chief says agents' use of force in Chicago "has been exemplary"

CBS News: Gov. Pritzker and Border Patrol chief talk protest tactics

CNN: US Border Patrol chief accused of violating judge's order

The Situation Room: Border Patrol Chief Accused to Tossing Tear Gas at Protesters

Washington Times: DHS uses riot response as anti-ICE protests become more violent in Chicago

Chicago Tribune: Federal immigration agents tear-gas Lakeview, raid Lincoln Park as feds focus on city's affluent North Side

Daily Caller: Lawyers Argue Anti-ICE Protesters Who Allegedly Threw Rocks, Fireworks Didn't Deserve Tear Gas

Chicago Tribune: Federal judge appears poised to order release of at least some 'Operation Midway Blitz' arrestees

NewsMax: DHS Says Chicago Shows Its 'Sicario' Side

USA Today: What's happening with the troops in Chicago? What to know on legal cases against 'blitz'

USA Today: Where are ICE arrests happening in Chicago? What to know after latest raid

AP/CBS News: US says it now plans to deport Abrego Garcia to Liberia as soon as Oct. 31

Reuters: Liberia agrees to accept wrongly deported migrant Abrego, US says

AP: Truck driver in fatal Florida crash repeatedly failed driving tests, official says. What to know

ABC News/NBC 4 Los Angeles: Semi-truck driver in country illegally pleads not guilty in deadly DUI crash as license under scrutiny

FOX News: Dashcam video shows deadly freeway crash involving suspected illegal immigrant trucker

New York Post: Damning DOT report blames Newsom for illegal immigrant trucker's deadly Calif. crash: 'There will be consequences'

FOX News: Duffy tells Newsom '3 more people would be alive' if he followed federal truck licensing rules

San Francisco Chronicle: Justice Department says it will send election monitors to California on Election Day

San Francisco Chronicle: Meet the Bay Area pastor shot in the face with pepper ball at Coast Guard Island protest

Washington Post: U.S. kills six in latest strike on alleged drug boat, Hegseth says

NBC News: U.S. strikes another alleged drug-carrying boat in the Caribbean, Pete Hegseth says

Washington Examiner: Congress targets Hezbollah drug smuggling in Latin America

New York Times: U.S. Deploys Aircraft Carrier to Latin America, a Major Escalation

Breitbart: Venezuela's Nicolas Maduro Sends English Message to Trump: 'No Crazy War'

NewsMax: Trump Mulls Hitting Venezuela Drug-Making Sites as US Forces Surge in Caribbean

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Reuters: US sanctions Colombia's president, accuses him of allowing expansion of drug trade

CBS News: Colombia's President Gustavo Petro tells CBS News blowing up drug boats is easy, but illegal and ineffective

The Hill: Intel Democrats press Gabbard on Trump administration boat strikes

Washington Examiner: Trump administration shows no signs of seeking declaration of war for cartel operations

CBS News: What is known — and not known — about U.S. strikes on alleged drug boats

Washington Examiner: Trump administration cartel crackdown includes prosecuting illegal fishing in Gulf of America

CBS News: Accused fentanyl kingpin dubbed "Brother Wang" extradited from Cuba to U.S., Mexico says

CNN: How DHS's public statements differ from what it says in court

CBS News: Federal workers hunker down as they go without pay in shutdown: "Protect every penny"

Opinion – Op-Eds

San Diego Union Tribune: Mike Levin: Kristi Noem's $170 million jets are a symbol of her arrogance

NewsMax: Trump Ended Immigration Caravan, Democrats Can't Handle It

The Hill: Don't make federal workers pay the price for the government shutdown

Washington Post: [CA] When ICE came for a U.S. citizen and Army veteran

San Francisco Chronicle: [CA] Can San Francisco police arrest ICE agents who defy California's mask law?

San Diego Union Tribune: [Mexico] Drone attack in Tijuana a glimpse of a new kind of narco war

The Hill: [Venezuela] War with Maduro would carry immense risks

Immigration and Customs Enforcement

New York Times: Trump Administration Plans a Shake-Up at ICE to Speed Deportations

Breitbart: ICE Agents Arrest Convicted Killers, Sex Offenders, Robbers Across U.S.

New York Times: Can ICE Stop People Solely Based on Their Race?

Univision: ICE told her she was pregnant and detained her for months: organizations report similar cases in "unprecedented" numbers.

NPR: Congress is investigating cases of U.S. citizens detained in immigration raids

Daily Mail: [MA] Brazilian 'gangster', 13, issues groveling apology and begs for freedom after he was taken into custody 'for threatening child with knife'

Bloomberg: [NY] Manhattan DA Bragg Says at Debate He's Examining Prosecuting ICE

NBC News: [NY] New York City's Canal Street slowly rebounds after ICE raid

Daily Caller: [NY] Trump Torches 'Loser' Dan Goldman Over Calling On NYPD To Arrest ICE Agents For Doing Their Jobs

New York Times: [NY] A Woman Self-Deported, Hoping to Shield Her Son. He Was Detained Anyway.

CBS New York: [NY] 16-year-old boy detained by ICE after scheduled immigration appointment in NYC

NBC News: [VA] Man was fatally hit by vehicle while fleeing ICE on Virginia highway, officials say

Washington Post: [FL] ICE agent threatens to check deputy's status during DUI stop, asks if he's Haitian

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Chicago Tribune: [IN] Dozens protest ICE deportations at Gary airport

Chicago Tribune: [IL] Feds say man clipped ICE vehicle during attempted arrest in Gary: records

ABC News/Chicago Tribune: [IL] Chicago school board members call for virtual learning amid ICE raids

FOX News: [MN] Convicted illegal immigrant child killer who murdered infant son arrested in Twin Cities ICE sweep

Daily Wire: [CA] ICE Continues To Round Up 'Depraved' Illegals In California Despite Dem Shutdown

San Francisco Chronicle: [CA] S.F. supervisor wants to create 'ICE-free' zones but details are unclear

Univision19: [CA] Immigrant mother arrested after reporting sexual harassment by ICE contractor

NPR: [CA] A U.S. citizen detained by ICE is pushing to hold agents accountable

CBS News: [Venezuela] Nearly 8,000 Venezuelan nationals returned on ICE deportation flights since March

Citizenship and Immigration Services

Bloomberg: Will Foreign MBAs Win or Lose With Trump's H-1B Reforms? Maybe Both

Los Angeles Times: [CA] Asylum seekers face deportation over failure to pay new fees — before being notified

Customs and Border Protection

Reuters: US expands facial recognition at borders to track non-citizens

Bloomberg: US to Photograph All Non-Citizens Entering, Exiting Country

Washington Examiner: Tariffs, smuggling, and the US-Mexico border wall puts a lot on Customs and Border Protection's plate

ABC News: [IL] Judge orders CBP official leading immigration crackdown to appear in Chicago court next week

Los Angeles Times: [CA] Ex-LAPD officer indicted for murder in on-duty killing of homeless man

Federal Emergency Management Agency

AP: Tropical Storm Melissa poised to become a hurricane and drop torrential rain on Caribbean

CNN: Tropical Storm Melissa expected to explode into a Category 4 hurricane and could bring catastrophic impact to Jamaica

NPR: [AK] Alaskan village destroyed by flooding tries to rebuild as winter looms

Coast Guard

AP: [MA] Woman who escaped from boat fire off Cape Cod with her husband and son dies at a hospital

CISA/Cybersecurity

FOX News: Hackers steal medical records and financial data from 1.2M patients in massive healthcare breach

CyberScoop: National cyber director says U.S. needs to counter Chinese surveillance, push American tech

CyberScoop: Shifting from reactive to proactive: Cyber resilience amid nation-state espionage

Terrorism Investigations

New York Times: [Mexico] After the Cartel Comes, They Pick Up the Piecesf

National Security News

Federalist: Trump Should Stop Sharing Intel With The U.K. Until It Punishes Chinese Espionage

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The Hill: [Canada] Trump: Canada 'trying to illegally influence' Supreme Court on tariffs

FOX News: [Lithuania] NATO fighter jets scrambled after Russian planes allegedly violate airspace

Reuters: [China] Trump seeks trade deal with Xi during Asia trip

Top News

Reuters/SFGate/New York Times/Axios: Immigration surge called off for entire San Francisco Bay Area, officials say

Reuters [10/24/2025 6:04 PM, Nathan Frandino, 36480K] reports that a planned immigration enforcement push by U.S. Border Patrol has been called off throughout the San Francisco Bay Area, including Oakland, local officials said on Friday, a day after U.S. President Donald Trump said he would not go forward with a deployment of additional federal officers to San Francisco. As part of Trump's crackdown on illegal immigration, he has increased federal immigration officers in several U.S. cities and dispatched National Guard to Los Angeles and Washington, D.C. He had planned to send agents into San Francisco but agreed to hold off after speaking with Mayor Daniel Lurie and tech leaders, who said the city was making progress. It was unclear at first whether other Bay Area cities like Oakland would still be affected. Oakland Mayor Barbara Lee said on Thursday the city was preparing for peaceful protests in response. On Friday, Alameda County Sheriff's department spokesman Roberto Morales said Sheriff Yesenia Sanchez was informed by federal authorities that the enforcement plan was canceled for the entire Bay Area. Lee said she had been told the same thing by Sanchez. The SFGate [10/24/2025 9:53 AM, Staff, 13945K] reports Lee made the announcement one day after federal agents arrived on Coast Guard Island in the Oakland Estuary, a move widely seen as the first step in a "surge" of enforcement sweeps involving immigration agents and the National Guard. "I spoke with Alameda County Sheriff Yesenia Sanchez, who confirmed through her communications with ICE that Border Patrol operations are cancelled for the greater Bay Area -- which includes Oakland -- at this time," Lee said. President Donald Trump said Thursday he was canceling plans for such activity in San Francisco after hearing from a handful of Silicon Valley billionaires and speaking with Mayor Daniel Lurie. Still, it remained unclear until Lee made her announcement Friday if those plans were also canceled for other cities in the region. The New York Times [10/24/2025 3:50 PM, Hamed Aleaziz and Soumya Karlamangla, 135475K] reports the Department of Homeland Security officials also called off plans to bring staff members from Los Angeles to the Bay Area to help with the operation, one of the federal officials said. Mayor Barbara Lee of Oakland confirmed later on Friday that federal agents had canceled their operation in Oakland and the rest of the Bay Area. She said that she was told that by Yesenia Sanchez, the Alameda County sheriff, who was in communication with federal officials. Axios [10/24/2025 5:07 PM, Shawna Chen, 12972K] reports that concerns remained that the agents — who clashed with protesters after arriving in Alameda early Thursday morning — would conduct enforcement activities in other parts of the Bay Area, community leaders told Axios. The FBI is investigating a shooting that took place near the entrance of Coast Guard Island in Alameda Thursday night, she added. Tensions flared Thursday as federal agents reached the Coast Guard Island in Alameda ahead of an anticipated immigration crackdown in the Bay Area. Protesters attempted to block U.S. Border Patrol agents from entering the base. The confrontation grew heated as agents used apparent flash-bang grenades and pepper rounds to disperse the crowd. A San Mateo pastor was wounded after an apparent pepper round from a U.S. Customs and Border Protection agent hit him in the face, the San Francisco Chronicle reports. The shooting occurred later in the evening when a truck driver tried to back into the base, leading law enforcement officers to open fire, per footage obtained by CBS News Bay Area. The driver and a bystander were both injured. San Francisco Supervisor Bilal Mahmood is working on legislation to create "ICE-free" zones on city-owned property, following in the footsteps of Santa Clara County and San José.

Reported similarly:
Los Angeles Times [10/24/2025 5:16 PM, Kevin Rector, 14862K]
San Francisco Chronicle [10/24/2025 4:17 PM, Dominic Fracassa, Kate Talerico, 4722K]

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Wall Street Journal: Inside the Tech CEO Campaign to Stop Trump From Sending Troops to San Francisco

Wall Street Journal [10/24/2025 8:52 PM, Keach Hagey, Sebastian Herrera, and Robbie Whelan, 646K] reports President Trump was ready to send troops into San Francisco. The city's business leaders needed a way to talk him out of it. A frenzy of phone calls and text messages between Trump and members of his administration, Mayor Daniel Lurie and chief executive officers of major Bay Area technology companies culminated in Trump's announcement on Thursday that he had decided not to do a law-enforcement "surge" in San Francisco using federal forces. Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang and Salesforce Chief Executive Marc Benioff were among those who played a role in the discussions, as was OpenAI CEO Sam Altman, whose involvement hasn't been previously reported. The executives helped broker a 25-minute phone call Wednesday night between Lurie and Trump and coordinated with him on a message that would prove persuasive: that a deployment of federal troops could cause civic unrest to a degree that would hurt the local economy and have ripple effects on the national economy, given the city's centrality to the artificial-intelligence boom. Trump had occasionally mused in public about ordering the National Guard to San Francisco for quasipolice operations, as he has done in Los Angeles, Washington, D.C., Chicago and Memphis, Tenn. But the idea quickly came into focus after Benioff, in an Oct. 10 article in the New York Times, said he thought the National Guard was needed to combat crime in the city. Benioff apologized for his comments a week later and told Trump on an Oct. 19 phone call that he had changed his mind after his company's annual Dreamforce conference concluded with no major safety incidents, according to people familiar with the contents of the call. But in a Fox News appearance that day, Trump said, "We're going to go to San Francisco." Three days later, the Department of Homeland Security sent a force of Customs and Border Protection agents to a Coast Guard base on San Francisco Bay. In the days in between, Lurie's office fielded a barrage of calls from local business and political leaders anxious to avoid a confrontation that could cause mass protests and bring work and commerce to a standstill.

AP: Shots fired, driver hurt and held after truck rams into Coast Guard base in California

AP [10/24/2025 9:15 PM, Kathy McCormack, 31753K] reports a truck driver who backed into a U.S. Coast Guard base in the San Francisco Bay Area — the site of earlier protests against federal immigration agents — was shot by law enforcement officers and wounded, authorities said Friday. The driver was held for a mental health evaluation after "attempting to weaponize the vehicle to ram into Coast Guard Base Alameda " on Thursday night, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security posted on X. The FBI later said the driver was in custody. A bystander was struck by a "fragment," treated at a hospital and released, the Department of Homeland Security statement said. It did not elaborate. No Coast Guard personnel were hurt, it said. Officers issued "multiple verbal commands" to stop, but the driver failed to comply, "suddenly accelerating backwards at a high rate of speed directly toward them," the statement said. "When the vehicle's actions posed a direct threat to the safety of Coast Guard and security personnel, law enforcement officers discharged several rounds of defensive live fire," it said. The driver was wounded in the stomach and was expected to survive, the statement said. The FBI was investigating. It sent evidence, crisis management and bomb technician teams to the scene. "At this time, the incident appears to be isolated, and there is no known current threat to the public," FBI spokesperson Cameron Polan in San Francisco said in a statement. No other details were immediately released. Video from the scene showed what appeared to be a U-Haul truck trying to back into the base. "U-Haul is assisting law enforcement to meet any investigative needs they have," company spokesperson Jeff Lockridge said in a statement. Coast Guard Island is a 67-acre (27-hectare) human-made island formed in 1913 in the Oakland Estuary between Oakland and Alameda. It is federally owned, does not allow visits from the general public without an escort or specific government identification, and it has been home to the current base, Base Alameda, since 2012, according to a Coast Guard document from 2016. Base Alameda provides a variety of services for Coast Guard activities throughout the West Coast. Earlier Thursday, protesters had assembled at the island, with many singing hymns and carrying signs saying, "Protect our neighbors" and "No ICE or troops in the Bay," a reference to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the National Guard. The Washington Examiner [10/24/2025 10:48 PM, Brady Knox, 1394K] reports that two civilians were injured and are expected to survive. The truck driver was wounded in the stomach and is being held for mental health evaluation. A bystander was struck by a fragment, treated at a local hospital,

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and released," the statement said. The DHS X account attached a video of the incident, showing the vehicle backing up at high speed toward a line of officers who riddled it with fire, causing the driver to stop and speed off in the opposite direction. The FBI is leading the investigation into the incident, sending evidence, crisis management, and bomb technician teams to the site of the crime. "At this time, the incident appears to be isolated, and there is no known current threat to the public," FBI spokesperson Cameron Polan in San Francisco said in a statement. U-Haul spokesman Jeff Lockridge said the company cooperated with law enforcement in the investigation. The Daily Wire [10/24/2025 7:21 AM, Zach Jewell, 2494K] reports that the shooting happened as anti-Immigration and Customs Enforcement protesters gathered near the entrance of the military installation. U.S. Customs and Border Protection agents recently arrived at the Coast Guard base as part of the federal government's illegal immigration crackdown. Earlier on Thursday, federal agents and California Highway Patrol officers clashed with protesters outside of the Coast Guard base, as civilian employees left the base located on a small island on San Francisco Bay. The base has only one entrance, reached by a bridge. The Coast Guard security personnel were positioned on the bridge as the protests continued late into the night.

Reported similarly:
Los Angeles Times [10/24/2025 4:56 PM, Summer Lin, 14862K]
New York Post [10/24/2025 8:24 AM, Patrick Reilly, 42219K] r
The Hill [10/24/2025 9:27 AM, Surina Venkat, 12595K]
ABC News [10/24/2025 11:39 AM, Jon Haworth, 30493K]
(B) CBS Mornings [10/24/2025 10:08 AM, Staff]
FOX News [10/24/2025 8:04 AM, Elizabeth Pritchett and Michael Dorgan, 40621K]
NewsNation [10/24/2025 11:41 AM, Staff, 8017K]
Blaze [10/24/2025 1:20 PM, Julio Rosas, 1442K]
Univision [10/24/2025 1:59 PM, Staff, 5004K]

AP: After truck ramming incident in San Francisco, Noem warns sending National Guard is on the table
AP [10/24/2025 7:57 PM, Staff, 31753K] reports Secretary of Homeland Security Kristi Noem said Friday that her department won't tolerate violence like the truck that rammed into a Coast Guard station in the San Francisco Bay Area on Thursday night. [Editorial note: consult video at source link]

FOX News: Dems urged to 'stop siding with illegal aliens' after activist rams agents in sanctuary city
FOX News [10/24/2025 9:00 AM, Peter Pinedo, 40621K] reports the Trump administration is urging sanctuary Democrats to "stop siding with illegal aliens" after a Los Angeles immigrant activist and social media personality rammed ICE agents in attempts to escape arrest, prompting agents to open fire. Homeland Security Assistant Secretary Tricia McLaughlin told Fox News Digital that during a targeted enforcement stop on Tuesday, 44-year-old Mexican illegal immigrant Carlitos Ricardo Parias "weaponized his vehicle and began ramming the law enforcement vehicle in an attempt to flee." "Fearing for the safety of the public and law enforcement," McLaughlin said, "Our officers followed their training and fired defensive shots." Now, DHS is pursuing criminal charges against Parias for assaulting, resisting, or impeding federal law enforcement. McLaughlin said that "these are the consequences of conduct and rhetoric by sanctuary politicians and activists who urge illegal aliens to resist arrest." "We are once again calling on sanctuary politicians, agitators, and the media to turn the temperature down and stop calling for violence and resistance against ICE law enforcement," said McLaughlin.

ABC 5 Minneapolis/KTTC 10 Rochester: Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem discusses ICE operations in Twin Cities on Friday
ABC 5 Minneapolis [10/24/2025 11:30 PM, Staff, 31733K] Video: HERE reports Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem talked Friday afternoon about immigration operations nationwide and highlighted a few people here, including a man from Mexico and one from El Salvador, who she said were serious criminals and were arrested and taken off the street in the Twin Cities area. "Under the leadership of

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Mayor Frey, under the leadership of Gov. Walz, more violent crimes are being perpetuated in these communities because of their refusal to defend American citizens," Noem said during the press conference. "Regardless, our federal officers, our ICE officers, ERO, HSI and partnership with our Department of Justice, agencies and other individuals throughout the federal government, we will continue to do the work to make sure these criminals are removed from our communities." However, the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension's annual crime report, which was recently released for 2024, showed that murders have decreased in Minnesota for the third year in a row. Overall, violent crime was steady throughout the state, with a 1% rise reported in the seven-county Twin Cities metro and a 3% dip in the rest of the state, the report showed. A spokesperson for Gov. Walz said in response, "It appears that this visit was perhaps more about pulling a political stunt than about solving a problem. The Governor wishes the Trump Administration would stay focused on the real issues facing Americans: skyrocketing health care costs, a crisis for farmers, and the ongoing federal government shutdown." 5 EYEWITNESS NEWS asked Noem if she plans to deploy the National Guard or increase the presence of other federal agents in Minneapolis, St. Paul or the surrounding metro area. "It's up to the president on if he believes the National Guard should be deployed to any situation in any city across our country, but we do have an increase in federal officers that will be coming," said Noem. "We had a bill pass through Congress that allocated 10,000 new ICE officers to us across the country, we have received over 175,00 applicants for those jobs." [Editorial note: consult video at source link] KTTC 10 Rochester [10/24/2025 9:48 PM, Ryan Paris] reports Friday's visit came on the heels of ICE operations across the country, including ones in Chicago and Portland. Noem highlighted work done by the Trump administration within the first 10 months of his second presidency as well. Since January, more than 4,300 undocumented immigrants have been either detained or deported. Noem said, of that number, 3,316 had a previous criminal history, and asked for public support of ICE agents and law enforcement. "I'm here today to ask all of the people in Minnesota, all of the people in the Midwest and across the country, to support your law enforcement officers," Noem said. "Support them and protect them as they go out there and do their jobs. Each and every one of them took an oath to support and defend this country, defend their communities and to protect people. That's what they are doing every day when they go out and enforce the law." In response to Noem's visit, protestors gathered earlier on Friday at Fort Snelling to voice their frustrations with the Trump administration and its immigration enforcement policies. [Editorial note: consult video at source link]

NewsNation: Noem: 4,300-plus migrants removed from Minneapolis since Jan.
NewsNation [10/24/2025 6:39 PM, Damita Menezes, 8017K] reports Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem said Friday that more than 4,300 illegal immigrants have been removed from the Minneapolis area since January, including 3,316 with criminal histories, 98 gang members, 11 known or suspected terrorists and two foreign fugitives. Speaking at a press conference with ICE officials, Noem said the administration has arrested and deported 515,000 illegal immigrants nationwide since January, with 70% facing pending criminal charges. Noem said it's up to the president to deploy the National Guard to any city. She said dozens of federal agents and officers will arrive in Minneapolis as part of a congressional funding bill and are "trained, qualified and equipped" for enforcement operations.

The Hill: Senate Democrats press Education secretary on immigration enforcement near schools
The Hill [10/24/2025 11:35 AM, Lexi Lonas Cochran, 12595K] reports a group of Senate Democrats sent a letter Friday to Education Secretary Linda McMahon demanding the Trump administration make efforts to ensure Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers don't conduct operations close to schools. The letter, led by Sen. Tammy Duckworth (D-Ill.) and signed by seven colleagues, says ICE has increased its presence around Chicago Public Schools and other educational institutions, which "disrupt[s] learning and school operations." The letter describes an incident of ICE throwing canisters of tear gas 700 feet away from an elementary school during lunch and recess time. Another incident cited in the letter involved two women getting dragged out of their car by ICE in front of a Chicago school building with students around. "Why was the tear gas deployed? Because of violent rioters," Department of Homeland Security (DHS) spokesperson Tricia McLaughlin told NBC News. "This is not that hard." For the second incident, McLaughlin previously said the women "were driving recklessly, including weaving between lanes and putting other motorists at risk. Following the driver abruptly stopping in the middle of traffic near

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a school, law enforcement approached the vehicle. The occupants refused to exit the vehicle and follow law enforcement commands." The Democrats in their letter Friday are demanding ICE operations be at least 1,000 feet away from school property. "Federal agents continue to use unwarranted, excessive levels of force around Chicago, demonstrating an alarming lack of care or regard for the health and wellbeing of children, particularly by conducting unfocused, inflammatory operations within close proximity of school grounds," the letter states. The latest in politics and policy. Direct to your inbox. By signing up, I agree to the Terms of Use, have reviewed the Privacy Policy, and to receive personalized offers and communications via email, on-site notifications, and targeted advertising using my email address from The Hill, Nexstar Media Inc., and its affiliates. The Hill has reached out to the Education Department for comment. The Democrats called on McMahon to "pressure" Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem, whose department oversees ICE, to restore restrictions around conducting enforcement operations near schools. At the beginning of the Trump administration, restrictions were lifted on ICE operations inside schools or places of worship, although no known incident has occurred of ICE entering classrooms. "Considering DHS' failure to protect American students, we demand you pressure your colleague, Secretary of Homeland Security Kristi Noem, to reinstate restrictions on Federal immigration enforcement operations in and around places of education," the Democrats wrote.

Reported similarly:
NewsMax [10/24/2025 10:44 AM, Sandy Fitzgerald, 4109K]

Reuters: Trump's troop deployments to Portland and D.C. face tests in court
Reuters [10/24/2025 3:20 PM, Dietrich Knauth, 36480K] reports federal judges in Portland, Oregon and Washington, D.C. held hearings on Friday in legal battles over the deployment of National Guard troops to the U.S. cities, as President Donald Trump seeks to expand his rare use of the U.S. military for domestic purposes. In Portland, Justice Department lawyers asked U.S. District Judge Karin Immergut to lift the second of her two orders restricting Trump's attempts to send troops to the city. This week, an appeals court ruled the president likely has the authority to do so. Immergut did not immediately issue a ruling on the Trump administration's request. The judge said she would decide by Monday. In Washington, U.S. District Judge Jia Cobb was considering a challenge to Trump's deployment of about 2,500 National Guard troops to the nation's capital. The local government argues the Guard has improperly been serving as a "federally run police force." Trump has sought to deploy National Guard troops to cities run by Democratic officials, saying they are needed to protect immigration enforcement operations, suppress protests, and fight crime over the objections of local elected leaders. Troops are on the ground in Los Angeles and Washington, D.C., and Trump has announced plans to send them to other cities, including Portland and Chicago. States and cities have filed lawsuits to block the deployments, arguing they are based on exaggerated descriptions of crime and chaos. Courts have yet to issue final rulings on whether the actions are lawful.

NewsMax: Troop Deployments to Portland, D.C. Face Tests in Court
NewsMax [10/24/2025 9:24 PM, Dietrich Knauth, 4109K] reports federal judges in Portland, Oregon, and Washington, D.C., will hold hearings on Friday in legal battles over the deployment of National Guard troops to the U.S. cities, as President Donald Trump seeks to expand his rare use of the U.S. military for domestic purposes. In Portland, Justice Department lawyers will ask U.S. District Judge Karin Immergut to lift the second of her two orders restricting Trump's attempts to send troops to the city. This week, an appeals court ruled the president likely has the authority to do so. In Washington, U.S. District Judge Jia Cobb will consider a challenge to Trump's deployment of about 2,500 National Guard troops to the nation's capital. The local government argues the Guard has improperly been serving as a "federally run police force." Trump has sought to deploy National Guard troops to cities run by Democratic officials, saying they are needed to protect immigration enforcement operations, suppress protests, and fight crime over the objections of local elected leaders. Troops are on the ground in Los Angeles and Washington, D.C., and Trump has announced plans to send them to other cities, including Portland and Chicago. States and cities have filed lawsuits to block the deployments, arguing they are based on exaggerated descriptions of crime and chaos. Courts have yet to issue final rulings on whether the actions are lawful.

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In Portland, Immergut on Oct. 4 blocked Trump from taking control of Oregon's National Guard and sending troops to Portland. The next day, after Trump attempted to circumvent that order by sending troops from California and Texas to Portland, the judge barred deployment of troops from any state, including Oregon. A three-judge panel of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals this week paused Immergut's Oct. 5 order while the court battle plays out. But troops have not yet deployed to Portland because the Oct. 5 order remains in effect. The Justice Department is asking Immergut to lift her Oct. 5 order in light of the 9th Circuit's ruling. If Immergut, who was appointed by Trump during his first term, agrees, the administration could move forward with the deployment. Oregon has argued the three-judge 9th Circuit panel, which included two Trump-appointed judges, got it wrong. The state has asked Immergut to maintain the status quo while it appeals and has asked the 9th Circuit to reconsider the case with a larger panel of 11 judges. State and local officials say Trump's action violates several federal laws that govern the use of military forces as well as the states' rights under the U.S. Constitution's 10th Amendment.

Reported similarly:
Washington Post [10/24/2025 11:13 AM, Jenny Gathright and Meagan Flynn, 24149K]
Los Angeles Times [10/24/2025 3:30 PM, David G. Savage, 14862K]

Washington Examiner: Trump prepares for Portland troop deployment as he awaits three separate National Guard court decisions

Washington Examiner [10/24/2025 7:00 AM, Jack Birle, 1394K] reports the Trump administration is preparing to deploy the National Guard to Portland while waiting for three different federal courts to make decisions over the previous deployment of troops to three Democrat-run cities. In the Democrat-run states to which President Donald Trump has deployed troops, state governments have filed lawsuits alleging that the federalization and deployment of the National Guard is unlawful. Trump has used the National Guard to protect federal officials and property amid unruly protests over federal immigration operations, which the administration claims have put federal officers in danger.
After a victory in a federal appeals court earlier this week, which allowed Trump to federalize and deploy members of the Oregon National Guard to Portland, the administration is still awaiting rulings from the Supreme Court, the full U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, and a three-judge panel on the Ninth Circuit, in three separate cases over his use of the National Guard.

Daily Wire: Trump Admin Warns California Democrats: Arresting ICE Agents Is A 'Criminal Conspiracy'

Daily Wire [10/24/2025 10:14 AM, Zach Jewell, 2494K] reports the Department of Justice warned multiple top Democratic California politicians, including Gov. Gavin Newsom and former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, of potential charges on Thursday, after Pelosi suggested that federal immigration agents could be arrested by state and local police. Earlier this week, Pelosi, along with Democratic Rep. Kevin Mullin, threatened that ICE agents could be detained as President Donald Trump considered a major immigration operation in San Francisco. In response, U.S. Deputy Attorney General Todd Blanche sent a letter to Newsom, Pelosi, California Attorney General Rob Bonta, and San Francisco District Attorney Brooke Jenkins, urging them to "abandon this apparent criminal conspiracy." "The Department of Justice views any arrests of federal agents and officers in the performance of their official duties as both illegal and futile," Blanche wrote. The deputy attorney general then cited multiple federal laws that prohibit interfering with federal law enforcement operations. The California Democrats addressed in the letter were told to "preserve all written and electronic communications and records related to any attempts to or efforts to impede or obstruct federal law enforcement officials." "We urge you and other California officials to publicly abandon this apparent criminal conspiracy, to stop threatening law enforcement, and to prioritize the safety of your citizens," Blanche added. "In the meantime, federal agents and officers will continue to enforce federal law and will not be deterred by the threat of arrest by California authorities who have abdicated their duty to protect their constituents." Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem announced on Monday that the Trump administration would soon target San Francisco as part of its crackdown on crime and illegal immigrants. However, after Trump said some of his friends in San Francisco urged him

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to hold off on the federal law enforcement "surge," the president had a phone call with Democratic San Francisco Mayor Daniel Lurie and decided to hold off on the operation. "The Federal Government was preparing to 'surge' San Francisco, California, on Saturday, but friends of mine who live in the area called last night to ask me not to go forward with the surge in that the Mayor, Daniel Lurie, was making substantial progress," Trump wrote on Truth Social Thursday. "I spoke to Mayor Lurie last night and he asked, very nicely, that I give him a chance to see if he can turn it around. I told him I think he is making a mistake, because we can do it much faster, and remove the criminals that the Law does not permit him to remove."

New York Times: How the San Francisco Mayor Avoided Trump's Enforcement Surge

New York Times [10/24/2025 5:30 AM, Heather Knight and Kellen Browning, 153395K] reports Mayor Daniel Lurie of San Francisco did what he does best after the Trump administration prepared to send border agents to the Bay Area for a major crackdown on immigration this week. He stayed calm. He worked the phones. He "power mapped." In doing so, Mr. Lurie and his team visualized concentric circles of prominent business leaders who could persuade President Trump and determined who might lobby the executives to make those important calls. They wanted to deliver the message, in the most diplomatic way possible, that San Francisco was not the apocalyptic landscape that the president sees on Fox News. Soon, a host of billionaires with strong ties to the city were on the phone with Mr. Trump and Vice President JD Vance, a former venture capitalist in San Francisco. Four people familiar with the situation described the City Hall discussions to The New York Times on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly.

NPR: DOJ hires immigration judges after months of layoffs

NPR [10/24/2025 7:03 PM, Ximena Bustillo, 28013K] reports the Justice Department has hired 36 immigration judges, including 25 temporary ones, for its Executive Office for Immigration Review, marking the first class to join the immigration courts after months of cuts to the workforce. Judges will soon take the bench across 16 states, according to a Justice Department announcement. These include courts that saw the biggest losses of judges this year such as Chelmsford, Mass., and Chicago. "EOIR is restoring its integrity as a preeminent administrative adjudicatory agency," the announcement states. "These new immigration judges are joining an immigration judge corps that is committed to upholding the rule of law." The incoming class of permanent judges comprises mostly those with a background in federal government work, including EOIR itself and the Department of Homeland Security. Previously, they trained Immigration and Customs enforcement and Customs and Border Protection agents, were asylum officers and worked for ICE's legal arm. One judge was originally going to take the bench at the start of the year but was among the initial class of judges fired before they could start. The temporary immigration judges include military lawyers from the Marines, Navy, Army and Air Force. Earlier this summer, the Pentagon authorized about 600 military lawyers to work for the DOJ. The DOJ changed who could qualify as a temporary immigration judge — effectively lowering the requirements and removing the need to have prior immigration law experience.

Bloomberg Law: Border Patrol's Bovino Ordered to Appear in Chicago Courtroom

Bloomberg Law [10/24/2025 5:20 PM, Megan Crepeau, 803K] reports US Border Patrol chief patrol agent Gregory Bovino, the face of the intensive "Operation Midway Blitz" immigration crackdown in Chicago, must appear in federal court next week after facing allegations he threw tear gas into a crowd of people without warning or justification. In a brief docket entry Friday, Judge Sara L. Ellis of the US District Court for the Northern District of Illinois required Bovino's appearance at a hearing in her courtroom on Oct. 28. Her order comes on the heels of allegations that Bovino, who was spotted with federal agents this week in a predominantly Mexican-American neighborhood, violated Ellis' order prohibiting agents from using tear gas or pepper spray without issuing proper warnings. But unlike a deposition, if Ellis questions Bovino in her courtroom on Oct. 28, his answers will be public and subject to scrutiny of attorneys, journalists and citizens closely following his agency's actions. Ellis's order hit the docket Friday almost simultaneously with news reports that federal agents used tear gas on people in a wealthy part of the Lakeview neighborhood on Chicago's North Side.

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CBS News: Border Patrol chief says agents' use of force in Chicago "has been exemplary"
CBS News [10/24/2025 3:23 PM, Nicole Sganga, 39474K] reports Border Patrol Chief of Patrol Gregory Bovino, the architect of the Department of Homeland Security's "Operation Midway Blitz," defended the sweeping campaign to arrest undocumented migrants and quell demonstrations in the Chicago area, calling federal agents' use of force "exemplary." The Border Patrol Chief of Patrol defended forceful tactics used by federal agents during the Chicago immigration crackdown, even as new videos and court filings raise questions about whether agents and even Bovino himself violated a judge's order barring tear gas and pepper balls at protests. Asked whether agents had defied that order, Bovino replied, "I do not. All uses of force were well within CBP policy."

CBS News: Gov. Pritzker and Border Patrol chief talk protest tactics
CBS News [10/24/2025 11:03 AM, Staff, 39474K] Video: HERE reports shots were fired by U.S. Coast Guard security personnel at a protest near Oakland, California, against President Trump's immigration policies. It comes amid widespread controversy over federal agents' tactics against protesters nationwide. CBS News' Nicole Sganga spoke to U.S. Customs Border Patrol chief Gregory Bovino and Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker.

CNN: US Border Patrol chief accused of violating judge's order
CNN [10/24/2025 8:19 AM, Augusta Anthony, 606K] reports a notice of violation has been filed by community members filing citing a video showing US Border Patrol chief, Gregory Bovino, appearing to throw at least one tear gas canister at protesters in Chicago. The filing accuses Bovino of being in potential violation of a federal judge's temporary restraining order restricting federal agents from using aggressive crowd control tactics at Chicago anti-ICE protests. [Editorial note: consult video at source link]

The Situation Room: Border Patrol Chief Accused to Tossing Tear Gas at Protesters
(B) The Situation Room [10/24/2025 10:47 AM, Staff] reports that a top Border Patrol official is accused of potentially violating a judge's restraining order in Chicago. In a video, Border Patrol Chief Gregory Bovino appeared to throw a tear gas canister toward anti-ICE protesters on Thursday. The Department of Homeland Security says protesters threw rocks, prompting Bovino to throw the canister of tear gas.

Washington Times: DHS uses riot response as anti-ICE protests become more violent in Chicago
Washington Times [10/24/2025 11:14 AM, Stephen Dinan, 852K] reports anti-ICE protesters are escalating their confrontations with federal immigration authorities in Illinois, forcing officers to use riot responses to suppress what the Department of Homeland Security called "one of the most violent days." The department said it had to grapple with at least five dangerous incidents on Wednesday alone, including a death threat to Customs and Border Protection Commander Gregory Bovino and four attempts to ram Border Patrol vehicles. A day later, Chief Bovino was mobbed by a large group of protesters who began to box in Border Patrol agents, then attacked a government vehicle and fired mortar-style fireworks at the agents, Homeland Security said. Chief Bovino was struck in the head by a thrown object, then he deployed what the department called "riot control measures," said Assistant Secretary Tricia McLaughlin. "Agents properly used their training. The use of chemical munitions was conducted in full accordance with CBP policy and was necessary to ensure the safety of both law enforcement and the public," she said. The department's legal adversaries didn't agree. The Chicago Headline Club, a journalism group, rushed to U.S. District Court Judge Sara Ellis to accuse Chief Bovino of violating her restraining order placing limits on the riot control tactics federal agents can use in the Chicago area. They filed a video with Judge Ellis showing Chief Bovino tossing a canister at a small crowd of unruly demonstrators. CHC told Judge Ellis that there did not appear to be proper warnings, in violation of her orders. But Ms. McLaughlin said "multiple warnings" were given and ignored. The clashes come as President Trump tries to deploy National Guard troops to the area to protect the federal officers and agents carrying out his mass deportation plans. Another federal judge in Chicago, April Berry, has issued a restraining order blocking the troops from being deployed, saying she didn't see enough violence on the streets to justify the call-up. The Supreme Court is deciding whether to let her blockade stand. Homeland Security's description of the events this week suggests confrontations are getting more heated as emboldened protesters accuse U.S.

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Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the main deportation agency, of “kidnapping” migrants. In Thursday’s clash involving Chief Bovino, the video submitted to the judge shows demonstrators aggressively approaching a line of Border Patrol agents, screaming vulgar insults and at times bumping into the federal officers. Agents are seen pushing people away. Wednesday’s events, meanwhile, included one man the government identified as a member of the Latin Kings street gang who was accused of trying to ram a Border Patrol vehicle head-on. The agent’s car swerved away, but the man, a U.S. citizen, then drove his vehicle into a bystander’s car, Homeland Security said. In another incident, three U.S. citizens are accused of tailing Border Patrol vehicles and trying to ram one of them. And in the threat incident, authorities identified the suspect as Isabel Mata, who they say said she would “put a hit out” on Chief Bovino. “While conducting immigration enforcement operations in Cicero and Glendale Heights, agitators stalked law enforcement, rammed vehicles, fled scenes, injured agents and caused multiple accidents across town,” Ms. McLaughlin said. All told, she said, six U.S. citizens and three illegal immigrants were arrested in the incidents.

Chicago Tribune: Federal immigration agents tear-gas Lakeview, raid Lincoln Park as feds focus on city’s affluent North Side

Chicago Tribune [10/24/2025 6:41 PM, Gregory Royal Pratt and Rebecca Johnson, 4829K] reports for most of the fall, President Donald Trump’s immigration agents have set out every day to scour Chicago neighborhoods where immigrants live. On Friday, Operation Midway Blitz fanned out across the wealthier white communities on the North Side where they work. Throughout the day, caravans of federal agents hit neighborhoods that had so far avoided serious confrontations. In Lakeview, agents threw tear gas into the street, even as their use of chemical agents has drawn intense scrutiny from a federal judge. Masked officials arrested a man at the Laugh Factory comedy club. They detained a man at a gas station near the tony Latin School where the city’s elite send their children.

Daily Caller: Lawyers Argue Anti-ICE Protesters Who Allegedly Threw Rocks, Fireworks Didn’t Deserve Tear Gas

Daily Caller [10/24/2025 4:05 PM, Hudson Crozier, 835K] reports the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and other left-wing legal groups claimed in court Thursday that using crowd control gas was not justified to disperse a crowd allegedly throwing rocks and fireworks at law enforcement. Protesters blocked immigration agents’ path on a road in Chicago, Illinois, on Thursday morning and began throwing hard objects until "chemical munitions" were used to repel them, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) said in a Friday X post. Lawyers argued law enforcement acted "without justification" in a court filing from their ongoing lawsuit against the Trump administration’s handling of anti-deportation protests. The court motion referenced an image purportedly from the incident that appeared to show a Border Patrol official throwing a silver canister but did not mention any alleged violence against federal agents. The document also linked to 12 minutes of shaky video footage of a crowd confronting agents and calling them "terrorists" and "kidnappers." Lawyers claimed the gas’ use violated an Oct. 17 court order from the protest case that prohibited law enforcement from using such methods against demonstrators in the Northern District of Illinois, with exceptions for when agents’ safety is in jeopardy. Protesters boxed in agents with a truck and then "shot at agents with commercial artillery shell fireworks," the DHS alleged. Throughout the incident, people continued advancing toward agents despite warnings that they would use crowd control munitions if they did not stop, according to the DHS. A Border Patrol official was hit in the head when they began throwing "rocks and other objects," the agency said.

Chicago Tribune: Federal judge appears poised to order release of at least some ‘Operation Midway Blitz’ arrestees

Chicago Tribune [10/24/2025 6:20 PM, Jason Meisner, 4829K] reports a Chicago federal judge appeared poised Friday to order at least a portion of the thousands of people detained in “Operation Midway Blitz” released on electronic monitoring while litigation continues over whether immigration officials have violated a consent decree restricting so-called warrantless arrests. U.S. District Judge Jeffrey Cummings asked for simultaneous briefs next week that will lay out how many of the some 3,000 people arrested since early September would qualify for automatic detention under federal law, as well as others that

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federal law enforcement argues should stay in custody as a safety threat. Lawyers for the plaintiffs have accused federal officials of repeatedly breaking the terms of the consent decree and asked that Cummings issue a blanket order releasing most of the detainees on ankle monitoring. The government, meanwhile, said plaintiffs were trying to "paint with a broad brush" and that the validity of detaining someone should be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. During Friday's 90-minute hearing, Cummings ruled that the consent decree, which was originally hashed out in 2022 with only the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, now covers all agents participating in Chicago immigration operations, including Customs and Border patrol. It also applies to other immigration enforcement going on in cities nationwide. Cummings also had tough questions for government lawyers about the treatment of people swept up in the Chicago area, asking at one point whether they could certify that detainees were being held in "safe and sanitary conditions" and had access to an attorney. Cummings said he'd rule on the detention issue after receiving the updated briefs, which are due Oct. 31.

NewsMax: DHS Says Chicago Shows Its 'Sicario' Side

NewsMax [10/24/2025 6:40 PM, Jim Mishler, 4109K] reports the Department of Homeland Security issued a release describing crime and immigration enforcement issues in the metropolitan Chicago area Wednesday. The document is called "Cicero or Sicario: A Day of Crashes." The title focuses on the contrast between the suburban community of Cicero and "sicario," Spanish for hitman, and highlights the violent criminal attacks that have targeted federal agents. A violent day of coordinated interference with federal agents in the Chicago area on Wednesday led to the arrest of more people for attacking or obstructing officers than for immigration offenses, according to DHS. Federal authorities said six people were taken into custody Wednesday for threatening or obstructing law enforcement, compared with three illegal aliens arrested for immigration violations. The incidents unfolded across multiple sites as immigration enforcement agents carried out Operation Midway Blitz. Federal officers reported repeated vehicle rammings, threats, and assaults, as agitators tried to block or follow Border Patrol units. Assistant DHS Secretary Tricia McLaughlin said, "While conducting immigration enforcement operations in Cicero and Glendale Heights, agitators stalked law enforcement, rammed vehicles, fled scenes, injured agents, and caused multiple accidents across town, putting law enforcement and the public in danger." "Our officers," she said, "are facing a surge in assaults against them as they put their lives on the line to arrest murderers, rapists, and gang members."

USA Today: What's happening with the troops in Chicago? What to know on legal cases against 'blitz'

USA Today [10/24/2025 3:27 PM, Kinsey Crowley, Michael Loria, 67103K] reports President Donald Trump's immigration crackdown pushes forward in Chicago despite continued pushback on the ground and in court. Operation Midway Blitz started Sept. 8, with the Department of Homeland Security saying it would target "the worst of the worst," among people who are in the country illegally. They say they have arrested more than 1,500 people, though USA TODAY has not been able to independently verify their count. Federal immigration officials have followed people in their cars, rappelled from helicopters in an apartment building raid and clashed with protesters at a facility in the suburbs. Trump had deployed the National Guard to assist immigration agents, but it was challenged in court along with other DHS efforts.

USA Today: Where are ICE arrests happening in Chicago? What to know after latest raid

USA Today [10/24/2025 3:02 PM, Kinsey Crowley, Michael Loria, 67103K] reports large-scale immigration raids have continued in Chicago, even as the legality of deploying the National Guard awaits a decision from the Supreme Court. On Oct. 22, federal immigration officers descended on Little Village, a South Side neighborhood at the heart of Chicago's Mexican community. Alderperson Mike Rodriguez told USA TODAY at least eight people were arrested, four of whom were U.S. citizens. It was the latest in President Donald Trump's Operation Midway Blitz, his Chicago-area immigration enforcement crackdown. Trump launched the blitz on Sept. 8, saying it was needed to catch "the worst of the worst" criminal immigrants. Many local critics say instead innocent people are being left terrorized. As of Oct. 8, the Department of Homeland Security said it had arrested more than 1,500 people. But USA TODAY has been unable to confirm that number or track down exactly where all of the incidents are occurring. At an Oct. 20 federal

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court hearing, a top Homeland Security official said around 75 people had been arrested in connection with protesting immigration enforcement.

AP/CBS News: US says it now plans to deport Abrego Garcia to Liberia as soon as Oct. 31

The AP [10/24/2025 4:56 PM, Staff, 31753K] reports the U.S. government plans to deport Kilmar Abrego Garcia to Liberia, and could do so as early as Oct. 31, according to a Friday court filing. Since he cannot be re-deported to El Salvador, ICE has been seeking to deport him to a series of African countries. Meanwhile, a federal judge in Maryland has previously barred his immediate deportation. Abrego Garcia's lawsuit there claims the Trump administration is illegally using the deportation process to punish him for the embarrassment of his earlier mistaken deportation. Additionally, Abrego Garcia is facing criminal charges in federal court in Tennessee, where he has pleaded not guilty to human smuggling. He has filed a motion to dismiss the charges, claiming the prosecution is vindictive. CBS News [10/24/2025 11:59 AM, Melissa Quinn, 39474K] reports that in a filing with a federal judge in Maryland, Justice Department lawyers said that immigration officials expect to formally notify Abrego Garcia later Friday that Liberia has been designated as the new country of removal. They said the Trump administration expects to be able to deport Abrego Garcia as soon as Oct. 31. The administration has "received diplomatic assurances regarding the treatment of third-country individuals removed to Liberia from the United States and are making the final necessary arrangements for [Abrego Garcia's] removal," they wrote. In the court filing, the Justice Department said that Abrego Garcia had identified more than 20 countries that he fears would persecute or torture him if he were removed there, and Liberia is not on the list. "Liberia is a thriving democracy and one of the United States's closest partners on the African continent," they wrote. Simon Sandoval-Moshenberg, Abrego Garcia's attorney, said the administration "has chosen yet another path that feels designed to inflict maximum hardship." "Their actions are punitive, cruel and unconstitutional," Sandoval-Moshenberg said. "Unless Liberia guarantees that it will not re-deport Mr. Abrego Garcia to El Salvador, then sending him to Liberia is no less unlawful than sending him directly to El Salvador a second time." The Trump administration's plan to remove Abrego Garcia to Liberia comes as the Maryland judge, Paula Xinis, is weighing whether to release the Salvadoran man from immigration custody while a challenge to the Department of Homeland Security's ongoing efforts to deport him for a second time moves forward. Abrego Garcia was removed to his home country of El Salvador in March and imprisoned there despite having been granted a legal status in 2019 that prohibited the Department of Homeland Security from removing him there because of possible persecution by local gangs. An immigration official with the Trump administration admitted that Abrego Garcia's removal to El Salvador was an error, and Xinis ordered the Department of Homeland Security to facilitate his return to the U.S. But immigration officials resisted doing so for months. Abrego Garcia was brought back to the U.S. in June, but only after a federal grand jury in Tennessee indicted him on two charges of human smuggling stemming from a November 2022 traffic stop.

Reported similarly:
Axios [10/24/2025 4:06 PM, Julianna Bragg, 12972K]
NewsMax [10/24/2025 4:22 PM, Jim Thomas, 4109K]
Telemundo [10/24/2025 1:50 PM, Staff, 2218K]
Univision [10/24/2025 4:19 PM, Staff, 5004K]

Reuters: Liberia agrees to accept wrongly deported migrant Abrego, US says

Reuters [10/24/2025 4:11 PM, Andrew Goudsward, Alphonso Toweh and Ted Hesson, 36480K] reports Donald Trump's administration said on Friday it has reached an agreement with Liberia to accept Kilmar Abrego, the migrant whose wrongful deportation to El Salvador in March became a flashpoint in the Republican president's immigration crackdown. The Justice Department said in a court filing that Abrego could be deported to the African country as soon as October 31. Maryland-based U.S. District Judge Paula Xinis has temporarily blocked the U.S. government from deporting Abrego while she considers his bid to be released from immigration detention. It is unclear how the administration's agreement with Liberia will influence the judge's decision. Abrego also could seek to challenge his removal by claiming fear of torture or persecution. Liberia said it agreed to take Abrego "on a strictly humanitarian and

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temporary basis" following a request from the United States. Liberia's information ministry said in a statement that it would ensure that Abrego is not removed to "any country where he may face substantial risk of persecution, torture or other serious harm."

AP: Truck driver in fatal Florida crash repeatedly failed driving tests, official says. What to know
AP [10/24/2025 5:43 PM, Kate Payne and Freida Frisaro, 31753K] reports a commercial truck driver who is charged with killing three people in a deadly crash in Florida in August had failed a commercial driver's license test 10 times in the span of two months in 2023 in Washington state, before he was ultimately issued a license, according to a senior official in the Florida Attorney General's Office. Florida is using the case of Harjinder Singh, who is accused of being in the country illegally, to urge the nation's highest court to permanently bar some states from issuing commercial driver's licenses or CDLs to people who are not U.S. citizens or lawful permanent residents. Florida's investigation of Harjinder Singh has revealed that the trucker failed a written test to receive a CDL in Washington state 10 times between March 10, 2023, and April 5, 2023, a senior official for Florida Attorney General James Uthmeier who was briefed on the investigation told The Associated Press. Florida is now petitioning the U.S. Supreme Court to take up its case against the states of California and Washington, and urging the high court to bar states from issuing CDLs to people who are in the country illegally. If the court accepts the case, Florida officials hope it could lead to a new legal precedent for states' abilities to issue CDLs to people who are not citizens or legal permanent residents. A ruling could also have a downstream effect on how or if conventional driver's licenses are issued to immigrants, the senior Florida official said.

ABC News/NBC 4 Los Angeles: Semi-truck driver in country illegally pleads not guilty in deadly DUI crash as license under scrutiny
ABC News [10/24/2025 4:56 PM, Meredith Deliso, 30493K] reports a semi-truck driver arrested in connection with an alleged DUI crash on a California highway that killed three people pleaded not guilty on Friday, amid scrutiny over the licensing of the 21-year-old suspect, who federal authorities say is in the United States illegally. Prosecutors charge that the driver, identified by authorities as Jashanpreet Singh, was driving at a high rate of speed and under the influence of drugs when he rammed into stopped traffic, causing a chain-reaction crash on Interstate 10 in Ontario on Tuesday. Three people were killed and at least three others injured in the multi-vehicle crash, according to the criminal complaint. Singh pleaded not guilty to three counts of gross vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated and one count of driving under the influence of a drug causing injury during his initial court appearance in a Rancho Cucamonga court on Friday. His next court appearance has been scheduled for Nov. 4. A Punjabi interpreter will be required at his next hearing, according to court filings. Immigration and Customs Enforcement has lodged an arrest detainer for Singh, according to the Department of Homeland Security, which said he is in the U.S. illegally from India, entering through the southern border in 2022. He was issued a commercial driver's license, or CDL, by California, according to the Department of Transportation, which said Singh is an asylum-seeker. On Friday, the agency said Singh should have been ineligible to keep his CDL days before the deadly crash under new emergency actions targeting noncitizens, including asylum-seekers. In September, Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy announced stricter eligibility requirements for noncitizens seeking CDLs. The new federal actions, which went into effect on Sept. 26, prevent all asylum-seekers from obtaining non-domiciled CDLs, according to the DOT. NBC 4 Los Angeles [10/25/2025 4:02 AM, Helen Jeong, 43603K] reports "This criminal illegal alien from India entered the country illegally at the southern border in 2022 and was RELEASED by the Biden Administration," said DHS Assistant Secretary Tricia McLaughlin in a statement. "There is no national CDL. The state of California issued this illegal alien Commercial Drivers License, which is beyond dumb — dangerous and deadly." But Governor Newsom's office accused the Trump administration of twisting facts and exploiting the "tragic situation."

Reported similarly:
The Hill [10/24/2025 7:25 AM, Nancy Loo, 12595K]
Telemundo [10/24/2025 6:41 PM, Staff, 76K]

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FOX News: Dashcam video shows deadly freeway crash involving suspected illegal immigrant trucker

FOX News [10/24/2025 1:51 PM, Michael Ruiz, 40019K] reports dashcam video from a deadly California freeway crash involving a suspected illegal immigrant truck driver in a tractor-trailer shows the vehicle plowing through bumper-to-bumper traffic in a wreck that killed three. Jashanpreet Singh, 21, received a California commercial driver's license in June, according to the federal Department of Transportation. The video shows the truck he is accused of driving rear-ending a row of cars caught in traffic before flames burst out from under the hood, and it veers to the right, crashing into more vehicles and what appear to be utility trucks before coming to a stop near the shoulder. "My prayers are with the families of the victims of this tragedy," U.S. Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy said in a statement Thursday night. "It would have never happened if Gavin Newsom had followed our new rules," he continued. "California broke the law and now three people are dead and two are hospitalized. These people deserve justice. There will be consequences." A spokesperson for Newsom's office pointed the finger back at the feds. "This is a tragic situation. And as with every tragedy over the last ten months, Secretary Noem has ordered Secretary Duffy to look for every opportunity to manipulate the facts to score cheap political points, but the FEDERAL government needs to look within before they cast blame outside," the governor's office told Fox News Digital in an email. "The FEDERAL government approved and renewed this individual's FEDERAL employment authorization multiple times – which allowed him to obtain a commercial driver's license in accordance with FEDERAL law." U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement filed a detainer request for Singh on Oct. 22. He remains jailed in San Bernardino County. ICE described him as "a criminal illegal alien." He is originally from India. "It is a terrible tragedy three innocent people lost their lives due to the reckless open border policies that allowed an illegal alien to be released into the U.S. and drive an 18-wheeler on America's highways," Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security Tricia McLaughlin said in a statement. "This accident follows a disturbing trend of illegal aliens driving 18 wheelers and semi-trucks on America's roads. Earlier this week, DHS highlighted another fatal accident in Indiana caused by an illegal alien driving a semi-truck. Under President Trump and Secretary Noem, ICE is working day-in and day-out to make America's roads safe again." [Editorial note: consult video at source link]

New York Post: Damning DOT report blames Newsom for illegal immigrant trucker's deadly Calif. crash: 'There will be consequences'

New York Post [10/24/2025 9:31 PM, Anna Young, 42219K] reports California Gov. Gavin Newsom violated federal law by upgrading the driver's license of the illegal migrant trucker accused of causing a horrific, drug-fueled pile-up that killed three people and wounded several others, a bombshell new report claims. Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy blamed Newsom for Tuesday's deadly crash, alleging state officials unlawfully upgraded Jashanpreet Singh's commercial license weeks after a new federal rule went into effect barring illegal immigrants from holding such privileges, according to a DOT report released Friday. The restrictions, which require states to verify an applicant's legal status, took effect on Sept. 26 — while the 21-year-old Indian national's driving rights were expanded on Oct. 15, the report states. "My prayers are with the families of the victims of this tragedy," Duffy said in a statement. "It would have never happened if Gavin Newsom had followed our new rules. California broke the law and now three people are dead and two are hospitalized. These people deserve justice. There will be consequences." Singh was initially issued a restricted CDL in the Golden State on June 27, confining him to intrastate travel, according to the DOT's report. When the new regulations took effect, the federal agency informed California officials of "significant compliance failures" related to the issuance of truckers' licenses and gave them 30 days to audit its practices and void or rescind all unexpired CDLs, the report states. The state's Department of Motor Vehicles lifted Singh's driving restrictions on Oct. 15 — his birthday — without enforcing the stricter standards mandated by the DOT's new emergency rule, officials said. "Gavin Newsom was explicitly warned California's CDL program was dangerously broken," the report charged. "The USDOT's emergency rule was issued to explicitly prevent drivers like Singh from getting behind the wheel of commercial motor vehicles." Newsom's office did not immediately respond to The Post's request for comment. Singh was allegedly under the influence of drugs when he plowed his semi-truck into slow-moving traffic on the 10 Freeway in San Bernardino County Tuesday afternoon, cops said. he wreck, which was caught on dashcam, killed three people and left at least four others injured. Harrowing footage showed the moment Singh allegedly slammed his red big rig into the back of an SUV — before crashing

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into several other vehicles and erupting into flames. Singh is believed to have entered the US in 2022 via the southern border before he was released into the country by the Biden administration, Department of Homeland officials said. US Immigration and Customs Enforcement has since lodged an arrest detainer — a former request for local cops to notify the feds before he is freed. He was charged with vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated and driving under the influence.

FOX News: Duffy tells Newsom '3 more people would be alive' if he followed federal truck licensing rules

FOX News [10/24/2025 5:45 PM, Madison Colombo, 40621K] reports Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy accused California Gov. Gavin Newsom of violating new federal commercial licensing rules by purportedly allowing an immigrant in the country illegally to maintain a commercial driver's license (CDL). That truck driver is accused of causing a freeway crash that resulted in three fatalities on Tuesday in California. Newsom is blaming the federal government for the crash, arguing its policies ultimately allowed the suspect to receive a license. Duffy rejected that claim. The dispute comes as the transportation secretary threatens to withhold millions in federal highway funds from California and expands a federal review into how non-citizens acquire state-issued licenses. The deadly crash occurred Tuesday on a Southern California freeway. Jashanpreet Singh, a 21-year-old Indian national, allegedly drove a semitruck while under the influence, causing a multi-car pileup with three fatalities. According to the Department of Transportation, California violated new federal rules by upgrading Singh's non-domiciled CDL despite an emergency rule and compliance notice issued Sept. 26.

Reported similarly:
Breitbart [10/24/2025 3:18 PM, Olivia Rondeau, 2416K]

San Francisco Chronicle: Justice Department says it will send election monitors to California on Election Day

San Francisco Chronicle [10/24/2025 10:16 AM, Sophia Bollag, 4722K] reports the Trump administration will monitor polling sites in California during the Nov. 4 election, Attorney General Pam Bondi announced Friday. The unusual announcement comes amid sky-high tensions between state leaders and federal officials and as voting is underway in California on Proposition 50, a measure to enact new congressional maps designed to help Democrats flip five U.S. House seats in the 2026 midterms. Spokespeople for the campaigns against Prop 50 did not immediately respond to calls seeking comment Friday morning. A spokesperson for the Yes on 50 campaign, which is led by Gov. Gavin Newsom, deferred to the governor's office, which did not immediately respond. The U.S. Department of Justice also did not immediately respond to questions about what prompted the decision. The DOJ news release announcing the decision listed five California counties where the Trump administration will monitor polling places: Kern, Riverside, Fresno, Orange and Los Angeles. It did not give any reasons about what prompted the move. The department also said it will monitor polling places in Passaic County, New Jersey. In a statement, Assistant Attorney General Harmeet K. Dhillon characterized the decision as one to promote security. Dhillon, a San Francisco attorney and former California Republican Party leader, now leads the U.S. Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division. "The Department of Justice will do everything necessary to protect the votes of eligible American citizens, ensuring our elections are safe and secure," she wrote in a statement. "Transparent election processes and election monitoring are critical tools for safeguarding our elections and ensuring public trust in the integrity of our elections." Gov. Gavin Newsom, Prop 50's lead backer, has repeatedly warned that he believes President Donald Trump will try to interfere in California's November special election. In an interview with the San Francisco Chronicle editorial board earlier this month, Newsom pointed to Trump's federalization of National Guard troops, the government shutdown and past criticisms of mail voting. Newsom also said he's worried about federal immigration officers being used to intimidate voters. He noted that Border Patrol officers showed up at a rally he held in Los Angeles to launch his campaign to redraw California's congressional districts, a move he has characterized as an intimidation tactic unrelated to immigration enforcement. "That was chilling to send masked men to intimidate the kickoff of this campaign," Newsom said. "As those ranks grow, they'll continue to be deployed for political reasons."

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San Francisco Chronicle: Meet the Bay Area pastor shot in the face with pepper ball at Coast Guard Island protest

San Francisco Chronicle [10/24/2025 6:58 PM, St. John Barned-Smith, 4722K] reports even when the Border Patrol agent raised his weapon, Rev. Jorge Bautista didn't think anything would happen. There was no way the agent would shoot. Then something crashed into his face, just above his chin. Fumes from a pepper ball round filled the air, making him cough as his eyes burned and his vision blurred. Bautista, pastor at the College Heights United Church of Christ in San Mateo, rose Thursday before sunrise, donned his typical black slacks, shirt and blazer and drove to Coast Guard Island to join a prayer vigil in opposition to the immigration crackdown in San Francisco that President Donald Trump had announced the day before. "Our role was to bear witness and to give a message about why we're unhappy that ICE is here," he said. "We were hoping to just have a press conference and show solidarity." "Our immigration system has been broken for way too long," he said. "And in my role as a pastor has always felt that I've been summoned" to advocate for migrant justice.

Washington Post: U.S. kills six in latest strike on alleged drug boat, Hegseth says

Washington Post [10/24/2025 10:38 AM, Tara Copp, 24149K] reports the U.S. military killed six people overnight in the 10th reported strike on a boat alleged to be involved in drug smuggling, Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth announced on social media Friday. Hegseth said the operation targeted a vessel in the Caribbean carrying members of Tren de Aragua, a criminal group based in Venezuela that the Trump administration claims to be a "Designated Terrorist Organization." As he has alleged after other recent attacks, Hegseth said the boat was "known by our intelligence" to be involved drug running along a "known narco-trafficking route." He disclosed no evidence verifying that assertion. A black-and-white overhead video accompanying his social media post shows a boat appearing to idle in the water in the moments before it is hit with a projectile and engulfed in flames. Law of war experts maintain that the strikes — responsible for the reported deaths of at least 43 people since the campaign began in September — are illegal because those slain by U.S. forces aren't combatants engaged in a armed conflict with the United States but suspected criminals. The strike follows two others this week that took place in the Pacific Ocean, off South America, and marked an expansion of the Trump administration's lethal campaign against Latin American groups who Hegseth and other officials equate to militant extremists. "If you are a narco-terrorist smuggling drugs in our hemisphere, we will treat you like we treat Al-Qaeda," Hegseth said in the post Friday. The overnight strike appeared to indicate the U.S. had adjusted its tactics after a strike last week left two survivors who had to be pulled from the water by a Navy rescue helicopter and held temporarily in custody aboard a warship before being repatriated to their home countries. The return of those two survivors, instead of detaining them as the military would have done against al-Qaeda or other known terrorist organizations in previous armed conflicts, has raised further questions about the already murky legal justification the Trump administration is using to conduct the strikes In virtually all other drug interdictions before last month, the suspects were stopped by U.S. authorities — primarily the Coast Guard — and detained by U.S. law enforcement and charged. On Wednesday, President Donald Trump suggested that the military's counter-drug operations may expand to include striking targets on land as well. He has asserted he has the authority to direct the deadly attacks because the U.S. is in an "armed conflict" with the cartels. Trump has yet to seek approval from Congress for the military operations. On Wednesday he said he "probably" would consult with Congress to explain "exactly what we're doing when we come to the land." He added, though, "We don't have to do that." A day later, Trump appeared to rule out seeking lawmakers' approval for whatever could happen next. "I don't think we're going to necessarily ask for a declaration of war," he told reporters. "I think we're just going to kill people that are bringing drugs into our country."

Reported similarly:
New York Post [10/24/2025 12:25 PM, Staff, 42219K]
Bloomberg [10/24/2025 11:10 AM, Courtney McBride, 18207K]
ABC News [10/24/2025 1:15 PM, Anne Flaherty and Alexandra Hutzler, 30493K]
CBS News [10/24/2025 2:26 PM, Staff, 39474K]
USA Today [10/24/2025 3:04 PM, Zac Anderson, 67103K] r

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NBC News: U.S. strikes another alleged drug-carrying boat in the Caribbean, Pete Hegseth says
NBC News [10/24/2025 2:03 PM, Alexandra Marquez, Dan De Luce and Courtney Kube, 34509K] reports Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth has directed an aircraft carrier strike group to move to the Caribbean to support President Donald Trump's effort to dismantle "Transnational Criminal Organizations" and to "counter narco-terrorism," according to Pentagon spokesman Sean Parnell. The Gerald R. Ford Carrier Strike Group and embarked carrier air wing are moving to the U.S. Southern Command's area of responsibility, Parnell said in a post on X. Parnell said the enhanced military presence will "bolster U.S. capacity to detect, monitor, and disrupt illicit actors and activities that compromise the safety and prosperity of the United States homeland and our security in the Western Hemisphere." The Gerald R. Ford is the U.S. Navy's largest aircraft carrier and is currently stationed in the Mediterranean with three destroyers, according to two U.S. officials. They have not left that region, but once they do, the transit will take about one week to get on station in the Caribbean, the officials said. The military's deployment of the carrier strike group is a notable escalation of U.S. policy in the region as Trump has promised to target more cartel members and has firmly said these actions don't require congressional approval. It will nearly double the number of U.S. forces afloat in the area as part of the counter-drug mission. The U.S. has eight surface ships there now, plus a nuclear-powered submarine, which adds up to about 6,000 sailors and marines in the region. The Ford Carrier Strike Group will add between 4,500 and 5,000 more sailors and marines to the mission. The carrier is more than just people, aircraft and firepower — carriers are often sent as a show of presence or force. The officials said this deployment is also about sending a message to cartels that the U.S. military can move a huge presence to the area quickly. The announcement came after Hegseth said earlier in the day that the U.S. struck a boat allegedly carrying drugs in the Caribbean Sea, marking at least the third time this week that the U.S. has attacked a vessel it says was involved in drug trafficking.

Washington Examiner: Congress targets Hezbollah drug smuggling in Latin America
Washington Examiner [10/24/2025 9:22 AM, Pedro Rodriguez, 1394K] reports the Senate Caucus on International Narcotics Control held a hearing this week on the Iran-financed Islamic terrorist network Hezbollah, and its oil smuggling, money laundering, counterfeiting, and illegal weapons procurement operations. All of these efforts are tied to drug cartels and communist regimes in Latin America. It comes as no surprise that after the collapse of the Bashar Assad regime in Syria, Hezbollah's ally, the terrorist network has had to seek funding and shelter elsewhere. "In this critical time, Hezbollah may seek to further expand its Latin America drug trafficking and money laundering networks, and that's why we are holding this hearing today," Sen. John Cornyn (R-TX), chairman of the caucus, stated in Global Gangsters: Hezbollah's Latin American Drug Trafficking Operations. "As noted by the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, Hezbollah established a presence in the lawless tri-border region of Argentina, Brazil, and Paraguay, infiltrating the largest shiite muslim diaspora," Cornyn added. FINCEN also reported that Hezbollah's expanding partnerships with South American drug cartels and the Chavez-Maduro regime in Venezuela are helping to advance the Islamic terrorist network's money-laundering operations. "I'm concerned about reports that indicate that the former Venezuelan Vice President was responsible for issuing the Venezuelan passports to Hezbollah members, facilitated their coming into Latin America, and helped Hezbollah to channel funds to the Middle East," Cornyn said. Sen. Bernie Moreno (R-OH) called Venezuela a "safe haven" for one of the world's most lethal terrorist networks, adding that Maduro's are "counted. In 2020, the Justice Department charged a former member of the Venezuelan General Assembly with narcotrafficking, terrorism, weapons offenses, and acting as a liaison between Cartel of the Suns and Hezbollah and Hamas. As stated by Cornyn, Hezbollah's ties to the communist regime have facilitated the terrorist network's illicit activities in the region. The group's operations in Latin America first drew U.S. government attention during President Barack Obama's administration, as Hezbollah began shifting its focus away from the Middle East. With the collapse of its chief financial patron, the Iranian regime, and the weakening of Syria's Assad, the organization sought new funding sources abroad. Now, under President Donald Trump's second administration, Hezbollah is accelerating its activities across Latin America, filling the financial void left by its declining power base in the Middle East. "President Trump's brave decision to strike Iranian nuclear sites in Operation Midnight Hammer could dry up a key source of funding for Hezbollah," Cornyn said. Hezbollah's other ally, Hamas, has been almost completely eradicated in Gaza thanks to Trump's military alliance with Israel, which aimed to eliminate the terrorist

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organization after its brutal attacks on Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, giving Hezbollah an even stronger reason to expand its operations in the Western Hemisphere.

New York Times: U.S. Deploys Aircraft Carrier to Latin America, a Major Escalation
New York Times [10/25/2025 12:37 AM, Charlie Savage and Eric Schmitt, 330K] reports Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth has ordered the deployment of the aircraft carrier Gerald R. Ford as well as its accompanying warships and attack planes to waters off Latin America, the Pentagon said on Friday, in a dramatic escalation of military might in the region. The enhanced American presence "will bolster U.S. capacity to detect, monitor, and disrupt illicit actors and activities that compromise the safety and prosperity of the United States homeland and our security in the Western Hemisphere," Sean Parnell, the Pentagon's chief spokesman, said on social media. Mr. Parnell did not say when the Ford, the Navy's most modern and technologically advanced carrier, would be moving to the region or where it would be positioned. Navy officials said on Friday that the Ford is currently steaming off the coast of Croatia on a monthslong European deployment and would take seven to 10 days, depending on speed and weather conditions, to reach its new assigned mission with U.S. Southern Command. Since late August, the U.S. military has deployed about 10,000 troops to the Caribbean, about half of them on eight warships and half in Puerto Rico, for what the administration says is a counterterrorism and counternarcotics mission. The Ford carries about 5,000 sailors and has more than 75 attack, surveillance and support aircraft, including F/A-18 fighters. Aircraft carriers have toured the waters in the Caribbean and off Latin America before on what the Navy calls "good will" tours. But cutting short the Ford's scheduled deployment by several months and redirecting it to Latin America for a possible combat mission amid the intensifying U.S. strikes on boats the administration says are carrying drugs is highly unusual, current and former Navy officials said. "By adding the Ford to the already existing forces, this is a uniquely powerful naval combat group in the Caribbean in my memory," said Adm. James Stavridis, a former head of U.S. Southern Command, now retired. For decades, Republican and Democratic presidents have dispatched one or more aircraft carriers to the Middle East as a sign of U.S. military power and of American geopolitical resolve. President Trump's second administration has focused more intently on securing the U.S. homeland and the Western Hemisphere. The deployment of the Ford to the region, which officials said had been under consideration for weeks, underscores that shift in national security priorities. The new Pentagon orders came hours after Mr. Hegseth announced that the U.S. military had killed six people on a boat suspected of smuggling drugs from South America, as the Trump administration's lethal and legally disputed campaign continued to escalate. The latest attack raised the death toll from the Trump administration's campaign on suspected drug boats to 43 in 10 known strikes — eight in the Caribbean and two more this week in the eastern Pacific.

Reported similarly:
Washington Examiner [10/24/2025 5:09 AM, Staff, 1394K]

Breitbart: Venezuela's Nicolas Maduro Sends English Message to Trump: 'No Crazy War'
Breitbart [10/24/2025 12:51 PM, Christian K. Caruzo, 2416K] reports that socialist dictator of Venezuela Nicolás Maduro on Thursday attempted to send a message to President Donald Trump in English saying "no crazy war, please.". "Not war, not war, not war, yes peace, yes peace, yes peace forever, forever, forever, peace forever. No crazy war, no crazy war no crazy war," Maduro repeated in front of an audience. "Please please please, yes please peace forever, peace forever. Victory forever the pits, victory forever the pits [sic]." Maduro issued his latest attempt at speaking the English language in remarks during an official "patriotic working class" regime event in Caracas in the company of some regime officials. Upon delivering his words in "English," Maduro joked to his audience that he had spoken in "Tarzanian language," referencing the Tarzan book series by late American writer Edgar Rice Burroughs, which have been adapted in several forms of media through the ages. Maduro clarified that, if his English words were translated to Spanish in a "Tarzan style" they would mean "No war, no war, no want war. No to the war of the crazy, no to the insanity of war [sic throughout].". "That'd be the correct translation, right?" Maduro asked. "Yes to peace, yes to peace, yes to peace forever. Victory forever for peace."

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NewsMax: Trump Mulls Hitting Venezuela Drug-Making Sites as US Forces Surge in Caribbean
NewsMax [10/24/2025 4:32 PM, Staff, 4109K] reports President Donald Trump is considering plans to target cocaine production facilities and trafficking routes in Venezuela, according to reporting by CNN and cited by Reuters. Three senior U.S. officials who are familiar with the discussions said this option is still under review but has not been approved yet. The potential strikes would represent another escalation in Trump's campaign against Latin American drug networks. The president has stated that he sees drug cartels not as criminal groups but as "enemy combatants" waging war against the United States. This week, Trump told reporters that his administration is "no longer tolerating the poison flooding our communities" and promised that traffickers "will be wiped from the face of the Earth." His language shows a growing use of military terms to deal with the drug trade. Strategy meetings now often include Pentagon and intelligence officials rather than just law enforcement leaders. Trump said he will brief Congress next week but insisted that he does not need a declaration of war. Trump said Thursday he plans to keep Congress briefed, and that land targets in Venezuela are next. At the same time, he said he didn't think he'd be asking for a war declaration to target drug traffickers who are killing Americans.

Reuters: US sanctions Colombia's president, accuses him of allowing expansion of drug trade
Reuters [10/24/2025 7:46 PM, Daphne Psaledakis, Julia Symmes Cobb, Brendan O'Boyle, 36480K] reports that the U.S. on Friday imposed sanctions on Colombian President Gustavo Petro, as President Donald Trump sharply escalated a feud with Washington's longtime Latin American ally over accusations that Petro has refused to stop the flow of cocaine into the United States. Tensions between Washington and many countries in the region have been mounting for weeks. The U.S. military has ratcheted up activity in the southern Caribbean, striking vessels in international waters that it has alleged without evidence are carrying drugs. Trump this week called Petro an "illegal drug leader" after the leftist president accused the U.S. of committing "murder" with the strikes. Petro, whose term will end in 10 months, has always opposed the strikes. He has attempted to end Colombia's six-decade conflict through peace and surrender deals with rebels and crime gangs, but those efforts have borne little fruit. "Since President Gustavo Petro came to power, cocaine production in Colombia has exploded to the highest rate in decades, flooding the United States and poisoning Americans," U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said in a statement. "President Petro has allowed drug cartels to flourish and refused to stop this activity. Today, President Trump is taking strong action to protect our nation and make clear that we will not tolerate the trafficking of drugs into our nation." Petro disputes the basis for the U.S. allegations, saying his government has seized cocaine at unprecedented rates and that expansion of coca crops - the base ingredient for cocaine - has slowed every year since 2021. "What the U.S. Treasury says is a lie," Petro said on X on Friday afternoon. "My government did not increase cocaine, it did the opposite, my government has seized more cocaine than in the whole history of the world." Petro, who first rose to prominence as a senator by exposing links between some of his fellow lawmakers and paramilitary groups involved in cocaine trafficking, earlier called the sanction "a complete paradox". He said he had hired a U.S. lawyer to defend him and spoke to thousands of supporters in central Bogota on Friday evening, saying he has no money in the United States. While rare, the imposition of sanctions on a head of state is not unprecedented. The move adds Petro to a short list that includes the leaders of Russia, Venezuela and North Korea.

Reported similarly:
Washington Post [10/24/2025 4:18 PM, Tobi Raji, 24149K]
FOX News [10/24/2025 5:28 PM, Alexandra Koch, 40621K] r
Washington Examiner [10/24/2025 10:42 PM, Brady Knox, 1394K]
Univision [10/24/2025 4:04 PM, Staff, 5004K]

CBS News: Colombia's President Gustavo Petro tells CBS News blowing up drug boats is easy, but illegal and ineffective
CBS News [10/24/2025 11:17 AM, Lilia Luciano and Tucker Reals, 39474K] reports Colombia's left-wing President Gustavo Petro has been outspoken in his condemnation of the U.S. military strikes on what the Trump administration says are drug smuggling boats in international waters. Petro calls the strikes easy,

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but ineffective in tackling the mammoth problem of drug smuggling — and illegal to boot. The Trump administration has announced at least 10 such strikes on boats during the past two months, including two off Colombia's Pacific coast this week. The most recent came overnight, when Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth said the U.S. carried out "a lethal kinetic strike" on a vessel he said was operated by the Tren de Aragua gang, "trafficking narcotics in the Caribbean Sea." Hegseth said "six male narco-terrorists were aboard the vessel during the strike, which was conducted in international waters — and was the first strike at night. All six terrorists were killed and no U.S. forces were harmed in this strike." Aside from announcing the strikes, the U.S. military and the Trump administration have provided virtually no information about how they are carried out, based on what intelligence, or who, specifically, has been killed. In an exclusive conversation with CBS News, Petro said some of those killed in the U.S. strikes have been innocent civilians, and he reiterated his accusation that the attacks violate international law. The White House denies those accusations, and President Trump has defended the strikes as a legitimate part of his fight against drug trafficking gangs. Asked if he was ready to lower the rhetorical tone in his war of words with Mr. Trump, to seek a diplomatic way of stopping the U.S. attacks on boats, Petro insisted that he was merely replying to the American leader in kind. The Drug Enforcement Administration says about 90% of the cocaine that reaches the U.S. comes from Colombia, and President Trump has blamed Petro, saying he's failed to rein in drug cartels that operate in his country. "They have insulted me," he told CBS News. "And a lot, but all I can do is be frank."

The Hill: Intel Democrats press Gabbard on Trump administration boat strikes

The Hill [10/24/2025 6:10 PM, Rebecca Beitsch and Filip Timotija, 12595K] reports leading Intelligence Committee Democrats are accusing the Trump administration of leaving them in the dark on strikes in the Caribbean that have killed more than 40 people, demanding information about the intelligence community's role. The letter requests the legal justifications for the strikes, which has targeted a series of boats the Trump administration has claimed without evidence are ferrying drugs off the coasts of Venezuela and Colombia. "Despite our repeated requests, the intelligence committees have received virtually no information about the Intelligence Community's support for these operations," Rep. Jim Himes (D-Md.) and Sen. Mark Warner (D-Va.), the top Democrat on each chamber's Intelligence Committee, wrote to Director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard. "We have not been told which agencies are providing intelligence support, the nature of that assistance, or the amount of IC resources and personnel dedicated to this effort," they continued. "Nor have we been advised about the IC's role in collecting and analyzing intelligence after the strikes to assess the identities of those targeted, the type and quantity of drugs that may have been onboard, and the impact of the strikes."

Washington Examiner: Trump administration shows no signs of seeking declaration of war for cartel operations

Washington Examiner [10/25/2025 7:00 AM, Mike Brest, 1563K] reports the U.S. military has conducted at least 10 strikes, killing more than 30 people, in an effort to target drug smuggling, while President Donald Trump has said he doesn't believe he needs a formal declaration of war from Congress. During an event on Thursday focused on his Homeland Security Taskforce, Trump said his administration would brief Congress, but stopped short of saying they would seek a declaration of war from lawmakers. "I don't think we're necessarily going to ask for a declaration of war, I think we're just gonna kill people that are bringing drugs into our country. We're going to kill them. They're going to be, like dead," the president said on Thursday. The U.S. military has announced ten strikes targeting alleged drug smuggling vessels in the western hemisphere since this campaign began last month. Secretary of War Pete Hegseth announced on Friday that six people were killed in the most recent strike, and the secretary said it was the first of these operations to occur at night.

CBS News: What is known — and not known — about U.S. strikes on alleged drug boats

CBS News [10/24/2025 5:22 PM, Kathryn Watson, Eleanor Watson, 39474K] reports the U.S. has been carrying out intermittent strikes on vessels alleged to be carrying drug smugglers and illegal narcotics in international waters off South American coastlines since early September. President Trump and Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth say the boats were known to be involved in drug smuggling, and insist they have

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the authority to carry out the strikes without authorization from Congress. Mr. Trump has long decried the influence of drug cartels in the United States, although the lethal strikes represent the biggest escalation in his war on drugs. As of Friday, Oct. 24, the Trump administration has publicly disclosed strikes on 10 vessels since the president revealed the first operation on Sept. 2. Mr. Trump told reporters Thursday it's possible that the U.S. may begin carrying out strikes on land. So far, the administration says it has only targeted vessels in international waters. At least 43 people have been killed in the strikes as of Friday, Oct. 24, according to the numbers released by the Trump administration. Congress has not authorized the use of military force to target drug cartels.

Washington Examiner: Trump administration cartel crackdown includes prosecuting illegal fishing in Gulf of America

Washington Examiner [10/24/2025 6:00 AM, Mike Brest, 1394K] reports the U.S. military and relevant law enforcement agencies have reported an initial dip in illegal fishing activities in the Gulf of America in recent months after the Justice Department began arresting and prosecuting people instead of releasing them back to Mexico. The Coast Guard is among several agencies that work to ensure non-American fishermen don't operate within the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone. Mexican fishermen will illegally fish in U.S. waters and try to make it back to Mexican waters before getting caught. If they pull that off, they will sell the fish — sometimes into U.S. markets — and the Gulf Cartel gets a cut of the proceeds, according to the Treasury Department. The Gulf Cartel relies "on a variety of illicit schemes like [illegal, unreported, and unregulated] (IUU) fishing to fund their operations, along with narcotics trafficking and human smuggling," former acting Undersecretary for Terrorism and Financial Intelligence Bradley T. Smith said last year, when the Treasury Department announced it was sanctioning five individuals with ties to the cartel.

CBS News: Accused fentanyl kingpin dubbed "Brother Wang" extradited from Cuba to U.S., Mexico says

CBS News [10/24/2025 11:36 AM, Staff, 39474K] reports a Chinese citizen accused of trafficking fentanyl has been extradited from Cuba to the United States, according to the Mexican government, which helped facilitate the transfer. Zhi Dong Zhang, known as "Brother Wang," escaped house arrest in Mexico in July, and has now been transferred into U.S. custody, according to Mexican Security Secretary Omar Garcia Harfuch. Zhi is accused of being "responsible for international drug trafficking, money laundering, and alliances with criminal groups with a presence in the Americas, Europe, and Asia," Harfuch said, according to BBC Mundo. He is alleged to have worked closely with Mexico's Sinaloa and Jalisco New Generation drug cartels, designated "foreign terrorist organizations" by Washington. The Cuban government said that "after a formal request for extradition," the alleged trafficker was handed over to Mexican authorities. Neither Mexico nor Havana has specified whether Zhang was transferred to the United States via Mexican soil, or if he was transported directly from Cuba. A wanted poster released by Mexican prosecutors in July said that in addition to "Brother Wang," Zhi has multiple other aliases, including "BW," "Pancho," "HeHe" and "Mr. T." Zhi is considered "a major international money laundering operator," Garcia said last year. He is accused of laundering at least $20 million in the U.S. between 2020 and 2021 by using more than 100 shell companies and bank accounts, El Pais reported.

Reported similarly:
Reuters [10/24/2025 8:44 AM, Lizabeth Diaz, 36480K]

CNN: How DHS's public statements differ from what it says in court

CNN [10/24/2025 11:36 AM, Margaret Dawson, 18595K] reports CNN's Omar Jimenez breaks down what the Department of Homeland Security puts out publicly via social media or press releases, versus what the agency is arguing through court documents over recent cases in Chicago and Newark. [Editorial note: consult video at source link]

CBS News: Federal workers hunker down as they go without pay in shutdown: "Protect every penny"

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CBS News [10/24/2025 11:19 AM, Megan Cerullo, 39474K] reports Jill Hornick, a 59-year-old service representative at a Social Security Administration field office in Illinois, would normally have received her latest paycheck on Friday. Instead, she was last paid on Oct. 10 — for three days less than she had worked. Hornick is defined as an essential worker and continues to report to the office on a daily basis during the government shutdown. She said she doesn't have time to search for a second job and isn't eligible for unemployment benefits. Because of the stalemate in Congress, now in its 24th day, Hornick also has no clue on when the next paycheck will arrive. "It's very annoying that employees who are furloughed can collect unemployment, but employees who are essential and have to work without pay cannot collect unemployment," Hornick told CBS News. "And yet I am showing up on my own dime because we still have to pay money to put gas in the car, pay the daycare center, because they are not going to take kids for free." While roughly 670,000 federal employees are furloughed, approximately 730,000 other government employees deemed essential — such as air traffic controllers and Transportation Security Administration officers — continue to work without pay during the shutdown, according to estimates from the Bipartisan Policy Center. Hornick, whose annual income is about $75,000 a year, is now scrambling to stay afloat. That means paring her spending and contacting her mortgage lender and other creditors to ask for lenience.

Opinion – Op-Eds

San Diego Union Tribune: Mike Levin: Kristi Noem's $170 million jets are a symbol of her arrogance

San Diego Union Tribune [10/24/2025 11:00 AM, Mike Levin, 1538K] reports public service is supposed to be about duty, not luxury. Yet Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem just signed off on the purchase of two Gulfstream G700s, luxury aircraft worth a combined $170 million. The Coast Guard had requested one replacement plane for an aging jet used for official travel. Somewhere along the way, that single, practical request turned into a pair of top-of-the-line aircraft awarded through a no-bid contract, without a clear explanation or a shred of humility. Secretary Noem says the planes are necessary for the mission of the Coast Guard, but that is not what the record shows. The Department of Homeland Security originally requested one $50 million aircraft. Now, it is buying two "used" Gulfstreams that the manufacturer markets for billionaires, not public servants. And it is happening during a government shutdown, when some of the very workers Secretary Noem leads are missing their paychecks. As a member of the House Appropriations Committee, I find this entirely unacceptable. Taxpayer dollars must be spent in a way that is justified, transparent, and defensible. A $170 million luxury purchase at a time when federal employees are going unpaid fails every one of those tests. Secretary Noem has implemented a policy that requires her personal sign-off on any department expense over $100,000. That means this decision, one of the larger discretionary purchases in the Department of Homeland Security's history, went directly across her desk. Accountability begins and ends with her. Every federal employee knows that taxpayer money is a public trust. In my district, I see that respect every day. Coast Guard members work long hours under tough conditions with aging equipment. They are motivated by service, not status. The same goes for the TSA officers at John Wayne Airport or the CBP personnel at our ports of entry. These men and women keep our country safe. They deserve leaders who share their sense of duty, not one who seems to view public office as an opportunity for personal luxury. The Coast Guard's mission is vital, from rescuing families at sea to interdicting drug traffickers to protecting our coastlines from environmental threats. But no one needs a Gulfstream G700 to do that job. It is impossible to explain how two luxury jets take priority over the paychecks, boats, or aircraft that actually keep Americans safe. Even in normal times, this purchase would raise eyebrows. During a shutdown, it is a symbol of Washington's worst instincts — entitlement, self-importance, and a growing distance from the people government is supposed to serve. When a leader's first instinct is to take care of herself instead of her workforce, something fundamental has gone wrong. Secretary Noem has tried to deflect criticism by saying Congress already appropriated the money. But that excuse only makes things worse. Leadership means making responsible choices with the funds entrusted to you, not grabbing what you can because you think you are above the rules. The fact that the money was available does not make the decision wise. Every appropriator knows that funds

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are allocated broadly, but discretion matters. How leaders choose to use those dollars defines their priorities.

NewsMax: Trump Ended Immigration Caravan, Democrats Can't Handle It

NewsMax [10/24/2025 11:03 AM, Ken Buck, 4109K] reports on the campaign trail last year, then-presidential candidate Donald Trump pledged to stop the flow of illegal immigrants flooding across America's borders and "carry out the largest domestic deportation operation" in U.S. history. Since winning reelection, the Trump administration has delivered on its promises. Within the first 250 days of the president's second term, the Department of Homeland Security has deported more than 400,000 illegal aliens. Another 1.6 million voluntarily self-deported. In August, arrests on the southern border were down nearly 90% from a year earlier, and September marked the U.S. Border Patrol's fifth consecutive month with zero releases. President Trump's decisive action stands in stark contrast to former President Joe Biden, who refused to act and sought to deflect blame for his administration's porous borders. "I've done all I can do," Biden whined — even as Republicans and Democrats alike urged him to take executive action to address the crisis. Congress should "show some spine," Sleepy Joe puffed in February 2024 — the same month that border crossings exceeded 9 million, not including over 1.8 million "got-aways." "It has become clear that the current situation remains untenable," 15 House Democrats pleaded in May 2024. "All of our constituents, no matter our congressional district, have felt the impacts of the current border situation." Trump has given those leaders (and most Americans) what they asked for: secure borders, safer streets, and a plan to rid our country of violent criminals here illegally. But you wouldn't know it listening to Democrats and the liberal media.

The Hill: Don't make federal workers pay the price for the government shutdown

The Hill [10/24/2025 12:00 PM, Rep. Donald Norcross, 12595K] reports that, when the federal government shuts down, the civil servants who keep it running should not pay the price. Yet today, hundreds of thousands of federal workers, including air traffic controllers, firefighters and nurses, are being forced to work without pay. Instead of working to end this shutdown or pass legislation to pay all these hardworking individuals, the Trump administration has chosen to pay only select groups, leaving the rest behind. On Oct. 15, President Trump signed a memo to pay members of the military during the shutdown by repurposing unspent federal funds. The following day, the Trump administration announced it would extend pay to thousands of law enforcement officers, including those working for the Transportation Security Agency, Immigration and Customs Enforcement and Secret Service. Although paying these individuals is the right thing to do, the problem lies in deciding who deserves a paycheck and who doesn't. The federal government doesn't function without its full workforce. Right now, federal employees across the nation are working without pay to keep America running. Air traffic controllers are working mandatory overtime and six-day shifts to manage the safe travel of millions of passengers and tons of cargo every day. Nurses at the Department of Veterans Affairs are providing care to our nation's veterans. First responders are keeping our families safe. Every one of these public servants has a family to support, bills to pay, and obligations that don't disappear simply because Congress and the White House have reached an impasse. The president's decision to selectively pay certain employees based on political optics is a slap in the face to every federal worker who wakes up in the morning ready to serve their country. This also comes during a time when our federal workforce has faced relentless attacks from Trump and his administration. Over the past year, the Trump administration has eliminated the roles of more than 200,000 federal workers at more than a dozen agencies, including firing an estimated 6,000 veterans. This has resulted in complete and utter chaos, with many of the services Americans rely on under threat and ultimately resulting in the rehiring of many of these purged employees. It's time for Trump and congressional Republicans to come back to the negotiating table, reopen the federal government and lower health care costs. The American people deserve a functioning government, and every federal employee deserves the pay they've earned. Until then, the message from the Trump administration is painfully clear: some public servants matter more than others.

Washington Post: [CA] When ICE came for a U.S. citizen and Army veteran

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Washington Post [10/24/2025 7:00 AM, George F. Will, 24149K] reports one Immigration and Customs Enforcement agent's knee was on his neck, another's was grinding his back. Drenched with tear gas and pepper spray, George Retes might have wished that his 137 pounds were back in Kirkuk, Iraq, one of his Army deployments. Herewith a glimpse of your tax dollars at work.. Born 26 years ago in Ventura, California, where his mother was born, he enlisted after high school and calls the Army "the best job ever," adding, "I love the infantry." He married a woman he deployed with, thereby acquiring a stepson, soon a daughter, and a reason to leave the Army: to avoid long absences from his children. He loves Ventura ("The beach is my life"), where he landed a job with a security firm protecting an agriculture plant, which he approached by car mid-afternoon on July 10. ICE agents wearing gas masks — indicators of their dispositions — were blocking entry, he recounts, saying the plant was not operating. This was not the last ICE lie. The ICEmen were presumably looking for undocumented immigrants. Retes's driver's license, which he says the ICEmen never asked to see, identifies him as "Veteran Army." His license plate includes "DV": disabled veteran. While ICE's warriors were trying and ultimately succeeding in smashing his driver's-side window (the better to pepper spray him), they apparently did not notice his rear window's "Iraq Combat Veteran" sticker. Amid a torrent of shouted and contradictory ICEmen commands, and after he asked for an agent's badge number, he says, Retes was dragged from his car, his wrists were zip-tied behind his back, and he was seated on the roadside ground for four hours. He was taken to a Navy base, where he was strip searched, then on to incarceration in Los Angeles, he says, handcuffs having replaced the zip ties. No charges had been made against him, but a mouth swab collected his DNA without his consent. He says his requests for a lawyer, and for a shower to ease the discomforts of tear gas and pepper spray residues, were ignored. After three days, during which he missed his daughter's third birthday, an agent told him the charges against him had been dropped. "What charges?" he recalls asking. Silence. When, two months later, Retes published a newspaper op-ed about his experience, ICE suddenly claimed Retes had been resisting its agents. Video from a Los Angeles television station's helicopter monitoring ICE's operation seems to refute the agency's fabrication. An anonymous spokesperson for the Department of Homeland Security, which includes ICE, dismissed Retes's account as "garbage." Not much of an argument, but evidence of the milieu and mentality that produces ICEmen like those Retes met.

San Francisco Chronicle: [CA] Can San Francisco police arrest ICE agents who defy California's mask law?

San Francisco Chronicle [10/24/2025 7:00 AM, Erwin Chemerinsky, 4722K] reports tensions between the federal government and state and local governments are nothing new, but we are in a moment unlike anything we have seen for decades, if ever. President Donald Trump is sending troops to cities over the objections of governors and mayors, and his encouraging aggressive actions by Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents are understandably provoking the desire for resistance. Even with the announcement that Trump is backing away, at least for now, from sending troops to San Francisco, the underlying issue remains: What can state and local governments do? The simple answer is that state and local governments cannot obstruct the federal government. But they can apply their general laws against federal agents so long as they do not unreasonably interfere with the federal government carrying out its policies. So, for example, Portland, Ore., and Chicago cannot prohibit Trump from sending troops there, but they can — and have — sued in court to have the deployments declared illegal as violating federal law. Federal law is restrictive about when the president can federalize a state's National Guard, and it flatly prohibits troops from being used for domestic law enforcement. These challenges are pending in courts now, and I am hopeful that the Supreme Court will conclude that the federalization of the state national guards and the use of troops to assist ICE agents violates federal law.

San Diego Union Tribune: [Mexico] Drone attack in Tijuana a glimpse of a new kind of narco war

San Diego Union Tribune [10/24/2025 9:00 AM, Tania Navarro, 1538K] reports on Oct. 15 in Tijuana, three drones carrying explosives dropped their payload onto a state government legal facility. No officials were killed or injured, but the attack sent shockwaves through one of Mexico's busiest border cities. It wasn't a random act of violence. It was a message — and a warning. The use of drones by criminal organizations marks a new phase in the evolution of Mexico's cartels. What once were tools for

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surveillance and smuggling are now weapons of intimidation and terror. The kind of technology used in the Ukraine-Russia war to strike armored vehicles has made its way into the hands of traffickers who operate just a few miles from the U.S. border. This should concern both Mexico and the United States. Organized crime is entering a technological era, and our governments aren't ready. In recent years, drone attacks have been documented in Michoacán, Jalisco and Guanajuato, often linked to the Jalisco New Generation Cartel. However, those incidents were mostly confined to rural areas, targeting rival groups or small towns. What happened in Tijuana is different — it's a major urban hub, home to more than 2 million people and the busiest land border crossing in America. A drone strike here isn't just another cartel tactic; it's a signal that this technology has reached the doorstep of the United States. Drones give organized crime a new kind of power. They are cheap, easy to buy and hard to trace. A single operator can fly one from miles away, avoiding the street battles that once drew police attention. A few hundred dollars' worth of equipment can now carry explosives capable of damaging buildings or killing targets. In a city like Tijuana, where law enforcement is already under-resourced and outgunned, this new aerial threat tilts the balance even further toward the cartels. The United States understands that this isn't just Mexico's problem. On the night of the attack, the U.S. Consulate in Tijuana issued a security warning, acknowledging the broader threat. The same networks using drones to target government offices can also deploy them to smuggle drugs, track Border Patrol movements or deliver fentanyl across the border. And while the U.S. has invested billions in walls and sensors to stop people and vehicles, far less has been spent on aerial or cyber surveillance systems capable of detecting small, low-flying drones.

The Hill: [Venezuela] War with Maduro would carry immense risks

The Hill [10/24/2025 9:30 AM, Dov Zakheim, 12595K] reports that, nearly 36 years ago, the U.S. invaded Panama to dislodge its strongman, General Manuel Noriega. A force of 27,000 overcame Panamanian resistance in a matter of just two weeks. Noriega, transported to the U.S., was tried and convicted for drug trafficking and money laundering. He spent 18 years in a Miami prison until he was extradited to France in 2010 to face additional money laundering charges. Like President George H.W. Bush, who called Noriega a "drug kingpin," President Trump has accused Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro of drug trafficking and linked him to criminal gangs. Trump has made no secret of wanting to remove Maduro from power. He has ramped up the pressure on Maduro by authorizing the sinking of seven Venezuelan ships in Caribbean international waters and an eighth in the Pacific, accusing the crews of drug smuggling. With the exception of two Colombians citizens who were repatriated, all aboard the ships perished in the attacks. Trump has authorized the largest deployment of U.S. forces in the Caribbean since the 1989 operation — 10,000 troops, four surface warships, drones, surveillance aircraft, and a Marine Amphibious Ready Group, plus 2,200 Marines accompanied by tactical aviation. On Oct. 15, Trump announced that he had authorized the CIA to conduct covert operations inside Venezuela. He even said he was considering air strikes on Venezuelan territory — a threat backed up by U.S. fighters and bombers flown off Venezuela's coast. Maduro, who has no desire to share Noriega's fate, had already announced in August that he was mobilizing 4.5 million militia members to defend the country against a "gringo" invasion. Many observers have discounted his announcement as mere rhetoric. Others have pointed out that the Venezuelan military is both ill-equipped and poorly trained. Nevertheless, just as Maduro is not planning to give up the presidency, an attack on Venezuela is not going to be a reprise of America's fortnight war against Panama. For starters, Venezuela has twelve times the land area of Panama, and its population is about eight times greater. Indeed, Maduro's militia alone is larger than Panama's entire population. Nor is it clear that the Venezuelan opposition will work alongside the U.S. to dethrone the Venezuelan dictator. Venezuelans may instead put their politics aside and defend their homeland, much like Russians, despite their recent suffering under Stalin's Great Purge, united in 1941 to fight the German invasion. America's twenty-year experience in Afghanistan, like that of the Soviets in the late twentieth century, demonstrates how a determined force can still hold out against a far more technically capable foreign invader and ultimately prevail. And Ukraine's resistance to the Russian invaders at the very outset of what is now approaching four years of war also demonstrates that the strategy of decapitation that succeeded in 1989 did not yield similar results in February 2022. Finally, the possibility that other countries will come to Venezuela's aid cannot be ruled out. Colombian President Gustavo Petro suggested last month that any U.S. attack on Venezuela would be considered an attack on all Latin America. The leftist Petro, whose term of office does not end for another seven months, has had several

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verbal clashes with Trump and may be prepared to send his far more capable and mostly U.S.-trained troops to assist Maduro.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement

New York Times: Trump Administration Plans a Shake-Up at ICE to Speed Deportations
New York Times [10/24/2025 9:59 PM, Hamed Aleaziz and Tyler Pager, 135475K] reports the Trump administration is drawing up plans for a shake-up at Immigration and Customs Enforcement, with officials looking to replace several senior leaders in field offices across the country, according to three people familiar with the plans. The proposal stems from frustration in the White House and the Department of Homeland Security over the pace of deportations, which are lagging behind President Trump's goal of more than a million by the end of the first year of his second term. The people cautioned that the plans, which involve reassigning about a half dozen field office leaders, had not been finalized. The people spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss ideas still under consideration. The proposed shake-up illustrates how the administration is still scrambling to satisfy Mr. Trump's demand to crack down on immigration, an issue at the heart of his political agenda, even as the president and his top aides have promoted their efforts to secure the border and deport hundreds of thousands of people. Abigail Jackson, a White House spokeswoman, would not comment on the plans for a shake-up. But she said in a statement that "the president's entire team is working in lock step to implement the president's policy agenda, and the tremendous results from securing the border to deporting criminal illegal aliens speak for themselves." There are more than two dozen field office directors overseeing deportation efforts across the country. Each officer's region can be expansive, encompassing multiple states or large territories such as Northern California. The regional directors have been under pressure to help ICE boost arrests. The agency has already removed its acting director and top deportation officials — twice. "They are under constant threat; people are ground down; it's a culture of fear," said Claire Trickler-McNulty, a former senior ICE official in the Biden administration. "There has been so much shuffling of deck chairs — I can't imagine anyone even having the ability to take on real challenges." The Department of Homeland Security says that it has deported more than 400,000 people since Mr. Trump took office, and that it expects to deport 600,000 in total by the end of Mr. Trump's first year in office. Still, those numbers are slightly misleading. The Trump administration counts people who are turned back at the border and other ports of entry as "deportations," even though they have never lived inside the United States. Earlier this year, Stephen Miller, Mr. Trump's deputy chief of staff, met with senior ICE leaders in Washington and discussed ways to pick up the pace of enforcement. Soon after, he appeared on Fox News and said the agency would try to hit a goal of 3,000 arrests a day. The number of arrests shot up after the comments, to more than 2,000 a day. But the arrest numbers have since declined, and ICE has not been able to hit the 3,000 daily arrest figure floated by Mr. Miller. Since the summer, the agency has typically arrested more than 1,000 people a day. "The Trump administration continues to be focused on delivering results and removing violent criminal illegal aliens from this country," said Tricia McLaughlin, a Department of Homeland Security spokeswoman. "As for personnel, there have been no changes, and we have nothing to announce."

Breitbart: ICE Agents Arrest Convicted Killers, Sex Offenders, Robbers Across U.S.
Breitbart [10/24/2025 5:16 PM, John Binder, 2416K] reports Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is continuing to arrest criminal illegal aliens across the United States, even in sanctuary jurisdictions that have attempted to thwart such enforcement of federal immigration law. "Every day, and despite the Democrats' government shutdown, our ICE officers are arresting pedophiles, sexual assailants, murderers, and violent criminals," the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Tricia McLaughlin said in a statement.

New York Times: Can ICE Stop People Solely Based on Their Race?
New York Times [10/24/2025 5:00 AM, Jazmine Ulloa, 153395K] reports again and again in Chicago and elsewhere in recent weeks, masked federal agents have accosted people who appear to be Latino, and

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have confronted them with questions about their immigration status. Targeting people for immigration enforcement based on race or ethnicity alone was forbidden by the U.S. Supreme Court in a unanimous decision 50 years ago. After all, it's impossible to determine the immigration statuses of people simply by looking at them. So for decades, agents seeking to question people about their citizenship were supposed to rely on more than just appearance. But as President Trump has intensified his mass deportation campaign, roving patrols that have targeted predominantly Latino communities have become a key part of the administration's playbook. And whether the tactics are legal appears to be an open question, one likely to be decided by the Supreme Court. Lawsuits challenging the administration's sweeps in Los Angeles and elsewhere are making their way through the courts. The outcomes could redefine the limits on the discretion officers have to stop, question and detain people over their immigration statuses and how much race and ethnicity can play into those decisions. "We are in nebulous land," said Mark Fleming, a lawyer at the National Immigrant Justice Center, which is representing plaintiffs in Chicago. "We have never seen this type of enforcement on the streets ever."

Univision: ICE told her she was pregnant and detained her for months: organizations report similar cases in "unprecedented" numbers.
Univision [10/24/2025 6:11 AM, Patricia Clarembaux, 5004K] reports when Alicia was admitted to the ICE Processing Center in South Louisiana in April, she learned she was pregnant. She was detained when she showed up for a routine appointment in New Orleans, and shortly afterward, the federal facility's medical staff broke the news. The separation from her two minor children (ages 5 and 15) caused her significant stress. She wasn't eating well, only receiving minimal portions of food "of poor quality, which left her hungry and malnourished." Her pregnancy wasn't easy. In May, she began experiencing severe abdominal pain, vaginal discharge, contractions, and bleeding. Her story is part of a letter sent by various organizations to the acting director of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Todd Lyons, with more testimonies from pregnant women who were detained—or who are still detained—and reported that they did not receive adequate prenatal care, were denied essential supplies, and suffered medical neglect by staff at two detention centers: the one in South Louisiana, known as Basile, and the one in Stewart, Georgia.

NPR: Congress is investigating cases of U.S. citizens detained in immigration raids
NPR [10/24/2025 5:35 PM, Staff, 28013K] Audio: HERE reports U.S. citizens have been arrested in the Trump Administration's aggressive immigration crackdown. According to ProPublica, at least 170 have been arrested or detained by immigration agents since President Trump took office for his second term. In response, Texas Rep. Robert Garcia and Sen. Richard Blumenthal of Connecticut — both Democrats — have announced an investigation into these detentions. It is incredibly concerning that now anyone can be targeted," Rep. Garcia tells NPR. "It's important that we begin documenting all of this." [Editorial note: consult audio at source link]

Daily Mail: [MA] Brazilian 'gangster', 13, issues groveling apology and begs for freedom after he was taken into custody 'for threatening child with knife'
Daily Mail [10/24/2025 7:53 PM, Natasha Anderson] reports a 13-year-old suspected Brazilian gang member has apologized 'for everything' and is begging for his freedom after being taken into ICE custody, his attorney has claimed. Arthur Yuri De Almeida Silva Berto, 13, was arrested at his Massachusetts school on October 9 for allegedly threatening to 'shoot and kill' a fellow classmate. Berto, a seventh-grader from Brazil, was transferred to ICE custody after being held at the local police station. Officers did not detain the boy for immigration authorities, but claim federal agents showed up at the station after his fingerprints were put into a national database. Homeland Security officials alleged that Berto had a gun on him, but he was carrying a 5-inch Milwaukee knife when he was detained by Everett police, city officials said. DHS also alleged that Berto is a suspected '33' gang member and had 11 prior police complaints, including breaking and entering, vandalism, theft, fighting and 'flash mob' style shoplifting. Berto appeared before a judge via Zoom for a bond hearing Thursday where he pled for forgiveness and shared how he misses his mother, The Boston Globe reported. The judge denied bond, citing how he 'dangerous' and a 'flight risk,' his lawyer Andrew Lattarulo said. Berto reportedly apologized after the ruling was issued. He

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remains in federal custody at a juvenile detention facility in Virginia pending his asylum hearing. His next court appearance is scheduled for November 5.

Bloomberg: [NY] Manhattan DA Bragg Says at Debate He's Examining Prosecuting ICE
Bloomberg [10/24/2025 10:20 PM, Mike Vilensky, 803K] reports Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg said he's looking at whether his office can prosecute ICE agents if they break local laws, saying the immigration agency's tactics in New York are "anathema to public safety." Bragg was asked at a NY1 debate on Friday, alongside two opponents challenging him for the Manhattan DA role, if his office would take action against Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers if they were found in violation of local statutes. "It is something we are looking at," he said, noting Manhattan Rep. Dan Goldman wrote a recent letter to New York Police Department Commissioner Jessica Tisch.

NBC News: [NY] New York City's Canal Street slowly rebounds after ICE raid
NBC News [10/24/2025 3:28 PM, David K. Li and Daniella Silva, 34509K] reports the nine men arrested were all in the United States illegally, DHS said. Five were from Senegal and one each was from Mali, Mauritania and Guinea. DHS didn't identify the country of origin of one of the men. The agency said it also took five protesters into custody, accusing four of assaulting law enforcement and one of obstruction. DHS told NBC News on Thursday that the protesters had been released pending further investigation with the U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York. Makonnen, of the group African Communities Together, said they've been working closely with street vendors and other local organizations to ensure they know their rights and the resources available to them.

Daily Caller: [NY] Trump Torches 'Loser' Dan Goldman Over Calling On NYPD To Arrest ICE Agents For Doing Their Jobs
Daily Caller [10/24/2025 11:18 AM, Jason Cohen, 835K] reports President Donald Trump criticized Democratic Rep. Dan Goldman of New York on Thursday over his push for the New York City Police Department (NYPD) to arrest federal agents. Goldman sent a letter making the request to NYPD Commissioner Jessica Tisch on Oct. 16, alleging Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Customs and Border Protection (CBP) agents have engaged in "outrageous and unlawful conduct … including violently and improperly arresting United States citizens." When a reporter asked Trump for his response to Goldman's request on Thursday, the president insulted him and his party. "Dan is a loser, you understand. He's a guy that doesn't have what it takes. He's been trying so hard. And they are exhausted," Trump said. "It's so ridiculous, right? A suggestion like that. They are trying so hard and it's not working." "Even now, they started imitating me — of all people. They want to imitate me, and they start using foul language, but they use too much of it," he continued. "You can't use the F-word seven times in one sentence. It doesn't work. It might work every seven news conferences, but you can't do it … seven times in one sentence. … They're in big trouble, that party." Democratic members of Congress increased their use of profanity to become more relatable to Americans, Politico reported in March. Moreover, Goldman also dismissed violence against federal immigration enforcement officers on "CNN NewsNight" Oct. 8.

New York Times: [NY] A Woman Self-Deported, Hoping to Shield Her Son. He Was Detained Anyway.
New York Times [10/25/2025 3:21 AM, Ana Ley, 330K] reports a 16-year-old undocumented immigrant living without a parent in New York City was detained Thursday morning during a routine check-in with federal officials, as President Trump's immigration crackdown has begun to target more minors who entered the United States illegally. The immigrant, Joel Camas, had been without his mother for about four weeks after she voluntarily returned to Ecuador in hopes that her son could avoid being deported. On Thursday morning Joel arrived for a routine appearance at 26 Federal Plaza in Lower Manhattan, the New York City headquarters for the Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency. With him was an entourage of eight adults that included Beth Baltimore, his lawyer, and Brad Lander, the city comptroller. Because Joel has no legal guardian in the United States, he was turned away from that building, which has become the epicenter of adult migrant detentions in New York, and directed to a different federal

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building. There, employees said they were confused by his arrival, and asked the group to wait; hours later, Joel was abruptly escorted behind closed doors with Ms. Baltimore, then taken from her. From a room that is inaccessible to the public, Ms. Baltimore texted Mr. Lander: “Detaining him” Mr. Lander gasped and doubled over, distraught by the news. “Oh, no, no,” he said as his voice weakened. Ms. Baltimore then emerged, tears welling in her eyes. “I had no idea this was going to happen,” she said. “I was too hopeful.” The government had issued a deportation order against Joel, but he had applied for and received a designation known as special immigrant juvenile status, which opens a pathway to lawful permanent residency. Ms. Baltimore said that, historically, the classification has protected minors from deportation, but the rules seemed to be shifting rapidly during Mr. Trump’s administration. Tricia McLaughlin, a spokeswoman for the Department of Homeland Security, said that Joel and his mother had been issued final orders of removal by a federal judge on Feb. 28, 2024, under the Biden administration. “His mother self-deported to Ecuador and Camas remained in the U.S.A. alone as a minor,” Ms. McLaughlin wrote in an email. “Fortunately, now Mr. Camas will be reunited with family.” From Mr. Trump’s inauguration in January through the end of July, ICE has detained about 50 children younger than 18 in the New York City area, according to federal data obtained by the Deportation Data Project at the University of California, Berkeley. Like Joel, many have been from Ecuador. At least 38 children and teenagers from the metropolitan region have been deported, the data shows. Joel had been staying in the Bronx with relatives and attending Gotham Collaborative High School. He met Ms. Baltimore, his lawyer, through a youth social services center called the Door, which offers essential services such as health care, mental counseling and legal assistance to 12- to 24-year-olds. As he arrived for his check-in on Thursday morning, he was carrying a black Nike backpack and hoped to get back to school before the first bell at 8 a.m. He was looking forward to his favorite subject, English, and to having a warm meal after standing in the cold for much of the morning. On Halloween, he said, he had planned to hang out with his friends. The immigration officials who detained Joel did not tell Ms. Baltimore where he would be taken, and on Thursday afternoon she rushed to find him, and to file legal paperwork to prevent his transfer to another jurisdiction, where he would be removed from his lawyer and his relatives. She also notified the city’s Department of Education as well as the office of Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, whose district includes Joel’s home in the Bronx. Lawyers with the New York Civil Liberties Union were also working with Ms. Baltimore to free him, and on Friday morning, they filed an emergency petition to challenge his detention, deeming it illegal because of Joel’s special immigrant juvenile status.

CBS New York: [NY] 16-year-old boy detained by ICE after scheduled immigration appointment in NYC

CBS New York [10/25/2025 12:06 AM, Alecia Reid, 39474K] reports a teenage boy was detained by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents after showing up for a scheduled immigration appointment this week. His mother self-deported but believed her son’s status would have kept him safe. Joel Camas, 16, showed up to a scheduled immigration check-in at 26 Federal Plaza bright and early Thursday morning. "We were gonna do this ICE check-in. It was gonna be quick, maybe he wouldn’t even be late for school that starts at 8," said Beth Baltimore, director of legal services for The Door. Instead, he was detained and sent to a facility where minors are being held. He and his mother, Elvia Chafla, are undocumented. In September, Chafla flew back to their Ecuadorian hometown instead of facing arrest. She thought Joel would be fine because of his special immigrant juvenile status. "It is a status available to young people who are under 21, unmarried, have been found to have been abused, abandoned or neglected by ... a parent or parents," Baltimore said. The family’s lawyer says a family court judge found that it was in Joel’s best interests to remain in the U.S. He is a junior at Gotham Collaborative High School and lives with family in the Bronx. Joel’s mother says he had a very difficult life in Ecuador and she brought him to New York seeking asylum. "What is going to happen to him? What is going to happen to my son? Right now, there’s a lot of violence here and I don’t want him to come back to that ... Right now, I have no work," she said in Spanish. The Department of Homeland Security says in February 2024, during the Biden administration, the teen and his mother were given final orders to leave. "His mother self-deported to Ecuador and Camas remained in the USA alone as a minor. Fortunately, now Mr. Camas will be reunited with family," DHS said in a statement, in part. The family’s lawyer says the rules for migrants are in constant flux with the current Trump administration, and if the teen is deported, his pathway to lawful permanent residence will be terminated. "Every day is just, there’s another terrifying thing that’s

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happening," Baltimore said. "Also just the changes in law every few minutes, every few seconds. Different cases coming out." The Civil Liberties Union and the organization representing Joel filed a Habeas petition on his behalf. They are seeking his release and a stop on the removal order so he can stay in school and continue on his path. [Editorial note: consult video at source link]

NBC News: [VA] Man was fatally hit by vehicle while fleeing ICE on Virginia highway, officials say
NBC News [10/24/2025 4:04 PM, Daniella Silva, 34509K] reports a man fleeing Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents ran out onto a busy highway and was struck and killed Thursday in Virginia, authorities said. The incident appeared to be the second time since August that a person was killed by oncoming traffic while attempting to flee ICE agents, according to local officials. Jose Castro-Rivera died Thursday after ICE officers made a car stop in what a senior Department of Homeland Security official said was a "targeted, intelligence-based immigration enforcement operation." The DHS official told NBC News that after determining that the occupants were allegedly in the United States illegally, the immigration agents began detaining the people in the car; that's when Castro-Rivera resisted and ran onto a busy highway. The official did not provide additional details about the other people in the car.

Washington Post: [FL] ICE agent threatens to check deputy's status during DUI stop, asks if he's Haitian
Washington Post [10/24/2025 6:36 PM, Kim Bellware and Ben Brasch, 24149K] reports U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agent arrested in August on suspicion of driving drunk questioned the nationality of a sheriff's deputy and threatened to check the deputy's immigration status, according to newly released body-camera footage. Scott Deiseroth, a 42-year-old ICE agent, faces misdemeanor charges of driving under the influence with children in the car and resisting officers without violence following the Aug. 13 traffic stop in the Florida Keys. A spokesperson for ICE confirmed Friday that Deiseroth, a former U.S. Army staff sergeant, is an agent in Miami and has been on administrative leave since his arrest. During the stop, Deiseroth repeatedly asked Monroe County sheriff's deputies for leniency because of his law enforcement status and several times demanded to know the nationality of one of the deputies, who is Black and speaks with a Caribbean accent, the body-camera footage shows. "Are you Haitian?" Deiseroth asked Deputy Markens Dorestant during a field sobriety test that he eventually failed. "[It has] nothing to do with my race, buddy," Dorestant replied, prompting Deiseroth to ask again. After Deputy Jonathan Lane said his colleague's nationality doesn't matter, Deiseroth retorted, "it does." Deiseroth grew belligerent at times during the stop and emotional at others, the video shows. At one point, he told the deputies he was going through a divorce and feared losing custody of his sons if he was arrested. On the drive to jail following his arrest, Deiseroth continued to question Lane about Dorestant's nationality.

Chicago Tribune: [IN] Dozens protest ICE deportations at Gary airport
Chicago Tribune [10/24/2025 3:33 PM, Maya Wilkins, 4829K] reports Bolaños was one of the speakers at Friday's "ICE out of NWI" protest at the Gary/Chicago International Airport, where about 50 people gathered to protest U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Authorities, who conduct removal flights from the Gary airport. ICE has been reported in Gary, East Chicago and Hammond multiple times this month, with the Southeast Side Rapid Response Team confirming multiple locations in East Chicago and Hammond on Monday, according to a social media post. ICE officials were not present at Friday's protest.

Chicago Tribune: [IL] Feds say man clipped ICE vehicle during attempted arrest in Gary: records
Chicago Tribune [10/24/2025 5:07 PM, Meredith Colias-Pete, 4829K] reports federal prosecutors allege that a man hit a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement vehicle in Gary while trying to evade an immigration arrest Oct. 13 after dropping his child at school. Charges were unsealed Thursday for Rosario Carrillo Lopez. He was charged in the U.S. District Court in Northern Indiana with forcibly assaulting, resisting, opposing, impeding or interfering with an officer or employee of the United States while engaged in or on account of performance of official duties. The lengthy charge accuses him of assaulting officers with a "deadly weapon" – his SUV. His lawyer Roxanne Mendez Johnson did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Documents state he could face up to 20 years in prison. Gary Police notified ICE

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on a previous date when he showed officers his Mexican Consulate identification card, U.S. Homeland Security Investigations Special Agent Steven Moran wrote. When U.S. Homeland Security agents ran his information, they discovered he was in the U.S. illegally and had been arrested in the past for a "narcotics offense." Formal charges could not be immediately found in Lake County. ICE agents staked out the listed Gary address on the ID and followed the SUV when Carrillo Lopez appeared to take the child to school. All had body armor labeled "Police." At least one also wore an "ICE badge patch.". They pulled him over on Clark Road, between 5th and 6th avenues, records show. One agent said he was from "Homeland Security." Carrillo Lopez asked in English the reason for the traffic stop. He declined to turn the vehicle off. At least two agents were on each side of the SUV. When one tried to reach into a half-open window to unlock the driver's door, Carrillo Lopez took off over a curb, leading them on a high-speed chase for two blocks before they cut him off near the Willows apartments entrance. There, Carrillo Lopez forcibly side-swiped one government vehicle to escape, filings show. He cracked and scraped the side passenger bumper while damaging the wheel well, documents state. Immigration agents called Gary Police to report the accident. The Post-Tribune previously reported ICE agents said a man hit their vehicle on the 300 block of Clark Road on Oct. 13. Gary Police Cmdr. Tom Pawlak said ICE agents had targeted the individual and attempted to stop his car about 9 a.m. When agents approached the vehicle, they asked the driver to step out of the car. Pawlak said the man put the car in gear and rammed one of the ICE vehicles, drove over the curb and fled. Pawlak said the incident took place about three blocks south of the Gary Lighthouse Charter High School, 725 Clark Road on the city's west side. Pawlak said Gary police were not involved in the attempted arrest but did take an accident report filed by ICE agents at the police station.

ABC News/Chicago Tribune: [IL] Chicago school board members call for virtual learning amid ICE raids

ABC News [10/24/2025 3:19 PM, Staff, 30493K] reports that some members of the Chicago Board of Education are calling for virtual learning options for students in the face of ongoing Immigration and Customs Enforcement raids in the city. The members spoke at a board meeting just hours after a 17-year-old Benito Juarez High School student was detained on his way to school during an anti-ICE protest in Little Village, according to a letter sent to parents, obtained by Chicago ABC station WLS. "We have received reports of federal law enforcement activity in a nearby neighborhood, and I am very sorry to share that a member of our school community was impacted," the letter from Chicago Public Schools reads. The student was later released without charges, according to WLS. The Department of Homeland Security did not immediately respond to ABC News' request for comment on the student's arrest.
The Chicago Tribune [10/24/2025 4:09 PM, Jake Sheridan, 4829K] reports Mayor Brandon Johnson urged Gov. JB Pritzker Friday to weigh allowing Chicago public school students to learn from home because ICE agents are arresting parents and students on their way to and from schools. Pritzker later took a dim view of the idea, saying kids belong in classrooms and pointing to ways schools and residents have already taken steps to protect students and their parents from federal immigration raids. Asked during a news conference if he is considering implementing remote learning at Chicago Public Schools, Johnson said "there are people who are afraid to go to school, are afraid to go to work" before shifting shot-calling responsibilities Pritzker.

FOX News: [MN] Convicted illegal immigrant child killer who murdered infant son arrested in Twin Cities ICE sweep

FOX News [10/24/2025 8:49 PM, Alexandra Koch Fox, 40621K] reports Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem announced a number of arrests made Friday by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in the Twin Cities area of Minnesota, including repeat child sex abusers, murderers, drunk drivers and violent assailants. One of the criminal illegal immigrants, Aldrin Guerrero-Munoz, has been incarcerated on the taxpayer's dime since 2004 with a 32-year prison sentence for the intentional murder of his 3-month-old son. While incarcerated, Guerrero-Munoz was convicted of assaulting a fellow inmate at Stillwater Prison, according to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). ICE lodged a detainer and received custody of him Monday. "Sanctuary politicians like [Minneapolis] Mayor Jacob Fray, who are refusing to work with ICE, are allowing criminals like Aldrin Guerrero-Munoz to live in our communities,

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unchecked," Noem wrote in a statement. "Under the leadership of President [Donald] Trump, ICE is no longer allowing the guise of moral superiority and political correctness to supersede the safety and security of Americans." Noem said 70% of ICE arrests are of illegal immigrants convicted or charged with a crime in the U.S. "This statistic doesn't even include foreign fugitives, illegal aliens convicted of crimes in other countries, gang members and suspected terrorists," she added. Other criminal illegal immigrants arrested in the area include: Francisco Javier Garcia-Olivar of Mexico has multiple convictions, including sexual assault and sodomy of a child, attempted sexual assault of a child and sexual assault, according to DHS. Jose Ruben Gomez Munoz of Mexico was convicted of sexual assault, according to DHS. He was also charged with incest with a minor. Humberto Us-Juarez of Guatemala was convicted of molestation of a minor and aggravated felony sex assault, according to DHS. Jose Israel Hernandez Rivas of El Salvador was convicted of human slavery or trafficking and commercial sex, according to DHS. Manuel Betancourt-Renteria of Mexico has 10 convictions, including two counts of assault, possession of methamphetamine, possession of marijuana, larceny and five traffic offenses, according to DHS. He was also charged with driving under the influence of drugs and possession of methamphetamine. Nicolas Lopez Juarez of Guatemala was convicted of aggravated assault with a weapon, three counts of driving under the influence and obstructing police, according to DHS. Juan Alejo-Alejo of Mexico was convicted of homicide by reckless driving and driving under the influence, according to DHS. He was also charged with driving under the influence in a separate incident. Officials confirmed Alejo-Alejo was previously deported before reentering the U.S. David Antonio Gonzalez Rivas of El Salvador was convicted of drug possession and fleeing a peace officer in a motor vehicle to avoid prosecution on two separate occasions, according to DHS. Rivas was arrested 14 additional times for crimes including felony assault, receiving stolen property and obstructing police, officials said. Pedro Cortez Soriano of Mexico was convicted of criminal vehicular homicide, driving under the influence, probation violation, illegal reentry and arrested for driving under the influence, according to DHS. He was previously deported twice with a final order of removal from 2004, officials said.

Daily Wire: [CA] ICE Continues To Round Up 'Depraved' Illegals In California Despite Dem Shutdown

Daily Wire [10/24/2025 1:16 PM, Leif Le Mahieu, 3184K] reports Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) arrested more illegal alien criminals on Thursday as the Democrat-led shutdown continued into its fourth week. In a "worst-of-the-worst" update provided to The Daily Wire, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) highlighted five illegals convicted of crimes ranging from sexual assault to robbery picked up by ICE. "Every day, and despite the Democrats' government shutdown, our ICE officers are arresting pedophiles, sexual assailants, murderers and violent criminals," said DHS Assistant Secretary Tricia McLaughlin. "It is unimaginable to think sanctuary politicians put these monsters and sickos over their own constituents." "American citizens deserve better. Under President Trump and Secretary Noem, we are making America safe again one depraved criminal illegal alien removal at a time," McLaughlin said.

San Francisco Chronicle: [CA] S.F. supervisor wants to create 'ICE-free' zones but details are unclear

San Francisco Chronicle [10/24/2025 4:32 PM, Laura Waxmann, 4722K] reports a San Francisco supervisor wants to create "ICE-free" zones on city-owned property as part of a larger legislative package that aims to provide a blueprint for how cities across the country can protect themselves from federal immigration enforcement. The proposal comes after San Francisco nearly became the target of a federal immigration surge. Border agents arrived at a Coast Guard facility near Alameda Wednesday but President Donald Trump on Thursday morning said he was calling off a "federal deployment" in the city, convinced by several tech moguls to give Mayor Daniel Lurie more time to deal with crime and drug dealing. But that doesn't mean the city is in the clear, Supervisor Bilal Mahmood, who is pushing the legislation, told the Chronicle. As part of Mahmood's "Safe Cities Blueprint" package — which he plans to introduce to the Board of Supervisors on Tuesday — the supervisor is exploring the feasibility of limiting the use or leasing of schools, parks, libraries, vacant lots and other city-owned properties to federal agencies, including ICE, as staging areas and operations bases, unless required by a court order. Mahmood's representatives said they are not aware of any city properties being leased to ICE currently.

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Other cities, including Chicago, Santa Clara and San Jose, have created or voted to create such zones already, according to Mahmood. The Department of Homeland Security has pushed back at plans by Santa Clara and San Jose to create "No ICE" zones, telling Newsweek that the agency "will not be deterred from enforcing immigration law."

Univision19: [CA] Immigrant mother arrested after reporting sexual harassment by ICE contractor
Univision19 [10/24/2025 4:50 PM, Staff, 5004K] reports an immigrant woman was arrested by immigration authorities after reporting alleged sexual harassment by an ICE contractor, KCRA3 reported. Silvia Reyna Mendoza fled Mexico as a teenager to escape domestic violence and has lived in the United States for 40 years. She also has eight children who are U.S. citizens. However, she is not. Reyna Mendoza has spent years navigating the immigration system in Sacramento, and based on her status, she had to be fitted with an ankle monitor, which is monitored by an ICE contractor called BI Incorporated, KCRA3 reported. Court documents say BI required Silvia to check in periodically with a specialist on her case, but in 2023, her fight for citizenship was derailed after she reported that the specialist handling her case, named Luis Ruiz, was sexually harassing her. Silvia reported Ruiz to another company specialist and to the supervisor, Montserrat Esquivel, in November 2024, however, court documents say that Esquivel deleted the messages and videos that Ruiz had sent to Silvia. The lawsuit alleges that BI Incorporated failed to follow up on Silvia's sexual harassment complaint, instead toughening its procedures and requiring Silvia to wear an ankle monitor in March 2025. She was finally detained by ICE in September 2025. Her children claim that her arrest was in revenge for the sexual harassment claim.

NPR: [CA] A U.S. citizen detained by ICE is pushing to hold agents accountable
NPR [10/24/2025 4:07 PM, Adrian Florido, Tyler Bartlam, and Patrick Jarenwattananon, 28013K]
Audio: HERE reports NPR's Adrian Florido speaks with George Retes, a U.S. citizen who was detained by federal immigration officers in July while attempting to enter his workplace. [Editorial note: consult audio at source link]

CBS News: [Venezuela] Nearly 8,000 Venezuelan nationals returned on ICE deportation flights since March
CBS News [10/24/2025 8:30 PM, Staff, 39474K] reports the Trump administration has conducted 40 removal flights to the Venezuelan capital of Caracas, deporting nearly 8,000 Venezuelan nationals since March, according to senior Department of Homeland Security officials who spoke to CBS News on the condition of anonymity. The flights began after Venezuela agreed in March to resume repatriation flights, and have continued amid heightened U.S.-Venezuelan tensions in recent weeks. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) deported approximately 140 individuals back to Venezuela in its latest removal flight on October 15. Last Wednesday's flight included at least seven individuals with criminal histories, including alleged members of the Tren de Aragua gang and sexual predators, according to DHS. Among those deported include Jefferson Bracho Haddad, an alleged Tren de Aragua gang member that a DHS spokesperson tells CBS News had six criminal arrests, including for larceny and drug possession. The agency spokesperson added that the flight also returned Angelo Dennis-Jesus Ainaga-Jaspe, convicted of multiple weapons offenses, plus Diego Alejandro Mavarez Arocha, convicted of sexual assault. DHS has repeatedly spotlighted removals of individuals with criminal histories as part of an ongoing effort by the Trump administration to deport undocumented migrants the government determines pose threats to public safety. "These individuals, including confirmed Tren de Aragua gang members, sexual predators, and violent offenders, should have never been in our country in the first place," said DHS Assistant Secretary Tricia McLaughlin in a statement provided to CBS News, adding that an estimated 2 million undocumented immigrants have left the U.S. since January. McLaughlin did not specify how many of those individuals were believed to have departed the U.S. voluntarily, versus those who have been deported. The vast majority would have needed to leave without making contact with DHS to reach that total. According to internal government figures previously obtained by CBS News, over the first six months of President Trump's second term, the administration deported nearly 150,000 people and recorded 13,000 who self-deported. According to senior DHS officials, the deportations to Venezuela have occurred alongside the intensified U.S. campaign against drug trafficking and transnational crime in South

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America. The Trump administration has carried out at least 10 known strikes on suspected narcotics vessels over the past two months, including two this week off Colombia's Pacific coast. The most recent strike, conducted overnight, targeted a vessel allegedly operated by Venezuela's Tren de Aragua gang in the Caribbean Sea.

Citizenship and Immigration Services

Bloomberg: Will Foreign MBAs Win or Lose With Trump's H-1B Reforms? Maybe Both
Bloomberg [10/24/2025 1:34 PM, Robb Mandelbaum, 18207K] reports the first academic quarter at Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management had only just begun, but Luca, a first-year MBA student, was already deep into his studies on business strategy, corporate finance and more. Then, at the end of the term's first week, he had to dive into a very different subject. "I've become an expert in immigration law," he says. Luca is a Mexican citizen, and, like most international students in US MBA programs, he'd like to stay on after graduation and work here, most likely for a real estate investment company in Chicago. All that may now be in jeopardy. ("Luca" is a pseudonym; he requested that Bloomberg Businessweek use it to avoid drawing the government's attention—especially given the immigrant enforcement campaign now underway in Chicago.) On Sept. 19, President Donald Trump signed a proclamation to rein in the H-1B program, which allows nonimmigrant foreigners to work in the US. H-1B status ostensibly lasts for three years, although it can be, and often is, extended. Anti-immigration organizations and liberal economic groups alike have long attacked H-1B visas as a tool for replacing US employees with lower-paid foreign ones. New private-sector H-1B jobs are capped at 85,000 annually, but the program is so popular the government holds a lottery to dole out approvals. And the Department of Homeland Security estimates that, on average in each of the last five years, 83% of the petitions for new employment filed by companies were for jobs that the employer initially identified as paying below the median wage; 28% were deemed entry-level.

Los Angeles Times: [CA] Asylum seekers face deportation over failure to pay new fees — before being notified
Los Angeles Times [10/24/2025 6:00 AM, Andrea Castillo, 14862K] reports late last month, an immigrant seeking asylum in the U.S. came across social media posts urging her to pay a new fee imposed by the Trump administration before Oct. 1, or else risk her case being dismissed. Paula, a 40-year-old Los Angeles-area immigrant from Mexico, whose full name The Times is withholding because she fears retribution, applied for asylum in 2021 and her case is now on appeal. But when Paula tried to pay the $100 annual fee, she couldn't find an option on the immigration court's website that accepted fees for pending asylum cases. Afraid of deportation — and with just five hours before the payment deadline — she selected the closest approximation she could find, $110 for an appeal filed before July 7. She knew it was likely incorrect. Still, she felt it was better to pay for something, rather than nothing at all, as a show of good faith. Unable to come up with the money on such short notice, Paula, who works in a warehouse repairing purses, paid the fee with a credit card. "I hope that money isn't wasted," she said. That remains unclear because of confusion and misinformation surrounding the rollout of a host of new fees or fee increases for a variety of immigration services. The fees are part of the sweeping budget bill President Trump signed into law in July. Paula was one of thousands of asylum seekers across the country who panicked after seeing messages on social media urging them to pay the new fee before the start of the new fiscal year on Oct. 1.

Customs and Border Protection

Reuters: US expands facial recognition at borders to track non-citizens
Reuters [10/24/2025 11:26 AM, Ted Hesson, 36480K] reports the U.S. will expand the use of facial recognition technology to track non-citizens entering and leaving the country in order to combat visa overstays and passport fraud, according to a government document published on Friday. A new regulation will allow U.S. border authorities to require non-citizens to be photographed at airports,

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seaports, land crossings and any other point of departure, expanding on an earlier pilot program. Under the regulation, set to take effect on December 26, U.S. authorities could require the submission of other biometrics, such as fingerprints or DNA, it said. It also allows border authorities to use facial recognition for children under age 14 and elderly people over age 79, groups that are currently exempted. The tighter border rules reflect a broader effort by U.S. President Donald Trump to crack down on illegal immigration. While the Republican president has surged resources to secure the U.S.-Mexico border, he has also taken steps to reduce the number of people overstaying their visas. The growing use of facial recognition in U.S. airports has raised privacy concerns from watchdog groups worried about overreach and mistakes. A 2024 reportby the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights said tests had shown facial recognition was more likely to misidentify Black people and other minority groups. The Congressional Research Service estimated in 2023 that some 42% of the 11 million immigrants in the U.S. illegally at the time had overstayed a visa. The U.S. Congress in 1996 passed a law mandating the creation of an automated entry-exit system, but it has never been fully implemented. U.S. Customs and Border Protection already uses facial recognition for all commercial air entries but only employs it to record exits at certain locations, the regulation said. CBP estimates that a biometric entry-exit system can be fully implemented at all commercial airports and seaports for both entry and exit within the next three to five years.

Reported similarly:
NewsNation [10/24/2025 12:03 PM, Ted Hesson, 8017K]

Bloomberg: US to Photograph All Non-Citizens Entering, Exiting Country
Bloomberg [10/24/2025 1:15 PM, Andrew Kreighbaum, 18207K] reports the Department of Homeland Security will require all immigrants and non-citizens to be photographed when entering and leaving the US under new regulations released Friday. Photographs and fingerprints were already required for certain immigrants and foreign visitors at designated locations. The regulation from US Customs and Border Protection allows for a comprehensive data collection system for non-citizens regardless of where they enter or leave the country. The rule comes amid broader efforts by the Trump administration to expand collection of data on immigrants and foreign nationals in the US. That's included a new immigrant registry rule as well as use of taxpayer data for enforcement purposes. Comprehensive data gathering for entry and exit of non-citizens will help address national security concerns, fraudulent use of travel documentation, and visa overstays, DHS said. CBP has collected biometric data from certain non-citizens upon arrival in the US since 2004, but the rule marks a significant expansion of that data collection. New advances in facial comparison technology allow the agency to roll out broader inspections for entry and departure, CBP said. Those tools will use passenger information along with photographs provided in passports or visa applications to verify a traveler's identity. The agency has already fully adopted that facial recognition system for commercial air travel upon entry through a program known as "Simplified Arrival." It estimates that it can fully adopt entry and exit screening at airports and sea ports in three to five years. The regulation follows through on efforts to expand photo and data collection from the Trump administration. Most public comments submitted in response to a 2021 proposed rule opposed the plan, with many groups citing privacy concerns, including the American Civil Liberties Union. The final rule released by DHS doesn't make substantive changes to that proposal.

Washington Examiner: Tariffs, smuggling, and the US-Mexico border wall puts a lot on Customs and Border Protection's plate
Washington Examiner [10/24/2025 5:30 AM, Jeremy Lott, 1394K] reports Customs and Border Protection is the government agency charged with overseeing all ports of entry in the United States. On a typical day, the last full fiscal year available (2024), CBP processed: 3.8 million de minimis (e.g., low dollar) shipments, 1,150,387 passengers and pedestrians, 88,582 truck, rail, and sea containers, 270,800 incoming privately owned vehicles, $9.2 billion worth of imported products, 105,103 entries of merchandise, $241 million in duties, taxes, and other fees, Underlying those numbers are countless stories. When the CBP held a media availability at Blaine, Washington's commercial truck crossing in June, it was hard to know exactly what to expect. A taxidermied bald eagle certainly was not on the list. The eagle had been hunted and killed in one province of Canada, legally, agents said, and duly declared

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at the border as the owner tried to import it into America. There was no violation of law involved, and thus no fines or other penalties were assessed. However, it is next to impossible for a private individual to import a bald eagle into the country, due to the Endangered Species Act and other legislation. The owner had been given the option of sending it back, but had elected to abandon it at the border instead. Thus, the dead, preserved adult eagle, mounted on a wild wooden base, was brought out to pose for the cameras and flashbulbs. The official moral of the story was that people who want to bring something over the border that is legally questionable should call first, to save themselves a great deal of hassle if it is not allowed in the country. Agents for both CBP and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service — though not the Border Patrol — also had many other stories about animals coming through the border, legally and illegally.

ABC News: [IL] Judge orders CBP official leading immigration crackdown to appear in Chicago court next week

ABC News [10/24/2025 7:33 PM, James Hill, 30493K] reports a judge has ordered Greg Bovino, a top U.S. Customs and Border Protection official, to appear in court next week for proceedings in a lawsuit against the federal government over immigration enforcement tactics in Chicago. Bovino, who is commanding CBP field operations in the city for "Operation Midway Blitz," has been ordered to appear in person for a status hearing on Tuesday in federal court in Chicago, according to a court filing on Friday. The plaintiffs in the lawsuit -- journalists and demonstrators -- have alleged violations of a temporary restraining order issued by Ellis earlier this month that restricts ICE and CBP agents from using non-lethal munitions without warning and justification. On Thursday, the plaintiffs submitted a notice of alleged violation that included a video that they contend shows Bovino tossing a canister of tear gas "without justification" toward a crowd of protesters this week in Chicago's Little Village neighborhood. Homeland Security Assistant Secretary Tricia McLaughlin said Bovino deployed "riot control measures" after "rioters" threw rocks and other objects at agents while Border Patrol agents were conducting immigration enforcement operations. Bovino was struck in the head but was not seriously injured, DHS said. "Border Patrol agents repeated multiple warnings to back up and that chemical agents would be deployed if warnings were ignored," McLaughlin said in a statement on Friday. "Riot control measures were deployed, including by Chief Bovino, and arrests were made. Agents properly used their training. The use of chemical munitions was conducted in full accordance with CBP policy and was necessary to ensure the safety of both law enforcement and the public." U.S. District Judge Sara Ellis had previously issued an order allowing the plaintiffs to depose Bovino for two hours; on Thursday, she expanded the time allotted for the deposition to five hours.

Los Angeles Times: [CA] Ex-LAPD officer indicted for murder in on-duty killing of homeless man

Los Angeles Times [10/24/2025 12:40 PM, James Queally, 14862K] reports Los Angeles County prosecutors unsealed an indictment Friday against a former LAPD officer responsible for the 2015 on-duty shooting of an unarmed man in Venice. The ex-cop, Clifford Proctor, pleaded not guilty to the charges during a brief hearing in a downtown courtroom. Wearing an orange jumpsuit, Proctor, 60, leaned over several times to whisper to his attorney but otherwise said little during the hearing, a portion of which was held behind closed doors. He waived a reading of the indictment. He will remain in custody with no bail, and is expected to return to court for a hearing early next month. Proctor's lawyer, Anthony "Tony" Garcia, said he would reserve comment until he'd had a chance to review the case. But he questioned the timing of the charges, which came more than a decade after the incident in question. The L.A. County District Attorney's office reviewed the case when it was fresh and "determined there was nothing to proceed," Garcia said. Proctor was arrested at Los Angeles International Airport last week when U.S. Customs and Border Protection agents noticed he had an active warrant. Proctor has been living abroad for several years, according to sources who were not authorized to speak publicly about the pending case.

Federal Emergency Management Agency

AP: Tropical Storm Melissa poised to become a hurricane and drop torrential rain on Caribbean

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AP [10/25/2025 12:07 AM, Staff, 13945K] reports Tropical Storm Melissa was expected to strengthen into a hurricane on Saturday as forecasters warned of massive rainfall and life-threatening flooding and landslides in the northern Caribbean, with an astounding 35 inches (89 centimeters) of rain anticipated in southwest Haiti. The erratic and slow-moving storm has killed at least three people in Haiti and a fourth person in the Dominican Republic, where another person remains missing. Up to 25 inches (64 centimeters) of rain was forecast for Jamaica and the southern regions of Haiti and the Dominican Republic through Monday, with up to 35 inches (89 centimeters) of rain possible across Haiti's Tiburon Peninsula, according to the U.S. National Hurricane Center. "If those rains were to occur, you're talking about catastrophic flooding potential," said Jamie Rhome, the center's deputy director. Melissa was located about 180 miles (290 kilometers) southeast of Kingston, Jamaica, and about 245 miles (390 kilometers) southwest of Port-au-Prince, Haiti. It had maximum sustained winds of 65 mph (100 kph) and was moving northwest at 3 mph (6 kph), according to the U.S. National Hurricane Center. A hurricane watch and tropical storm warning was in effect for Jamaica and the southwestern peninsula of Haiti. The center of Melissa is expected to move near or over Jamaica early next week, forecasters said. Melissa was expected to become a major hurricane by Sunday and possibly reach Category 4 status by early Monday, U.S. forecasters said. The storm is then forecast to hit eastern Cuba early Wednesday, where up to 12 inches (30 centimeters) could fall in some areas. The Bahamas Department of Meteorology said Melissa could bring tropical storm or hurricane conditions to islands in the Southeast and Central Bahamas and the Turks and Caicos Islands by early next week. Authorities in Jamaica warned that all airports would close within 24 hours if a hurricane warning is issued. More than 650 shelters were activated. Officials said warehouses across the island were well-stocked and thousands of food packages prepositioned for quick distribution if needed. "I urge Jamaicans to take this weather threat seriously," said Jamaican Prime Minister Andrew Holness. "Take all measures to protect yourself." The storm has damaged nearly 200 homes in the Dominican Republic and knocked out water supply systems, affecting more than half a million customers. It also downed trees and traffic lights, unleashed a couple of small landslides and left more than two dozen communities isolated by floodwaters. Melissa is the 13th named storm of the Atlantic hurricane season, which runs from June 1 to Nov. 30. The U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration had predicted an above-normal season with 13 to 18 named storms.

CNN: Tropical Storm Melissa expected to explode into a Category 4 hurricane and could bring catastrophic impact to Jamaica

CNN [10/25/2025 6:50 AM, Chris Dolce, 18595K] reports Tropical Storm Melissa is forecast to rapidly intensify into a major hurricane this weekend as it lashes Jamaica and parts of the northern Caribbean, bringing days of life-threatening, potentially catastrophic impact. Jamaica looks to be the epicenter for the worst of Melissa's triple threat of extreme rainfall flooding, wind damage and storm surge. Melissa could make landfall on Jamaica late Monday or early Tuesday. Haiti also continues to be in thick of Melissa's destructive flood and landslide threats. A hurricane warning is effect for Jamaica, where strong winds are expected to begin tonight. Southern Haiti is under a hurricane watch. Melissa has been moving at a snail's pace for days and it won't pick up speed anytime soon as it tracks generally westward through Sunday night. The storm is centered 165 miles southeast of Kingston, Jamaica, and is packing winds up to 70 mph as of Saturday morning. That slow movement has already caused problems. Torrential rain bands have swamped Haiti and the Dominican Republic for much of the week, causing flooding and triggering landslides. At least three deaths have been reported in Haiti due to the storm, two of which were the result of a landslide, the Haitian Civil Protection Agency said in a statement. In the Dominican Republic, at least one person has died and more than 1,000 people have evacuated or been displaced, officials said Friday.

NPR: [AK] Alaskan village destroyed by flooding tries to rebuild as winter looms

NPR [10/24/2025 4:25 PM, Eric Stone, 28013K] Audio: HERE reports over a week after ex-typhoon Halong swept through western Alaska, people in the affected villages are taking stock. In Kipnuk, state officials estimate that over 90% of structures have been destroyed. [Editorial note: consult audio at source link]

Coast Guard

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AP: [MA] Woman who escaped from boat fire off Cape Cod with her husband and son dies at a hospital

AP [10/24/2025 5:54 PM, Michael Casey, 31753K] reports asleep on their boat anchored off Cape Cod, the Sullivan family was awaken to their dogs barking, the sound of fireworks and smoke. Their boat was on fire. Tyler Sullivan and his parents jumped from the boat Monday night and, in the darkness, began swimming to a privately-owned island. Tyler and his father, Patrick Sullivan, survived, but Cynthia "Cici" Sullivan was badly injured during the ordeal and died Thursday at a hospital, a spokesperson for the Cape & Islands district attorney's office said. She was 73. Patrick Sullivan, who was also injured in the fire, is awake and breathing without help, his family posted on Facebook. By Tuesday night, relatives began to worry when the family hadn't returned and the Coast Guard joined local authorities in a search. Other boaters were alerted to the search efforts Tuesday night, according to audio provided by Broadcastify. A Coast Guard helicopter rescued the family and flew them to a hospital. Authorities say the matter remains under investigation.

CISA/Cybersecurity

FOX News: Hackers steal medical records and financial data from 1.2M patients in massive healthcare breach

FOX News [10/24/2025 1:00 PM, Kurt Knutsson, 40621K] reports that more than 1 million patients have been affected by a data breach involving SimonMed Imaging, one of the country's largest outpatient radiology and medical imaging providers. The breach came to light after a cyberattack compromised sensitive patient data, with reports indicating that ransomware operators may have been behind the incident. What makes this case particularly concerning is the scale of the attack and the type of information stolen, which could easily be misused for financial or identity fraud. In January 2025, SimonMed Imaging was alerted by one of its vendors about a potential security incident. The following day, the company noticed suspicious activity on its own network. The company says in response, it reset passwords, enforced two-factor authentication and tightened endpoint security while cutting off third-party vendor access. Unfortunately, the attackers had already gained access. Between Jan. 21 and Feb. 5, 2025, cybercriminals exfiltrated sensitive data belonging to around 1.2 million individuals. The Medusa ransomware group later claimed responsibility, alleging they had stolen more than 200 GB of data, including patient IDs, financial records and medical scans. The attackers reportedly demanded 1 million dollars to delete the stolen files, or 10,000 dollars per day to delay publishing. SimonMed was later removed from the Medusa leak site, which could suggest a ransom payment, although the company has not confirmed this. In the aftermath, SimonMed brought in cybersecurity experts to investigate and has offered complimentary credit monitoring services to affected individuals.

CyberScoop: National cyber director says U.S. needs to counter Chinese surveillance, push American tech

CyberScoop [10/24/2025 12:30 PM, Tim Starks] reports the United States needs to counter China's "attempt to export a surveillance state across planet Earth," and instead push a "clean American tech stack" globally, National Cyber Director Sean Cairncross said Friday. "It's important that we send that message and engage with not only partners that we have now, but potential partners who are looking for assistance and open to help in that regard," Cairncross said in remarks at the 2025 Meridian Summit in Washington, D.C. The Chinese threat promises to be a big focus for Cairncross, a message he's been sending in his short tenure thus far. "To date, I don't think the United States has done a terrific job of sending the signal, in particular to China, that their behavior in this space is unacceptable," he said. "It's meant to do us harm. It sits on our critical infrastructure systems and threatens chaos. "It tries to put us in strategic dilemmas that impact our decisionmaking," Cairncross continued about Beijing. "And that is something that is scaling. It is something that is seen as cost-free, I think, across the ocean, and that is something that needs to be reset so that there is strategic stability in this domain."

CyberScoop: Shifting from reactive to proactive: Cyber resilience amid nation-state espionage

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CyberScoop [10/24/2025 7:30 AM, Nick Carroll] reports in recent years, the cybersecurity industry has made significant strides in securing endpoints with advanced Endpoint Detection and Response (EDR) solutions, and we have been successful in making life more difficult for our adversaries. While this progress is a victory, it has also produced a predictable and dangerous consequence where threat actors are shifting their focus to the network perimeter, a domain often plagued by technical debt and forgotten hardware. The recent cyber espionage campaign by the China-linked group Salt Typhoon demonstrates this shift. It is the latest in a series of attacks that highlight a dangerous and common thread connecting them to other major adversaries, including Russia's Static Tundra and various ransomware groups. These groups are all exploiting the ghosts in our networks. Old, unpatched, and forgotten routers, VPNs, and firewalls that make up our network perimeter are making very attractive targets.

Terrorism Investigations

New York Times: [Mexico] After the Cartel Comes, They Pick Up the Piecesf
New York Times [10/24/2025 11:26 AM, Paulina Villegas and Adriana Zehbrauskas, 135475K] reports by the time Ramón Soto reached the crime scene, the wounded man was twitching, bloody and barely alive. A woman nearby collapsed to her knees, wailing, and a poster lay on the ground with a drug cartel's warning: "You know who is next." Mr. Soto, though, showed no trace of emotion as the man went still. "He is dead," he said. "He is dead." Then he asked the sobbing woman if she was family and needed funeral services. For a quiet fraternity of funeral workers in Mexico's Sinaloa State, each day begins and ends with death. But what was once a dignified profession, they say, guiding the bereaved through the disorienting maze that follows a death, now puts them at the center of the carnage engulfing their state. Warring factions of the Sinaloa Cartel, one of the world's most powerful criminal groups, are vying for control of its multibillion-dollar empire. The Mexican government, under intense pressure from the Trump administration, has begun an aggressive crackdown on the cartel, too. The battle has sown chaos in the state, leaving more than 1,900 dead and 2,000 missing over the last year, according to official data. For the barely 30 funeral home workers of the state capital, Culiacán, the business of ferrying the dead, whether cartel gunmen or innocent people caught in between, has never been busier or harder to bear. "I live alongside death, day in and day out," said Josué Nahum García, an employee at the San Martin Funeral Home. "Not only do I see it every day, but I feel it too — in the pain and tears of the families who have lost their loved ones."

National Security News

Federalist: Trump Should Stop Sharing Intel With The U.K. Until It Punishes Chinese Espionage
Federalist [10/24/2025 7:21 AM, Helen Raleigh, 785K] reports the recent collapse of the prosecution in a major China spy case has unfolded as one of the most significant scandals for the U.K.'s Labour government since it assumed power last year. At the center of this case are Christopher Berry and Christopher Cash, British citizens who both have connections to China. Witness statements from Matthew Collins, the U.K.'s deputy national security adviser, reveal that Berry was recruited by China's spy agency, the Ministry of State Security (MSS), to gather intelligence on the U.K. parliament while he was teaching in China. At the time, Cash, Berry's friend, was a researcher at the China Research Group (CRG), a think tank co-founded by conservative members of parliament (MPs) Tom Tugendhat and Neil O'Brien. With CRG members primarily holding hawkish views on China and its Communist Party (CCP), it is no surprise that Beijing has sanctioned the CRG and several conservative MPs since 2021. Collins reveals that Berry's Chinese handler, code-named "Alex," is associated with the MSS. Their operation went like this: Alex directed Berry to enlist his friend Cash at the CRG as a subsource to extract vital intelligence about the British parliament's inner workings and spy on MPs' activities. The goal was to sway the U.K. government's policies on China. Cash reportedly provided sensitive details, including the names and photos of Taiwanese defense ministry officials who visited the U.K. in 2022 to discuss defense strategies against potential Chinese aggression. During the Conservative Party's leadership election in 2022, a senior CCP official instructed Alex, via Cash and Berry, to gather intelligence on Conservative MPs one

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by one. The goal of the CCP's overseas influence operation was to allocate resources to prevent known China hawks from securing key government positions that could shape Britain's China policy. Collins stated that this incident highlights how China's espionage operations threaten the integrity of the U.K.'s democratic institutions. The most notable aspect of this espionage case is the swift transfer of intelligence from Westminster to Beijing, along with its significant reach inside the CCP. As Collins pointed out, "on one occasion, only thirteen hours passed between Mr. Berry receiving a task, consulting with Mr. Cash, and then reporting back to 'Alex.'" This level of efficiency is concerning, particularly because some of the intelligence reached a senior CCP leader who is a confidante of General Secretary Xi Jinping, enabling the CCP's "real-time" decision-making.

The Hill: [Canada] Trump: Canada 'trying to illegally influence' Supreme Court on tariffs
The Hill [10/24/2025 8:35 AM, Ryan Mancini, 12595K] reports President Trump defended his decision to call off trade negotiations with Canada on Friday, accusing the U.S.'s northern neighbor of attempting to "illegally influence" a pending Supreme Court case over tariffs. "CANADA CHEATED AND GOT CAUGHT!!!" Trump posted to Truth Social. "They fraudulently took a big buy ad saying that Ronald Reagan did not like Tariffs, when actually he LOVED TARIFFS FOR OUR COUNTRY, AND ITS NATIONAL SECURITY." "Canada is trying to illegally influence the United States Supreme Court in one of the most important rulings in the history of our Country," Trump wrote. In a second post, the president suggested the U.S. is "WEALTHY, POWERFUL, AND NATIONALLY SECURE AGAIN" because of his tariffs, and called the looming case, "THE MOST IMPORTANT CASE EVER." In a third post, Trump argued that the stock market was now "STRONGER THAN EVER BEFORE BECAUSE OF TARIFFS!". The latest clash between Trump and Canada began with an ad campaign launched earlier this month by Ontario Premier Doug Ford. The advertisement shows former President Reagan delivering an address in 1987 about the tariffs on Japanese imports and warning against the risks of long-term trade disputes. "High tariffs inevitably lead to retaliation by foreign countries and the triggering of fierce trade wars. Then the worst happens," Reagan said in the ad. "Markets shrink and collapse, businesses and industries shut down, and millions of people lose their jobs." In response, Trump said Thursday: "ALL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS WITH CANADA ARE HEREBY TERMINATED."

FOX News: [Lithuania] NATO fighter jets scrambled after Russian planes allegedly violate airspace
FOX News [10/24/2025 7:32 AM, Rachel Wolf, 40621K] Video: HERE reports two Spanish fighter jets were scrambled while on NATO air policing missions after Russian aircraft violated Lithuanian airspace. The Lithuanian armed forces said that at approximately 6:00 p.m. local time on Thursday, two Russian aircraft — an SU-30 and an IL-78 — flew about 765 yards into Lithuanian airspace, The Associated Press reported. The aircraft allegedly flew away after approximately 18 seconds. "This evening, Russian military planes violated Lithuanian airspace. This is a blatant breach of international law and territorial integrity of Lithuania. Once again, it confirms the importance of strengthening European air defense readiness," Lithuanian President Gitanas Nausėda posted on X. Nausėda announced that the Lithuanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs would summon representatives from the Russian embassy in Vilnius "to protest against reckless and dangerous behavior." The ministry later confirmed on X that the Russian charge d'affaires was summoned in protest of the airspace violation. "Russia must cease its aggressive behavior, respect international law and the borders of neighboring states," the ministry said in a post on X. Russia's defense ministry denied Lithuania's claim, saying that SU-30 fighter jets were conducting training flights over the Kaliningrad region in strict compliance with the rules, the AP reported. "The aircraft did not deviate from their flight route or violate the borders of other states, as confirmed by objective monitoring means," the ministry said, according to the AP.
[Editorial note: consult video at source link]

Reuters: [China] Trump seeks trade deal with Xi during Asia trip
Reuters [10/24/2025 6:00 AM, Trevor Hunnicutt, 36480K] reports U.S. President Donald Trump will test his deal-making prowess in a region battered by his hardball trade policies on a trip to Asia next week, as doubts hang over his highly anticipated meeting with China's Xi Jinping. Trump, who leaves Washington on Friday night, is set for a five-day trip spanning Malaysia, Japan and South Korea, his first to the region

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and his longest journey abroad since taking office in January. The Republican leader hopes to pile up trade, business and ceasefire deals before turning to the toughest challenge, a face-to-face with Xi on Thursday in South Korea. The trip comes as Trump works to maintain the signature foreign policy achievement of his second term, a fragile ceasefire he helped strike in the Israel-Gaza conflict, while the Russian war in Ukraine rages and a trade war with China shows little sign of abating. Washington and Beijing have hiked tariffs on each other's exports and threatened to cut off critical minerals and technologies altogether, putting markets on edge. The trip was formally announced by the White House on Thursday and details remain in flux, including the meeting between leaders of the world's two largest economies. Neither side expects a breakthrough that would restore terms of trade that existed before Trump's second-term inauguration in January, according to a person familiar with the conversations. Instead, talks between the two sides to prepare for the meeting focused on managing disagreements and modest improvements.

{End of Report} RETURN TO TOP

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DHS MORNING BRIEFING

Prepared for the Office of Public Affairs (OPA)
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

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Editorial Note: The DHS Daily Briefing is a collection of news articles related to Department's mission. The inclusion of particular stories is not intended to reflect their importance, nor is it intended to endorse the political viewpoints or affiliations included in news coverage.

TO: Homeland Security Secretary & Staff

DATE: Saturday, October 25, 2025 8:00 AM ET

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Reuters/SFGate/New York Times/Axios: Immigration surge called off for entire San Francisco Bay Area, officials say

Reuters [10/24/2025 6:04 PM, Nathan Frandino, 36480K] reports that a planned immigration enforcement push by U.S. Border Patrol has been called off throughout the San Francisco Bay Area, including Oakland, local officials said on Friday, a day after U.S. President Donald Trump said he would not go forward with a deployment of additional federal officers to San Francisco. As part of Trump's crackdown on illegal immigration, he has increased federal immigration officers in several U.S. cities and dispatched National Guard to Los Angeles and Washington, D.C. He had planned to send agents into San Francisco but agreed to hold off after speaking with Mayor Daniel Lurie and tech leaders, who said the city was making progress. It was unclear at first whether other Bay Area cities like Oakland would still be affected. Oakland Mayor Barbara Lee said on Thursday the city was preparing for peaceful protests in response. On Friday, Alameda County Sheriff's department spokesman Roberto Morales said Sheriff Yesenia Sanchez was informed by federal authorities that the enforcement plan was canceled for the entire Bay Area. Lee said she had been told the same thing by Sanchez. The SFGate [10/24/2025 9:53 AM, Staff, 13945K] reports Lee made the announcement one day after federal agents arrived on Coast Guard Island in the Oakland Estuary, a move widely seen as the first step in a "surge" of enforcement sweeps involving immigration agents and the National Guard. "I spoke with Alameda County Sheriff Yesenia Sanchez, who confirmed through her communications with ICE that Border Patrol operations are cancelled for the greater Bay Area -- which includes Oakland -- at this time," Lee said. President Donald Trump said Thursday he was canceling plans for such activity in San Francisco after hearing from a handful of Silicon Valley billionaires and speaking with Mayor Daniel Lurie. Still, it remained unclear until Lee made her announcement Friday if those plans were also canceled for other cities in the region. The New York Times [10/24/2025 3:50 PM, Hamed Aleaziz and Soumya Karlamangla, 135475K] reports the Department of Homeland Security officials also called off plans to bring staff members from Los Angeles to the Bay Area to help with the operation, one of the federal officials said. Mayor Barbara Lee of Oakland confirmed later on Friday that federal agents had canceled their operation in Oakland and the rest of the Bay Area. She said that she was told that by Yesenia Sanchez, the Alameda County sheriff, who was in communication with federal officials. Axios [10/24/2025 5:07 PM, Shawna Chen, 12972K] reports that concerns remained that the agents — who clashed with protesters after arriving in Alameda early Thursday morning — would conduct enforcement activities in other parts of the Bay Area, community leaders told Axios. The FBI is investigating a shooting that took place near the entrance of Coast Guard Island in Alameda Thursday night, she added. Tensions flared Thursday as federal agents reached the Coast Guard Island in Alameda ahead of an anticipated immigration crackdown in the Bay Area. Protesters attempted to block U.S. Border Patrol agents from entering the base. The

confrontation grew heated as agents used apparent flash-bang grenades and pepper rounds to disperse the crowd. A San Mateo pastor was wounded after an apparent pepper round from a U.S. Customs and Border Protection agent hit him in the face, the San Francisco Chronicle reports. The shooting occurred later in the evening when a truck driver tried to back into the base, leading law enforcement officers to open fire, per footage obtained by CBS News Bay Area. The driver and a bystander were both injured. San Francisco Supervisor Bilal Mahmood is working on legislation to create "ICE-free" zones on city-owned property, following in the footsteps of Santa Clara County and San José.

Reported similarly:
Los Angeles Times [10/24/2025 5:16 PM, Kevin Rector, 14862K]
San Francisco Chronicle [10/24/2025 4:17 PM, Dominic Fracassa, Kate Talerico, 4722K]

Wall Street Journal: Inside the Tech CEO Campaign to Stop Trump From Sending Troops to San Francisco

Wall Street Journal [10/24/2025 8:52 PM, Keach Hagey, Sebastian Herrera, and Robbie Whelan, 646K] reports President Trump was ready to send troops into San Francisco. The city's business leaders needed a way to talk him out of it. A frenzy of phone calls and text messages between Trump and members of his administration, Mayor Daniel Lurie and chief executive officers of major Bay Area technology companies culminated in Trump's announcement on Thursday that he had decided not to do a law-enforcement "surge" in San Francisco using federal forces. Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang and Salesforce Chief Executive Marc Benioff were among those who played a role in the discussions, as was OpenAI CEO Sam Altman, whose involvement hasn't been previously reported. The executives helped broker a 25-minute phone call Wednesday night between Lurie and Trump and coordinated with him on a message that would prove persuasive: that a deployment of federal troops could cause civic unrest to a degree that would hurt the local economy and have ripple effects on the national economy, given the city's centrality to the artificial-intelligence boom. Trump had occasionally mused in public about ordering the National Guard to San Francisco for quasipolice operations, as he has done in Los Angeles, Washington, D.C., Chicago and Memphis, Tenn. But the idea quickly came into focus after Benioff, in an Oct. 10 article in the New York Times, said he thought the National Guard was needed to combat crime in the city. Benioff apologized for his comments a week later and told Trump on an Oct. 19 phone call that he had changed his mind after his company's annual Dreamforce conference concluded with no major safety incidents, according to people familiar with the contents of the call. But in a Fox News appearance that day, Trump said, "We're going to go to San Francisco." Three days later, the Department of Homeland Security sent a force of Customs and Border Protection agents to a Coast Guard base on San Francisco Bay. In the days in between, Lurie's office fielded a barrage of calls from local business and political leaders anxious to avoid a confrontation that could cause mass protests and bring work and commerce to a standstill.

AP: Shots fired, driver hurt and held after truck rams into Coast Guard base in California

AP [10/24/2025 9:15 PM, Kathy McCormack, 31753K] reports a truck driver who backed into a U.S. Coast Guard base in the San Francisco Bay Area — the site of earlier protests against federal immigration agents — was shot by law enforcement officers and wounded, authorities said Friday. The driver was held for a mental health evaluation after "attempting to weaponize the vehicle to ram into Coast Guard Base Alameda " on Thursday night, the

U.S. Department of Homeland Security posted on X. The FBI later said the driver was in custody. A bystander was struck by a “fragment,” treated at a hospital and released, the Department of Homeland Security statement said. It did not elaborate. No Coast Guard personnel were hurt, it said. Officers issued “multiple verbal commands” to stop, but the driver failed to comply, “suddenly accelerating backwards at a high rate of speed directly toward them,” the statement said. “When the vehicle’s actions posed a direct threat to the safety of Coast Guard and security personnel, law enforcement officers discharged several rounds of defensive live fire,” it said. The driver was wounded in the stomach and was expected to survive, the statement said. The FBI was investigating. It sent evidence, crisis management and bomb technician teams to the scene. “At this time, the incident appears to be isolated, and there is no known current threat to the public,” FBI spokesperson Cameron Polan in San Francisco said in a statement. No other details were immediately released. Video from the scene showed what appeared to be a U-Haul truck trying to back into the base. “U-Haul is assisting law enforcement to meet any investigative needs they have,” company spokesperson Jeff Lockridge said in a statement. Coast Guard Island is a 67-acre (27-hectare) human-made island formed in 1913 in the Oakland Estuary between Oakland and Alameda. It is federally owned, does not allow visits from the general public without an escort or specific government identification, and it has been home to the current base, Base Alameda, since 2012, according to a Coast Guard document from 2016. Base Alameda provides a variety of services for Coast Guard activities throughout the West Coast. Earlier Thursday, protesters had assembled at the island, with many singing hymns and carrying signs saying, “Protect our neighbors” and “No ICE or troops in the Bay,” a reference to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the National Guard. The Washington Examiner [10/24/2025 10:48 PM, Brady Knox, 1394K] reports that two civilians were injured and are expected to survive. The truck driver was wounded in the stomach and is being held for mental health evaluation. A bystander was struck by a fragment, treated at a local hospital, and released," the statement said. The DHS X account attached a video of the incident, showing the vehicle backing up at high speed toward a line of officers who riddled it with fire, causing the driver to stop and speed off in the opposite direction. The FBI is leading the investigation into the incident, sending evidence, crisis management, and bomb technician teams to the site of the crime. "At this time, the incident appears to be isolated, and there is no known current threat to the public," FBI spokesperson Cameron Polan in San Francisco said in a statement. U-Haul spokesman Jeff Lockridge said the company cooperated with law enforcement in the investigation. The Daily Wire [10/24/2025 7:21 AM, Zach Jewell, 2494K] reports that the shooting happened as anti-Immigration and Customs Enforcement protesters gathered near the entrance of the military installation. U.S. Customs and Border Protection agents recently arrived at the Coast Guard base as part of the federal government’s illegal immigration crackdown. Earlier on Thursday, federal agents and California Highway Patrol officers clashed with protesters outside of the Coast Guard base, as civilian employees left the base located on a small island on San Francisco Bay. The base has only one entrance, reached by a bridge. The Coast Guard security personnel were positioned on the bridge as the protests continued late into the night.

Reported similarly:
Los Angeles Times [10/24/2025 4:56 PM, Summer Lin, 14862K]
New York Post [10/24/2025 8:24 AM, Patrick Reilly, 42219K] r
The Hill [10/24/2025 9:27 AM, Surina Venkat, 12595K]
ABC News [10/24/2025 11:39 AM, Jon Haworth, 30493K]
(B) CBS Mornings [10/24/2025 10:08 AM, Staff]
FOX News [10/24/2025 8:04 AM, Elizabeth Pritchett and Michael Dorgan, 40621K]

NewsNation [10/24/2025 11:41 AM, Staff, 8017K]
Blaze [10/24/2025 1:20 PM, Julio Rosas, 1442K]
Univision [10/24/2025 1:59 PM, Staff, 5004K]

AP: After truck ramming incident in San Francisco, Noem warns sending National Guard is on the table

AP [10/24/2025 7:57 PM, Staff, 31753K] reports Secretary of Homeland Security Kristi Noem said Friday that her department won't tolerate violence like the truck that rammed into a Coast Guard station in the San Francisco Bay Area on Thursday night. [Editorial note: consult video at source link]

FOX News: Dems urged to 'stop siding with illegal aliens' after activist rams agents in sanctuary city

FOX News [10/24/2025 9:00 AM, Peter Pinedo, 40621K] reports the Trump administration is urging sanctuary Democrats to "stop siding with illegal aliens" after a Los Angeles immigrant activist and social media personality rammed ICE agents in attempts to escape arrest, prompting agents to open fire. Homeland Security Assistant Secretary Tricia McLaughlin told Fox News Digital that during a targeted enforcement stop on Tuesday, 44-year-old Mexican illegal immigrant Carlitos Ricardo Parias "weaponized his vehicle and began ramming the law enforcement vehicle in an attempt to flee." "Fearing for the safety of the public and law enforcement," McLaughlin said, "Our officers followed their training and fired defensive shots." Now, DHS is pursuing criminal charges against Parias for assaulting, resisting, or impeding federal law enforcement. McLaughlin said that "these are the consequences of conduct and rhetoric by sanctuary politicians and activists who urge illegal aliens to resist arrest." "We are once again calling on sanctuary politicians, agitators, and the media to turn the temperature down and stop calling for violence and resistance against ICE law enforcement," said McLaughlin.

ABC 5 Minneapolis/KTTC 10 Rochester: Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem discusses ICE operations in Twin Cities on Friday

ABC 5 Minneapolis [10/24/2025 11:30 PM, Staff, 31733K] Video: HERE reports Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem talked Friday afternoon about immigration operations nationwide and highlighted a few people here, including a man from Mexico and one from El Salvador, who she said were serious criminals and were arrested and taken off the street in the Twin Cities area. "Under the leadership of Mayor Frey, under the leadership of Gov. Walz, more violent crimes are being perpetuated in these communities because of their refusal to defend American citizens," Noem said during the press conference. "Regardless, our federal officers, our ICE officers, ERO, HSI and partnership with our Department of Justice, agencies and other individuals throughout the federal government, we will continue to do the work to make sure these criminals are removed from our communities." However, the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension's annual crime report, which was recently released for 2024, showed that murders have decreased in Minnesota for the third year in a row. Overall, violent crime was steady throughout the state, with a 1% rise reported in the seven-county Twin Cities metro and a 3% dip in the rest of the state, the report showed. A spokesperson for Gov. Walz said in response, "It appears that this visit was perhaps more about pulling a political stunt than about solving a problem. The Governor wishes the Trump Administration would stay focused on the real issues facing Americans: skyrocketing health care costs, a crisis for farmers, and the ongoing federal government shutdown." 5 EYEWITNESS NEWS asked Noem if she plans to deploy the National Guard or increase

the presence of other federal agents in Minneapolis, St. Paul or the surrounding metro area. “It’s up to the president on if he believes the National Guard should be deployed to any situation in any city across our country, but we do have an increase in federal officers that will be coming,” said Noem. “We had a bill pass through Congress that allocated 10,000 new ICE officers to us across the country, we have received over 175,00 applicants for those jobs.” [Editorial note: consult video at source link] KTTC 10 Rochester [10/24/2025 9:48 PM, Ryan Paris] reports Friday’s visit came on the heels of ICE operations across the country, including ones in Chicago and Portland. Noem highlighted work done by the Trump administration within the first 10 months of his second presidency as well. Since January, more than 4,300 undocumented immigrants have been either detained or deported. Noem said, of that number, 3,316 had a previous criminal history, and asked for public support of ICE agents and law enforcement. “I’m here today to ask all of the people in Minnesota, all of the people in the Midwest and across the country, to support your law enforcement officers,” Noem said. “Support them and protect them as they go out there and do their jobs. Each and every one of them took an oath to support and defend this country, defend their communities and to protect people. That’s what they are doing every day when they go out and enforce the law.” In response to Noem’s visit, protestors gathered earlier on Friday at Fort Snelling to voice their frustrations with the Trump administration and its immigration enforcement policies. [Editorial note: consult video at source link]

NewsNation: Noem: 4,300-plus migrants removed from Minneapolis since Jan.
NewsNation [10/24/2025 6:39 PM, Damita Menezes, 8017K] reports Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem said Friday that more than 4,300 illegal immigrants have been removed from the Minneapolis area since January, including 3,316 with criminal histories, 98 gang members, 11 known or suspected terrorists and two foreign fugitives. Speaking at a press conference with ICE officials, Noem said the administration has arrested and deported 515,000 illegal immigrants nationwide since January, with 70% facing pending criminal charges. Noem said it’s up to the president to deploy the National Guard to any city. She said dozens of federal agents and officers will arrive in Minneapolis as part of a congressional funding bill and are "trained, qualified and equipped" for enforcement operations.

The Hill: Senate Democrats press Education secretary on immigration enforcement near schools
The Hill [10/24/2025 11:35 AM, Lexi Lonas Cochran, 12595K] reports a group of Senate Democrats sent a letter Friday to Education Secretary Linda McMahon demanding the Trump administration make efforts to ensure Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers don’t conduct operations close to schools. The letter, led by Sen. Tammy Duckworth (D-Ill.) and signed by seven colleagues, says ICE has increased its presence around Chicago Public Schools and other educational institutions, which "disrupt[s] learning and school operations.” The letter describes an incident of ICE throwing canisters of tear gas 700 feet away from an elementary school during lunch and recess time. Another incident cited in the letter involved two women getting dragged out of their car by ICE in front of a Chicago school building with students around. "Why was the tear gas deployed? Because of violent rioters," Department of Homeland Security (DHS) spokesperson Tricia McLaughlin told NBC News. "This is not that hard.” For the second incident, McLaughlin previously said the women "were driving recklessly, including weaving between lanes and putting other motorists at risk. Following the driver abruptly stopping in the middle of traffic near a school, law enforcement approached the vehicle. The occupants refused to exit the

vehicle and follow law enforcement commands.” The Democrats in their letter Friday are demanding ICE operations be at least 1,000 feet away from school property. "Federal agents continue to use unwarranted, excessive levels of force around Chicago, demonstrating an alarming lack of care or regard for the health and wellbeing of children, particularly by conducting unfocused, inflammatory operations within close proximity of school grounds," the letter states. The latest in politics and policy. Direct to your inbox. By signing up, I agree to the Terms of Use, have reviewed the Privacy Policy, and to receive personalized offers and communications via email, on-site notifications, and targeted advertising using my email address from The Hill, Nexstar Media Inc., and its affiliates. The Hill has reached out to the Education Department for comment. The Democrats called on McMahon to "pressure" Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem, whose department oversees ICE, to restore restrictions around conducting enforcement operations near schools. At the beginning of the Trump administration, restrictions were lifted on ICE operations inside schools or places of worship, although no known incident has occurred of ICE entering classrooms. "Considering DHS' failure to protect American students, we demand you pressure your colleague, Secretary of Homeland Security Kristi Noem, to reinstate restrictions on Federal immigration enforcement operations in and around places of education," the Democrats wrote.

Reported similarly:
NewsMax [10/24/2025 10:44 AM, Sandy Fitzgerald, 4109K]

Reuters: Trump's troop deployments to Portland and D.C. face tests in court
Reuters [10/24/2025 3:20 PM, Dietrich Knauth, 36480K] reports federal judges in Portland, Oregon and Washington, D.C. held hearings on Friday in legal battles over the deployment of National Guard troops to the U.S. cities, as President Donald Trump seeks to expand his rare use of the U.S. military for domestic purposes. In Portland, Justice Department lawyers asked U.S. District Judge Karin Immergut to lift the second of her two orders restricting Trump's attempts to send troops to the city. This week, an appeals court ruled the president likely has the authority to do so. Immergut did not immediately issue a ruling on the Trump administration's request. The judge said she would decide by Monday. In Washington, U.S. District Judge Jia Cobb was considering a challenge to Trump's deployment of about 2,500 National Guard troops to the nation's capital. The local government argues the Guard has improperly been serving as a "federally run police force." Trump has sought to deploy National Guard troops to cities run by Democratic officials, saying they are needed to protect immigration enforcement operations, suppress protests, and fight crime over the objections of local elected leaders. Troops are on the ground in Los Angeles and Washington, D.C., and Trump has announced plans to send them to other cities, including Portland and Chicago. States and cities have filed lawsuits to block the deployments, arguing they are based on exaggerated descriptions of crime and chaos. Courts have yet to issue final rulings on whether the actions are lawful.

NewsMax: Troop Deployments to Portland, D.C. Face Tests in Court
NewsMax [10/24/2025 9:24 PM, Dietrich Knauth, 4109K] reports federal judges in Portland, Oregon, and Washington, D.C., will hold hearings on Friday in legal battles over the deployment of National Guard troops to the U.S. cities, as President Donald Trump seeks to expand his rare use of the U.S. military for domestic purposes. In Portland, Justice Department lawyers will ask U.S. District Judge Karin Immergut to lift the second of her two orders restricting Trump's attempts to send troops to the city. This week, an appeals court

ruled the president likely has the authority to do so. In Washington, U.S. District Judge Jia Cobb will consider a challenge to Trump's deployment of about 2,500 National Guard troops to the nation's capital. The local government argues the Guard has improperly been serving as a "federally run police force." Trump has sought to deploy National Guard troops to cities run by Democratic officials, saying they are needed to protect immigration enforcement operations, suppress protests, and fight crime over the objections of local elected leaders. Troops are on the ground in Los Angeles and Washington, D.C., and Trump has announced plans to send them to other cities, including Portland and Chicago. States and cities have filed lawsuits to block the deployments, arguing they are based on exaggerated descriptions of crime and chaos. Courts have yet to issue final rulings on whether the actions are lawful. In Portland, Immergut on Oct. 4 blocked Trump from taking control of Oregon's National Guard and sending troops to Portland. The next day, after Trump attempted to circumvent that order by sending troops from California and Texas to Portland, the judge barred deployment of troops from any state, including Oregon. A three-judge panel of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals this week paused Immergut's Oct. 5 order while the court battle plays out. But troops have not yet deployed to Portland because the Oct. 5 order remains in effect. The Justice Department is asking Immergut to lift her Oct. 5 order in light of the 9th Circuit's ruling. If Immergut, who was appointed by Trump during his first term, agrees, the administration could move forward with the deployment. Oregon has argued the three-judge 9th Circuit panel, which included two Trump-appointed judges, got it wrong. The state has asked Immergut to maintain the status quo while it appeals and has asked the 9th Circuit to reconsider the case with a larger panel of 11 judges. State and local officials say Trump's action violates several federal laws that govern the use of military forces as well as the states' rights under the U.S. Constitution's 10th Amendment.

Reported similarly:
Washington Post [10/24/2025 11:13 AM, Jenny Gathright and Meagan Flynn, 24149K]
Los Angeles Times [10/24/2025 3:30 PM, David G. Savage, 14862K]

Washington Examiner: Trump prepares for Portland troop deployment as he awaits three separate National Guard court decisions
Washington Examiner [10/24/2025 7:00 AM, Jack Birle, 1394K] reports the Trump administration is preparing to deploy the National Guard to Portland while waiting for three different federal courts to make decisions over the previous deployment of troops to three Democrat-run cities. In the Democrat-run states to which President Donald Trump has deployed troops, state governments have filed lawsuits alleging that the federalization and deployment of the National Guard is unlawful. Trump has used the National Guard to protect federal officials and property amid unruly protests over federal immigration operations, which the administration claims have put federal officers in danger.
After a victory in a federal appeals court earlier this week, which allowed Trump to federalize and deploy members of the Oregon National Guard to Portland, the administration is still awaiting rulings from the Supreme Court, the full U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, and a three-judge panel on the Ninth Circuit, in three separate cases over his use of the National Guard.

Daily Wire: Trump Admin Warns California Democrats: Arresting ICE Agents Is A 'Criminal Conspiracy'
Daily Wire [10/24/2025 10:14 AM, Zach Jewell, 2494K] reports the Department of Justice warned multiple top Democratic California politicians, including Gov. Gavin Newsom and

former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, of potential charges on Thursday, after Pelosi suggested that federal immigration agents could be arrested by state and local police. Earlier this week, Pelosi, along with Democratic Rep. Kevin Mullin, threatened that ICE agents could be detained as President Donald Trump considered a major immigration operation in San Francisco. In response, U.S. Deputy Attorney General Todd Blanche sent a letter to Newsom, Pelosi, California Attorney General Rob Bonta, and San Francisco District Attorney Brooke Jenkins, urging them to "abandon this apparent criminal conspiracy." "The Department of Justice views any arrests of federal agents and officers in the performance of their official duties as both illegal and futile," Blanche wrote. The deputy attorney general then cited multiple federal laws that prohibit interfering with federal law enforcement operations. The California Democrats addressed in the letter were told to "preserve all written and electronic communications and records related to any attempts to or efforts to impede or obstruct federal law enforcement officials." "We urge you and other California officials to publicly abandon this apparent criminal conspiracy, to stop threatening law enforcement, and to prioritize the safety of your citizens," Blanche added. "In the meantime, federal agents and officers will continue to enforce federal law and will not be deterred by the threat of arrest by California authorities who have abdicated their duty to protect their constituents." Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem announced on Monday that the Trump administration would soon target San Francisco as part of its crackdown on crime and illegal immigrants. However, after Trump said some of his friends in San Francisco urged him to hold off on the federal law enforcement "surge," the president had a phone call with Democratic San Francisco Mayor Daniel Lurie and decided to hold off on the operation. "The Federal Government was preparing to 'surge' San Francisco, California, on Saturday, but friends of mine who live in the area called last night to ask me not to go forward with the surge in that the Mayor, Daniel Lurie, was making substantial progress," Trump wrote on Truth Social Thursday. "I spoke to Mayor Lurie last night and he asked, very nicely, that I give him a chance to see if he can turn it around. I told him I think he is making a mistake, because we can do it much faster, and remove the criminals that the Law does not permit him to remove."

New York Times: How the San Francisco Mayor Avoided Trump's Enforcement Surge
New York Times [10/24/2025 5:30 AM, Heather Knight and Kellen Browning, 153395K] reports Mayor Daniel Lurie of San Francisco did what he does best after the Trump administration prepared to send border agents to the Bay Area for a major crackdown on immigration this week. He stayed calm. He worked the phones. He "power mapped." In doing so, Mr. Lurie and his team visualized concentric circles of prominent business leaders who could persuade President Trump and determined who might lobby the executives to make those important calls. They wanted to deliver the message, in the most diplomatic way possible, that San Francisco was not the apocalyptic landscape that the president sees on Fox News. Soon, a host of billionaires with strong ties to the city were on the phone with Mr. Trump and Vice President JD Vance, a former venture capitalist in San Francisco. Four people familiar with the situation described the City Hall discussions to The New York Times on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly.

NPR: DOJ hires immigration judges after months of layoffs
NPR [10/24/2025 7:03 PM, Ximena Bustillo, 28013K] reports the Justice Department has hired 36 immigration judges, including 25 temporary ones, for its Executive Office for Immigration Review, marking the first class to join the immigration courts after months of cuts to the workforce. Judges will soon take the bench across 16 states, according to a

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Justice Department announcement. These include courts that saw the biggest losses of judges this year such as Chelmsford, Mass., and Chicago. "EOIR is restoring its integrity as a preeminent administrative adjudicatory agency," the announcement states. "These new immigration judges are joining an immigration judge corps that is committed to upholding the rule of law." The incoming class of permanent judges comprises mostly those with a background in federal government work, including EOIR itself and the Department of Homeland Security. Previously, they trained Immigration and Customs enforcement and Customs and Border Protection agents, were asylum officers and worked for ICE's legal arm. One judge was originally going to take the bench at the start of the year but was among the initial class of judges fired before they could start. The temporary immigration judges include military lawyers from the Marines, Navy, Army and Air Force. Earlier this summer, the Pentagon authorized about 600 military lawyers to work for the DOJ. The DOJ changed who could qualify as a temporary immigration judge — effectively lowering the requirements and removing the need to have prior immigration law experience.

Bloomberg Law: Border Patrol's Bovino Ordered to Appear in Chicago Courtroom
Bloomberg Law [10/24/2025 5:20 PM, Megan Crepeau, 803K] reports US Border Patrol chief patrol agent Gregory Bovino, the face of the intensive "Operation Midway Blitz" immigration crackdown in Chicago, must appear in federal court next week after facing allegations he threw tear gas into a crowd of people without warning or justification. In a brief docket entry Friday, Judge Sara L. Ellis of the US District Court for the Northern District of Illinois required Bovino's appearance at a hearing in her courtroom on Oct. 28. Her order comes on the heels of allegations that Bovino, who was spotted with federal agents this week in a predominantly Mexican-American neighborhood, violated Ellis' order prohibiting agents from using tear gas or pepper spray without issuing proper warnings. But unlike a deposition, if Ellis questions Bovino in her courtroom on Oct. 28, his answers will be public and subject to scrutiny of attorneys, journalists and citizens closely following his agency's actions. Ellis's order hit the docket Friday almost simultaneously with news reports that federal agents used tear gas on people in a wealthy part of the Lakeview neighborhood on Chicago's North Side.

CBS News: Border Patrol chief says agents' use of force in Chicago "has been exemplary"
CBS News [10/24/2025 3:23 PM, Nicole Sganga, 39474K] reports Border Patrol Chief of Patrol Gregory Bovino, the architect of the Department of Homeland Security's "Operation Midway Blitz," defended the sweeping campaign to arrest undocumented migrants and quell demonstrations in the Chicago area, calling federal agents' use of force "exemplary." The Border Patrol Chief of Patrol defended forceful tactics used by federal agents during the Chicago immigration crackdown, even as new videos and court filings raise questions about whether agents and even Bovino himself violated a judge's order barring tear gas and pepper balls at protests. Asked whether agents had defied that order, Bovino replied, "I do not. All uses of force were well within CBP policy."

CBS News: Gov. Pritzker and Border Patrol chief talk protest tactics
CBS News [10/24/2025 11:03 AM, Staff, 39474K] Video: HERE reports shots were fired by U.S. Coast Guard security personnel at a protest near Oakland, California, against President Trump's immigration policies. It comes amid widespread controversy over federal agents' tactics against protesters nationwide. CBS News' Nicole Sganga spoke to U.S. Customs Border Patrol chief Gregory Bovino and Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker.

CNN: US Border Patrol chief accused of violating judge's order
CNN [10/24/2025 8:19 AM, Augusta Anthony, 606K] reports a notice of violation has been filed by community members filing citing a video showing US Border Patrol chief, Gregory Bovino, appearing to throw at least one tear gas canister at protesters in Chicago. The filing accuses Bovino of being in potential violation of a federal judge's temporary restraining order restricting federal agents from using aggressive crowd control tactics at Chicago anti-ICE protests. [Editorial note: consult video at source link]

The Situation Room: Border Patrol Chief Accused to Tossing Tear Gas at Protesters
(B) The Situation Room [10/24/2025 10:47 AM, Staff] reports that a top Border Patrol official is accused of potentially violating a judge's restraining order in Chicago. In a video, Border Patrol Chief Gregory Bovino appeared to throw a tear gas canister toward anti-ICE protesters on Thursday. The Department of Homeland Security says protesters threw rocks, prompting Bovino to throw the canister of tear gas.

Washington Times: DHS uses riot response as anti-ICE protests become more violent in Chicago
Washington Times [10/24/2025 11:14 AM, Stephen Dinan, 852K] reports anti-ICE protesters are escalating their confrontations with federal immigration authorities in Illinois, forcing officers to use riot responses to suppress what the Department of Homeland Security called "one of the most violent days." The department said it had to grapple with at least five dangerous incidents on Wednesday alone, including a death threat to Customs and Border Protection Commander Gregory Bovino and four attempts to ram Border Patrol vehicles. A day later, Chief Bovino was mobbed by a large group of protesters who began to box in Border Patrol agents, then attacked a government vehicle and fired mortar-style fireworks at the agents, Homeland Security said. Chief Bovino was struck in the head by a thrown object, then he deployed what the department called "riot control measures," said Assistant Secretary Tricia McLaughlin. "Agents properly used their training. The use of chemical munitions was conducted in full accordance with CBP policy and was necessary to ensure the safety of both law enforcement and the public," she said. The department's legal adversaries didn't agree. The Chicago Headline Club, a journalism group, rushed to U.S. District Court Judge Sara Ellis to accuse Chief Bovino of violating her restraining order placing limits on the riot control tactics federal agents can use in the Chicago area. They filed a video with Judge Ellis showing Chief Bovino tossing a canister at a small crowd of unruly demonstrators. CHC told Judge Ellis that there did not appear to be proper warnings, in violation of her orders. But Ms. McLaughlin said "multiple warnings" were given and ignored. The clashes come as President Trump tries to deploy National Guard troops to the area to protect the federal officers and agents carrying out his mass deportation plans. Another federal judge in Chicago, April Berry, has issued a restraining order blocking the troops from being deployed, saying she didn't see enough violence on the streets to justify the call-up. The Supreme Court is deciding whether to let her blockade stand. Homeland Security's description of the events this week suggests confrontations are getting more heated as emboldened protesters accuse U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the main deportation agency, of "kidnapping" migrants. In Thursday's clash involving Chief Bovino, the video submitted to the judge shows demonstrators aggressively approaching a line of Border Patrol agents, screaming vulgar insults and at times bumping into the federal officers. Agents are seen pushing people away. Wednesday's events, meanwhile, included one man the government identified as a member of the Latin Kings street gang who was accused of trying to ram a Border Patrol vehicle head-on. The agent's car swerved away,

but the man, a U.S. citizen, then drove his vehicle into a bystander's car, Homeland Security said. In another incident, three U.S. citizens are accused of tailing Border Patrol vehicles and trying to ram one of them. And in the threat incident, authorities identified the suspect as Isabel Mata, who they say said she would "put a hit out" on Chief Bovino. "While conducting immigration enforcement operations in Cicero and Glendale Heights, agitators stalked law enforcement, rammed vehicles, fled scenes, injured agents and caused multiple accidents across town," Ms. McLaughlin said. All told, she said, six U.S. citizens and three illegal immigrants were arrested in the incidents.

Chicago Tribune: Federal immigration agents tear-gas Lakeview, raid Lincoln Park as feds focus on city's affluent North Side

Chicago Tribune [10/24/2025 6:41 PM, Gregory Royal Pratt and Rebecca Johnson, 4829K] reports for most of the fall, President Donald Trump's immigration agents have set out every day to scour Chicago neighborhoods where immigrants live. On Friday, Operation Midway Blitz fanned out across the wealthier white communities on the North Side where they work. Throughout the day, caravans of federal agents hit neighborhoods that had so far avoided serious confrontations. In Lakeview, agents threw tear gas into the street, even as their use of chemical agents has drawn intense scrutiny from a federal judge. Masked officials arrested a man at the Laugh Factory comedy club. They detained a man at a gas station near the tony Latin School where the city's elite send their children.

Daily Caller: Lawyers Argue Anti-ICE Protesters Who Allegedly Threw Rocks, Fireworks Didn't Deserve Tear Gas

Daily Caller [10/24/2025 4:05 PM, Hudson Crozier, 835K] reports the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and other left-wing legal groups claimed in court Thursday that using crowd control gas was not justified to disperse a crowd allegedly throwing rocks and fireworks at law enforcement. Protesters blocked immigration agents' path on a road in Chicago, Illinois, on Thursday morning and began throwing hard objects until "chemical munitions" were used to repel them, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) said in a Friday X post. Lawyers argued law enforcement acted "without justification" in a court filing from their ongoing lawsuit against the Trump administration's handling of anti-deportation protests. The court motion referenced an image purportedly from the incident that appeared to show a Border Patrol official throwing a silver canister but did not mention any alleged violence against federal agents. The document also linked to 12 minutes of shaky video footage of a crowd confronting agents and calling them "terrorists" and "kidnappers." Lawyers claimed the gas' use violated an Oct. 17 court order from the protest case that prohibited law enforcement from using such methods against demonstrators in the Northern District of Illinois, with exceptions for when agents' safety is in jeopardy. Protesters boxed in agents with a truck and then "shot at agents with commercial artillery shell fireworks," the DHS alleged. Throughout the incident, people continued advancing toward agents despite warnings that they would use crowd control munitions if they did not stop, according to the DHS. A Border Patrol official was hit in the head when they began throwing "rocks and other objects," the agency said.

Chicago Tribune: Federal judge appears poised to order release of at least some 'Operation Midway Blitz' arrestees

Chicago Tribune [10/24/2025 6:20 PM, Jason Meisner, 4829K] reports a Chicago federal judge appeared poised Friday to order at least a portion of the thousands of people detained in "Operation Midway Blitz" released on electronic monitoring while litigation

continues over whether immigration officials have violated a consent decree restricting so-called warrantless arrests. U.S. District Judge Jeffrey Cummings asked for simultaneous briefs next week that will lay out how many of the some 3,000 people arrested since early September would qualify for automatic detention under federal law, as well as others that federal law enforcement argues should stay in custody as a safety threat. Lawyers for the plaintiffs have accused federal officials of repeatedly breaking the terms of the consent decree and asked that Cummings issue a blanket order releasing most of the detainees on ankle monitoring. The government, meanwhile, said plaintiffs were trying to "paint with a broad brush" and that the validity of detaining someone should be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. During Friday's 90-minute hearing, Cummings ruled that the consent decree, which was originally hashed out in 2022 with only the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, now covers all agents participating in Chicago immigration operations, including Customs and Border patrol. It also applies to other immigration enforcement going on in cities nationwide. Cummings also had tough questions for government lawyers about the treatment of people swept up in the Chicago area, asking at one point whether they could certify that detainees were being held in "safe and sanitary conditions" and had access to an attorney. Cummings said he'd rule on the detention issue after receiving the updated briefs, which are due Oct. 31.

NewsMax: DHS Says Chicago Shows Its 'Sicario' Side

NewsMax [10/24/2025 6:40 PM, Jim Mishler, 4109K] reports the Department of Homeland Security issued a release describing crime and immigration enforcement issues in the metropolitan Chicago area Wednesday. The document is called "Cicero or Sicario: A Day of Crashes." The title focuses on the contrast between the suburban community of Cicero and "sicario," Spanish for hitman, and highlights the violent criminal attacks that have targeted federal agents. A violent day of coordinated interference with federal agents in the Chicago area on Wednesday led to the arrest of more people for attacking or obstructing officers than for immigration offenses, according to DHS. Federal authorities said six people were taken into custody Wednesday for threatening or obstructing law enforcement, compared with three illegal aliens arrested for immigration violations. The incidents unfolded across multiple sites as immigration enforcement agents carried out Operation Midway Blitz. Federal officers reported repeated vehicle rammings, threats, and assaults, as agitators tried to block or follow Border Patrol units. Assistant DHS Secretary Tricia McLaughlin said, "While conducting immigration enforcement operations in Cicero and Glendale Heights, agitators stalked law enforcement, rammed vehicles, fled scenes, injured agents, and caused multiple accidents across town, putting law enforcement and the public in danger." "Our officers," she said, "are facing a surge in assaults against them as they put their lives on the line to arrest murderers, rapists, and gang members."

USA Today: What's happening with the troops in Chicago? What to know on legal cases against 'blitz'

USA Today [10/24/2025 3:27 PM, Kinsey Crowley, Michael Loria, 67103K] reports President Donald Trump's immigration crackdown pushes forward in Chicago despite continued pushback on the ground and in court. Operation Midway Blitz started Sept. 8, with the Department of Homeland Security saying it would target "the worst of the worst," among people who are in the country illegally. They say they have arrested more than 1,500 people, though USA TODAY has not been able to independently verify their count. Federal immigration officials have followed people in their cars, rappelled from helicopters in an apartment building raid and clashed with protesters at a facility in the suburbs. Trump

had deployed the National Guard to assist immigration agents, but it was challenged in court along with other DHS efforts.

USA Today: Where are ICE arrests happening in Chicago? What to know after latest raid

USA Today [10/24/2025 3:02 PM, Kinsey Crowley, Michael Loria, 67103K] reports large-scale immigration raids have continued in Chicago, even as the legality of deploying the National Guard awaits a decision from the Supreme Court. On Oct. 22, federal immigration officers descended on Little Village, a South Side neighborhood at the heart of Chicago's Mexican community. Alderperson Mike Rodriguez told USA TODAY at least eight people were arrested, four of whom were U.S. citizens. It was the latest in President Donald Trump's Operation Midway Blitz, his Chicago-area immigration enforcement crackdown. Trump launched the blitz on Sept. 8, saying it was needed to catch "the worst of the worst" criminal immigrants. Many local critics say instead innocent people are being left terrorized. As of Oct. 8, the Department of Homeland Security said it had arrested more than 1,500 people. But USA TODAY has been unable to confirm that number or track down exactly where all of the incidents are occurring. At an Oct. 20 federal court hearing, a top Homeland Security official said around 75 people had been arrested in connection with protesting immigration enforcement.

AP/CBS News: US says it now plans to deport Abrego Garcia to Liberia as soon as Oct. 31

The AP [10/24/2025 4:56 PM, Staff, 31753K] reports the U.S. government plans to deport Kilmar Abrego Garcia to Liberia, and could do so as early as Oct. 31, according to a Friday court filing. Since he cannot be re-deported to El Salvador, ICE has been seeking to deport him to a series of African countries. Meanwhile, a federal judge in Maryland has previously barred his immediate deportation. Abrego Garcia's lawsuit there claims the Trump administration is illegally using the deportation process to punish him for the embarrassment of his earlier mistaken deportation. Additionally, Abrego Garcia is facing criminal charges in federal court in Tennessee, where he has pleaded not guilty to human smuggling. He has filed a motion to dismiss the charges, claiming the prosecution is vindictive. CBS News [10/24/2025 11:59 AM, Melissa Quinn, 39474K] reports that in a filing with a federal judge in Maryland, Justice Department lawyers said that immigration officials expect to formally notify Abrego Garcia later Friday that Liberia has been designated as the new country of removal. They said the Trump administration expects to be able to deport Abrego Garcia as soon as Oct. 31. The administration has "received diplomatic assurances regarding the treatment of third-country individuals removed to Liberia from the United States and are making the final necessary arrangements for [Abrego Garcia's] removal," they wrote. In the court filing, the Justice Department said that Abrego Garcia had identified more than 20 countries that he fears would persecute or torture him if he were removed there, and Liberia is not on the list. "Liberia is a thriving democracy and one of the United States's closest partners on the African continent," they wrote. Simon Sandoval-Moshenberg, Abrego Garcia's attorney, said the administration "has chosen yet another path that feels designed to inflict maximum hardship." "Their actions are punitive, cruel and unconstitutional," Sandoval-Moshenberg said. "Unless Liberia guarantees that it will not re-deport Mr. Abrego Garcia to El Salvador, then sending him to Liberia is no less unlawful than sending him directly to El Salvador a second time." The Trump administration's plan to remove Abrego Garcia to Liberia comes as the Maryland judge, Paula Xinis, is weighing whether to release the Salvadoran man from immigration custody while a challenge to the

Department of Homeland Security's ongoing efforts to deport him for a second time moves forward. Abrego Garcia was removed to his home country of El Salvador in March and imprisoned there despite having been granted a legal status in 2019 that prohibited the Department of Homeland Security from removing him there because of possible persecution by local gangs. An immigration official with the Trump administration admitted that Abrego Garcia's removal to El Salvador was an error, and Xinis ordered the Department of Homeland Security to facilitate his return to the U.S. But immigration officials resisted doing so for months. Abrego Garcia was brought back to the U.S. in June, but only after a federal grand jury in Tennessee indicted him on two charges of human smuggling stemming from a November 2022 traffic stop.

Reported similarly:
Axios [10/24/2025 4:06 PM, Julianna Bragg, 12972K]
NewsMax [10/24/2025 4:22 PM, Jim Thomas, 4109K]
Telemundo [10/24/2025 1:50 PM, Staff, 2218K]
Univision [10/24/2025 4:19 PM, Staff, 5004K]

Reuters: Liberia agrees to accept wrongly deported migrant Abrego, US says
Reuters [10/24/2025 4:11 PM, Andrew Goudsward, Alphonso Toweh and Ted Hesson, 36480K] reports Donald Trump's administration said on Friday it has reached an agreement with Liberia to accept Kilmar Abrego, the migrant whose wrongful deportation to El Salvador in March became a flashpoint in the Republican president's immigration crackdown. The Justice Department said in a court filing that Abrego could be deported to the African country as soon as October 31. Maryland-based U.S. District Judge Paula Xinis has temporarily blocked the U.S. government from deporting Abrego while she considers his bid to be released from immigration detention. It is unclear how the administration's agreement with Liberia will influence the judge's decision. Abrego also could seek to challenge his removal by claiming fear of torture or persecution. Liberia said it agreed to take Abrego "on a strictly humanitarian and temporary basis" following a request from the United States. Liberia's information ministry said in a statement that it would ensure that Abrego is not removed to "any country where he may face substantial risk of persecution, torture or other serious harm."

AP: Truck driver in fatal Florida crash repeatedly failed driving tests, official says. What to know
AP [10/24/2025 5:43 PM, Kate Payne and Freida Frisaro, 31753K] reports a commercial truck driver who is charged with killing three people in a deadly crash in Florida in August had failed a commercial driver's license test 10 times in the span of two months in 2023 in Washington state, before he was ultimately issued a license, according to a senior official in the Florida Attorney General's Office. Florida is using the case of Harjinder Singh, who is accused of being in the country illegally, to urge the nation's highest court to permanently bar some states from issuing commercial driver's licenses or CDLs to people who are not U.S. citizens or lawful permanent residents. Florida's investigation of Harjinder Singh has revealed that the trucker failed a written test to receive a CDL in Washington state 10 times between March 10, 2023, and April 5, 2023, a senior official for Florida Attorney General James Uthmeier who was briefed on the investigation told The Associated Press. Florida is now petitioning the U.S. Supreme Court to take up its case against the states of California and Washington, and urging the high court to bar states from issuing CDLs to people who are in the country illegally. If the court accepts the case, Florida officials hope it could lead

to a new legal precedent for states' abilities to issue CDLs to people who are not citizens or legal permanent residents. A ruling could also have a downstream effect on how or if conventional driver's licenses are issued to immigrants, the senior Florida official said.

ABC News/NBC 4 Los Angeles: Semi-truck driver in country illegally pleads not guilty in deadly DUI crash as license under scrutiny

ABC News [10/24/2025 4:56 PM, Meredith Deliso, 30493K] reports a semi-truck driver arrested in connection with an alleged DUI crash on a California highway that killed three people pleaded not guilty on Friday, amid scrutiny over the licensing of the 21-year-old suspect, who federal authorities say is in the United States illegally. Prosecutors charge that the driver, identified by authorities as Jashanpreet Singh, was driving at a high rate of speed and under the influence of drugs when he rammed into stopped traffic, causing a chain-reaction crash on Interstate 10 in Ontario on Tuesday. Three people were killed and at least three others injured in the multi-vehicle crash, according to the criminal complaint. Singh pleaded not guilty to three counts of gross vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated and one count of driving under the influence of a drug causing injury during his initial court appearance in a Rancho Cucamonga court on Friday. His next court appearance has been scheduled for Nov. 4. A Punjabi interpreter will be required at his next hearing, according to court filings. Immigration and Customs Enforcement has lodged an arrest detainer for Singh, according to the Department of Homeland Security, which said he is in the U.S. illegally from India, entering through the southern border in 2022. He was issued a commercial driver's license, or CDL, by California, according to the Department of Transportation, which said Singh is an asylum-seeker. On Friday, the agency said Singh should have been ineligible to keep his CDL days before the deadly crash under new emergency actions targeting noncitizens, including asylum-seekers. In September, Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy announced stricter eligibility requirements for noncitizens seeking CDLs. The new federal actions, which went into effect on Sept. 26, prevent all asylum-seekers from obtaining non-domiciled CDLs, according to the DOT. NBC 4 Los Angeles [10/25/2025 4:02 AM, Helen Jeong, 43603K] reports "This criminal illegal alien from India entered the country illegally at the southern border in 2022 and was RELEASED by the Biden Administration," said DHS Assistant Secretary Tricia McLaughlin in a statement. "There is no national CDL. The state of California issued this illegal alien Commercial Drivers License, which is beyond dumb — dangerous and deadly." But Governor Newsom's office accused the Trump administration of twisting facts and exploiting the "tragic situation."

Reported similarly:
The Hill [10/24/2025 7:25 AM, Nancy Loo, 12595K]
Telemundo [10/24/2025 6:41 PM, Staff, 76K]

FOX News: Dashcam video shows deadly freeway crash involving suspected illegal immigrant trucker

FOX News [10/24/2025 1:51 PM, Michael Ruiz, 40019K] reports dashcam video from a deadly California freeway crash involving a suspected illegal immigrant truck driver in a tractor-trailer shows the vehicle plowing through bumper-to-bumper traffic in a wreck that killed three. Jashanpreet Singh, 21, received a California commercial driver's license in June, according to the federal Department of Transportation. The video shows the truck he is accused of driving rear-ending a row of cars caught in traffic before flames burst out from under the hood, and it veers to the right, crashing into more vehicles and what appear to be

utility trucks before coming to a stop near the shoulder. "My prayers are with the families of the victims of this tragedy," U.S. Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy said in a statement Thursday night. "It would have never happened if Gavin Newsom had followed our new rules," he continued. "California broke the law and now three people are dead and two are hospitalized. These people deserve justice. There will be consequences." A spokesperson for Newsom's office pointed the finger back at the feds. "This is a tragic situation. And as with every tragedy over the last ten months, Secretary Noem has ordered Secretary Duffy to look for every opportunity to manipulate the facts to score cheap political points, but the FEDERAL government needs to look within before they cast blame outside," the governor's office told Fox News Digital in an email. "The FEDERAL government approved and renewed this individual's FEDERAL employment authorization multiple times – which allowed him to obtain a commercial driver's license in accordance with FEDERAL law." U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement filed a detainer request for Singh on Oct. 22. He remains jailed in San Bernardino County. ICE described him as "a criminal illegal alien." He is originally from India. "It is a terrible tragedy three innocent people lost their lives due to the reckless open border policies that allowed an illegal alien to be released into the U.S. and drive an 18-wheeler on America's highways," Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security Tricia McLaughlin said in a statement. "This accident follows a disturbing trend of illegal aliens driving 18 wheelers and semi-trucks on America's roads. Earlier this week, DHS highlighted another fatal accident in Indiana caused by an illegal alien driving a semi-truck. Under President Trump and Secretary Noem, ICE is working day-in and day-out to make America's roads safe again." [Editorial note: consult video at source link]

New York Post: Damning DOT report blames Newsom for illegal immigrant trucker's deadly Calif. crash: 'There will be consequences'

New York Post [10/24/2025 9:31 PM, Anna Young, 42219K] reports California Gov. Gavin Newsom violated federal law by upgrading the driver's license of the illegal migrant trucker accused of causing a horrific, drug-fueled pile-up that killed three people and wounded several others, a bombshell new report claims. Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy blamed Newsom for Tuesday's deadly crash, alleging state officials unlawfully upgraded Jashanpreet Singh's commercial license weeks after a new federal rule went into effect barring illegal immigrants from holding such privileges, according to a DOT report released Friday. The restrictions, which require states to verify an applicant's legal status, took effect on Sept. 26 — while the 21-year-old Indian national's driving rights were expanded on Oct. 15, the report states. "My prayers are with the families of the victims of this tragedy," Duffy said in a statement. "It would have never happened if Gavin Newsom had followed our new rules. California broke the law and now three people are dead and two are hospitalized. These people deserve justice. There will be consequences." Singh was initially issued a restricted CDL in the Golden State on June 27, confining him to intrastate travel, according to the DOT's report. When the new regulations took effect, the federal agency informed California officials of "significant compliance failures" related to the issuance of truckers' licenses and gave them 30 days to audit its practices and void or rescind all unexpired CDLs, the report states. The state's Department of Motor Vehicles lifted Singh's driving restrictions on Oct. 15 — his birthday — without enforcing the stricter standards mandated by the DOT's new emergency rule, officials said. "Gavin Newsom was explicitly warned California's CDL program was dangerously broken," the report charged. "The USDOT's emergency rule was issued to explicitly prevent drivers like Singh from getting behind the wheel of commercial motor vehicles." Newsom's office did not immediately respond to The Post's request for comment. Singh was allegedly under the influence of drugs when he plowed his semi-truck into slow-moving traffic on the 10 Freeway in San Bernardino County

Tuesday afternoon, cops said. he wreck, which was caught on dashcam, killed three people and left at least four others injured. Harrowing footage showed the moment Singh allegedly slammed his red big rig into the back of an SUV — before crashing into several other vehicles and erupting into flames. Singh is believed to have entered the US in 2022 via the southern border before he was released into the country by the Biden administration, Department of Homeland officials said. US Immigration and Customs Enforcement has since lodged an arrest detainer — a former request for local cops to notify the feds before he is freed. He was charged with vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated and driving under the influence.

FOX News: Duffy tells Newsom '3 more people would be alive' if he followed federal truck licensing rules

FOX News [10/24/2025 5:45 PM, Madison Colombo, 40621K] reports Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy accused California Gov. Gavin Newsom of violating new federal commercial licensing rules by purportedly allowing an immigrant in the country illegally to maintain a commercial driver's license (CDL). That truck driver is accused of causing a freeway crash that resulted in three fatalities on Tuesday in California. Newsom is blaming the federal government for the crash, arguing its policies ultimately allowed the suspect to receive a license. Duffy rejected that claim. The dispute comes as the transportation secretary threatens to withhold millions in federal highway funds from California and expands a federal review into how non-citizens acquire state-issued licenses. The deadly crash occurred Tuesday on a Southern California freeway. Jashanpreet Singh, a 21-year-old Indian national, allegedly drove a semitruck while under the influence, causing a multi-car pileup with three fatalities. According to the Department of Transportation, California violated new federal rules by upgrading Singh's non-domiciled CDL despite an emergency rule and compliance notice issued Sept. 26.

Reported similarly:
Breitbart [10/24/2025 3:18 PM, Olivia Rondeau, 2416K]

San Francisco Chronicle: Justice Department says it will send election monitors to California on Election Day

San Francisco Chronicle [10/24/2025 10:16 AM, Sophia Bollag, 4722K] reports the Trump administration will monitor polling sites in California during the Nov. 4 election, Attorney General Pam Bondi announced Friday. The unusual announcement comes amid sky-high tensions between state leaders and federal officials and as voting is underway in California on Proposition 50, a measure to enact new congressional maps designed to help Democrats flip five U.S. House seats in the 2026 midterms. Spokespeople for the campaigns against Prop 50 did not immediately respond to calls seeking comment Friday morning. A spokesperson for the Yes on 50 campaign, which is led by Gov. Gavin Newsom, deferred to the governor's office, which did not immediately respond. The U.S. Department of Justice also did not immediately respond to questions about what prompted the decision. The DOJ news release announcing the decision listed five California counties where the Trump administration will monitor polling places: Kern, Riverside, Fresno, Orange and Los Angeles. It did not give any reasons about what prompted the move. The department also said it will monitor polling places in Passaic County, New Jersey. In a statement, Assistant Attorney General Harmeet K. Dhillon characterized the decision as one to promote security. Dhillon, a San Francisco attorney and former California Republican Party leader, now leads the U.S. Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division. "The Department of Justice will do

everything necessary to protect the votes of eligible American citizens, ensuring our elections are safe and secure," she wrote in a statement. "Transparent election processes and election monitoring are critical tools for safeguarding our elections and ensuring public trust in the integrity of our elections." Gov. Gavin Newsom, Prop 50's lead backer, has repeatedly warned that he believes President Donald Trump will try to interfere in California's November special election. In an interview with the San Francisco Chronicle editorial board earlier this month, Newsom pointed to Trump's federalization of National Guard troops, the government shutdown and past criticisms of mail voting. Newsom also said he's worried about federal immigration officers being used to intimidate voters. He noted that Border Patrol officers showed up at a rally he held in Los Angeles to launch his campaign to redraw California's congressional districts, a move he has characterized as an intimidation tactic unrelated to immigration enforcement. "That was chilling to send masked men to intimidate the kickoff of this campaign," Newsom said. "As those ranks grow, they'll continue to be deployed for political reasons."

San Francisco Chronicle: Meet the Bay Area pastor shot in the face with pepper ball at Coast Guard Island protest

San Francisco Chronicle [10/24/2025 6:58 PM, St. John Barned-Smith, 4722K] reports even when the Border Patrol agent raised his weapon, Rev. Jorge Bautista didn't think anything would happen. There was no way the agent would shoot. Then something crashed into his face, just above his chin. Fumes from a pepper ball round filled the air, making him cough as his eyes burned and his vision blurred. Bautista, pastor at the College Heights United Church of Christ in San Mateo, rose Thursday before sunrise, donned his typical black slacks, shirt and blazer and drove to Coast Guard Island to join a prayer vigil in opposition to the immigration crackdown in San Francisco that President Donald Trump had announced the day before. "Our role was to bear witness and to give a message about why we're unhappy that ICE is here," he said. "We were hoping to just have a press conference and show solidarity." "Our immigration system has been broken for way too long," he said. "And in my role as a pastor has always felt that I've been summoned" to advocate for migrant justice.

Washington Post: U.S. kills six in latest strike on alleged drug boat, Hegseth says

Washington Post [10/24/2025 10:38 AM, Tara Copp, 24149K] reports the U.S. military killed six people overnight in the 10th reported strike on a boat alleged to be involved in drug smuggling, Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth announced on social media Friday. Hegseth said the operation targeted a vessel in the Caribbean carrying members of Tren de Aragua, a criminal group based in Venezuela that the Trump administration claims to be a "Designated Terrorist Organization." As he has alleged after other recent attacks, Hegseth said the boat was "known by our intelligence" to be involved drug running along a "known narco-trafficking route." He disclosed no evidence verifying that assertion. A black-and-white overhead video accompanying his social media post shows a boat appearing to idle in the water in the moments before it is hit with a projectile and engulfed in flames. Law of war experts maintain that the strikes — responsible for the reported deaths of at least 43 people since the campaign began in September — are illegal because those slain by U.S. forces aren't combatants engaged in a armed conflict with the United States but suspected criminals. The strike follows two others this week that took place in the Pacific Ocean, off South America, and marked an expansion of the Trump administration's lethal campaign against Latin American groups who Hegseth and other officials equate to militant extremists. "If you are a narco-terrorist smuggling drugs in our hemisphere, we will treat you

like we treat Al-Qaeda," Hegseth said in the post Friday. The overnight strike appeared to indicate the U.S. had adjusted its tactics after a strike last week left two survivors who had to be pulled from the water by a Navy rescue helicopter and held temporarily in custody aboard a warship before being repatriated to their home countries. The return of those two survivors, instead of detaining them as the military would have done against al-Qaeda or other known terrorist organizations in previous armed conflicts, has raised further questions about the already murky legal justification the Trump administration is using to conduct the strikes In virtually all other drug interdictions before last month, the suspects were stopped by U.S. authorities — primarily the Coast Guard — and detained by U.S. law enforcement and charged. On Wednesday, President Donald Trump suggested that the military's counter-drug operations may expand to include striking targets on land as well. He has asserted he has the authority to direct the deadly attacks because the U.S. is in an "armed conflict" with the cartels. Trump has yet to seek approval from Congress for the military operations. On Wednesday he said he "probably" would consult with Congress to explain "exactly what we're doing when we come to the land." He added, though, "We don't have to do that." A day later, Trump appeared to rule out seeking lawmakers' approval for whatever could happen next. "I don't think we're going to necessarily ask for a declaration of war," he told reporters. "I think we're just going to kill people that are bringing drugs into our country."

Reported similarly:
New York Post [10/24/2025 12:25 PM, Staff, 42219K]
Bloomberg [10/24/2025 11:10 AM, Courtney McBride, 18207K]
ABC News [10/24/2025 1:15 PM, Anne Flaherty and Alexandra Hutzler, 30493K]
CBS News [10/24/2025 2:26 PM, Staff, 39474K]
USA Today [10/24/2025 3:04 PM, Zac Anderson, 67103K] r

NBC News: U.S. strikes another alleged drug-carrying boat in the Caribbean, Pete Hegseth says
NBC News [10/24/2025 2:03 PM, Alexandra Marquez, Dan De Luce and Courtney Kube, 34509K] reports Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth has directed an aircraft carrier strike group to move to the Caribbean to support President Donald Trump's effort to dismantle "Transnational Criminal Organizations" and to "counter narco-terrorism," according to Pentagon spokesman Sean Parnell. The Gerald R. Ford Carrier Strike Group and embarked carrier air wing are moving to the U.S. Southern Command's area of responsibility, Parnell said in a post on X. Parnell said the enhanced military presence will "bolster U.S. capacity to detect, monitor, and disrupt illicit actors and activities that compromise the safety and prosperity of the United States homeland and our security in the Western Hemisphere." The Gerald R. Ford is the U.S. Navy's largest aircraft carrier and is currently stationed in the Mediterranean with three destroyers, according to two U.S. officials. They have not left that region, but once they do, the transit will take about one week to get on station in the Caribbean, the officials said. The military's deployment of the carrier strike group is a notable escalation of U.S. policy in the region as Trump has promised to target more cartel members and has firmly said these actions don't require congressional approval. It will nearly double the number of U.S. forces afloat in the area as part of the counter-drug mission. The U.S. has eight surface ships there now, plus a nuclear-powered submarine, which adds up to about 6,000 sailors and marines in the region. The Ford Carrier Strike Group will add between 4,500 and 5,000 more sailors and marines to the mission. The carrier is more than just people, aircraft and firepower — carriers are often sent as a show of presence or force. The officials said this deployment is also about sending a message to cartels that the U.S. military can move a huge presence to

the area quickly. The announcement came after Hegseth said earlier in the day that the U.S. struck a boat allegedly carrying drugs in the Caribbean Sea, marking at least the third time this week that the U.S. has attacked a vessel it says was involved in drug trafficking.

Washington Examiner: Congress targets Hezbollah drug smuggling in Latin America
Washington Examiner [10/24/2025 9:22 AM, Pedro Rodriguez, 1394K] reports the Senate Caucus on International Narcotics Control held a hearing this week on the Iran-financed Islamic terrorist network Hezbollah, and its oil smuggling, money laundering, counterfeiting, and illegal weapons procurement operations. All of these efforts are tied to drug cartels and communist regimes in Latin America. It comes as no surprise that after the collapse of the Bashar Assad regime in Syria, Hezbollah's ally, the terrorist network has had to seek funding and shelter elsewhere. "In this critical time, Hezbollah may seek to further expand its Latin America drug trafficking and money laundering networks, and that's why we are holding this hearing today," Sen. John Cornyn (R-TX), chairman of the caucus, stated in Global Gangsters: Hezbollah's Latin American Drug Trafficking Operations. "As noted by the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, Hezbollah established a presence in the lawless tri-border region of Argentina, Brazil, and Paraguay, infiltrating the largest shiite muslim diaspora," Cornyn added. FINCEN also reported that Hezbollah's expanding partnerships with South American drug cartels and the Chavez-Maduro regime in Venezuela are helping to advance the Islamic terrorist network's money-laundering operations. "I'm concerned about reports that indicate that the former Venezuelan Vice President was responsible for issuing the Venezuelan passports to Hezbollah members, facilitated their coming into Latin America, and helped Hezbollah to channel funds to the Middle East," Cornyn said. Sen. Bernie Moreno (R-OH) called Venezuela a "safe haven" for one of the world's most lethal terrorist networks, adding that Maduro's are "counted. In 2020, the Justice Department charged a former member of the Venezuelan General Assembly with narcotrafficking, terrorism, weapons offenses, and acting as a liaison between Cartel of the Suns and Hezbollah and Hamas. As stated by Cornyn, Hezbollah's ties to the communist regime have facilitated the terrorist network's illicit activities in the region. The group's operations in Latin America first drew U.S. government attention during President Barack Obama's administration, as Hezbollah began shifting its focus away from the Middle East. With the collapse of its chief financial patron, the Iranian regime, and the weakening of Syria's Assad, the organization sought new funding sources abroad. Now, under President Donald Trump's second administration, Hezbollah is accelerating its activities across Latin America, filling the financial void left by its declining power base in the Middle East. "President Trump's brave decision to strike Iranian nuclear sites in Operation Midnight Hammer could dry up a key source of funding for Hezbollah," Cornyn said. Hezbollah's other ally, Hamas, has been almost completely eradicated in Gaza thanks to Trump's military alliance with Israel, which aimed to eliminate the terrorist organization after its brutal attacks on Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, giving Hezbollah an even stronger reason to expand its operations in the Western Hemisphere.

New York Times: U.S. Deploys Aircraft Carrier to Latin America, a Major Escalation
New York Times [10/25/2025 12:37 AM, Charlie Savage and Eric Schmitt, 330K] reports Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth has ordered the deployment of the aircraft carrier Gerald R. Ford as well as its accompanying warships and attack planes to waters off Latin America, the Pentagon said on Friday, in a dramatic escalation of military might in the region. The enhanced American presence "will bolster U.S. capacity to detect, monitor, and disrupt illicit actors and activities that compromise the safety and prosperity of the United

States homeland and our security in the Western Hemisphere," Sean Parnell, the Pentagon's chief spokesman, said on social media. Mr. Parnell did not say when the Ford, the Navy's most modern and technologically advanced carrier, would be moving to the region or where it would be positioned. Navy officials said on Friday that the Ford is currently steaming off the coast of Croatia on a monthslong European deployment and would take seven to 10 days, depending on speed and weather conditions, to reach its new assigned mission with U.S. Southern Command. Since late August, the U.S. military has deployed about 10,000 troops to the Caribbean, about half of them on eight warships and half in Puerto Rico, for what the administration says is a counterterrorism and counternarcotics mission. The Ford carries about 5,000 sailors and has more than 75 attack, surveillance and support aircraft, including F/A-18 fighters. Aircraft carriers have toured the waters in the Caribbean and off Latin America before on what the Navy calls "good will" tours. But cutting short the Ford's scheduled deployment by several months and redirecting it to Latin America for a possible combat mission amid the intensifying U.S. strikes on boats the administration says are carrying drugs is highly unusual, current and former Navy officials said. "By adding the Ford to the already existing forces, this is a uniquely powerful naval combat group in the Caribbean in my memory," said Adm. James Stavridis, a former head of U.S. Southern Command, now retired. For decades, Republican and Democratic presidents have dispatched one or more aircraft carriers to the Middle East as a sign of U.S. military power and of American geopolitical resolve. President Trump's second administration has focused more intently on securing the U.S. homeland and the Western Hemisphere. The deployment of the Ford to the region, which officials said had been under consideration for weeks, underscores that shift in national security priorities. The new Pentagon orders came hours after Mr. Hegseth announced that the U.S. military had killed six people on a boat suspected of smuggling drugs from South America, as the Trump administration's lethal and legally disputed campaign continued to escalate. The latest attack raised the death toll from the Trump administration's campaign on suspected drug boats to 43 in 10 known strikes — eight in the Caribbean and two more this week in the eastern Pacific.

Reported similarly:
Washington Examiner [10/24/2025 5:09 AM, Staff, 1394K]

Breitbart: Venezuela's Nicolas Maduro Sends English Message to Trump: 'No Crazy War'

Breitbart [10/24/2025 12:51 PM, Christian K. Caruzo, 2416K] reports that socialist dictator of Venezuela Nicolás Maduro on Thursday attempted to send a message to President Donald Trump in English saying "no crazy war, please.". "Not war, not war, not war, yes peace, yes peace, yes peace forever, forever, forever, peace forever. No crazy war, no crazy war no crazy war," Maduro repeated in front of an audience. "Please please please, yes please peace forever, peace forever. Victory forever the pits, victory forever the pits [sic]." Maduro issued his latest attempt at speaking the English language in remarks during an official "patriotic working class" regime event in Caracas in the company of some regime officials. Upon delivering his words in "English," Maduro joked to his audience that he had spoken in "Tarzanian language," referencing the Tarzan book series by late American writer Edgar Rice Burroughs, which have been adapted in several forms of media through the ages. Maduro clarified that, if his English words were translated to Spanish in a "Tarzan style" they would mean "No war, no war, no want war. No to the war of the crazy, no to the insanity of war [sic throughout].". "That'd be the correct translation, right?" Maduro asked. "Yes to peace, yes to peace, yes to peace forever. Victory forever for peace."

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NewsMax: Trump Mulls Hitting Venezuela Drug-Making Sites as US Forces Surge in Caribbean

NewsMax [10/24/2025 4:32 PM, Staff, 4109K] reports President Donald Trump is considering plans to target cocaine production facilities and trafficking routes in Venezuela, according to reporting by CNN and cited by Reuters. Three senior U.S. officials who are familiar with the discussions said this option is still under review but has not been approved yet. The potential strikes would represent another escalation in Trump's campaign against Latin American drug networks. The president has stated that he sees drug cartels not as criminal groups but as "enemy combatants" waging war against the United States. This week, Trump told reporters that his administration is "no longer tolerating the poison flooding our communities" and promised that traffickers "will be wiped from the face of the Earth." His language shows a growing use of military terms to deal with the drug trade. Strategy meetings now often include Pentagon and intelligence officials rather than just law enforcement leaders. Trump said he will brief Congress next week but insisted that he does not need a declaration of war. Trump said Thursday he plans to keep Congress briefed, and that land targets in Venezuela are next. At the same time, he said he didn't think he'd be asking for a war declaration to target drug traffickers who are killing Americans.

Reuters: US sanctions Colombia's president, accuses him of allowing expansion of drug trade

Reuters [10/24/2025 7:46 PM, Daphne Psaledakis, Julia Symmes Cobb, Brendan O'Boyle, 36480K] reports that the U.S. on Friday imposed sanctions on Colombian President Gustavo Petro, as President Donald Trump sharply escalated a feud with Washington's longtime Latin American ally over accusations that Petro has refused to stop the flow of cocaine into the United States. Tensions between Washington and many countries in the region have been mounting for weeks. The U.S. military has ratcheted up activity in the southern Caribbean, striking vessels in international waters that it has alleged without evidence are carrying drugs. Trump this week called Petro an "illegal drug leader" after the leftist president accused the U.S. of committing "murder" with the strikes. Petro, whose term will end in 10 months, has always opposed the strikes. He has attempted to end Colombia's six-decade conflict through peace and surrender deals with rebels and crime gangs, but those efforts have borne little fruit. "Since President Gustavo Petro came to power, cocaine production in Colombia has exploded to the highest rate in decades, flooding the United States and poisoning Americans," U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said in a statement. "President Petro has allowed drug cartels to flourish and refused to stop this activity. Today, President Trump is taking strong action to protect our nation and make clear that we will not tolerate the trafficking of drugs into our nation." Petro disputes the basis for the U.S. allegations, saying his government has seized cocaine at unprecedented rates and that expansion of coca crops - the base ingredient for cocaine - has slowed every year since 2021. "What the U.S. Treasury says is a lie," Petro said on X on Friday afternoon. "My government did not increase cocaine, it did the opposite, my government has seized more cocaine than in the whole history of the world." Petro, who first rose to prominence as a senator by exposing links between some of his fellow lawmakers and paramilitary groups involved in cocaine trafficking, earlier called the sanction "a complete paradox". He said he had hired a U.S. lawyer to defend him and spoke to thousands of supporters in central Bogota on Friday evening, saying he has no money in the United States. While rare, the imposition of sanctions on a head of state is not unprecedented. The move adds Petro to a short list that includes the leaders of Russia, Venezuela and North Korea.

Reported similarly:

Washington Post [10/24/2025 4:18 PM, Tobi Raji, 24149K]
FOX News [10/24/2025 5:28 PM, Alexandra Koch, 40621K] r
Washington Examiner [10/24/2025 10:42 PM, Brady Knox, 1394K]
Univision [10/24/2025 4:04 PM, Staff, 5004K]

CBS News: Colombia's President Gustavo Petro tells CBS News blowing up drug boats is easy, but illegal and ineffective

CBS News [10/24/2025 11:17 AM, Lilia Luciano and Tucker Reals, 39474K] reports Colombia's left-wing President Gustavo Petro has been outspoken in his condemnation of the U.S. military strikes on what the Trump administration says are drug smuggling boats in international waters. Petro calls the strikes easy, but ineffective in tackling the mammoth problem of drug smuggling — and illegal to boot. The Trump administration has announced at least 10 such strikes on boats during the past two months, including two off Colombia's Pacific coast this week. The most recent came overnight, when Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth said the U.S. carried out "a lethal kinetic strike" on a vessel he said was operated by the Tren de Aragua gang, "trafficking narcotics in the Caribbean Sea." Hegseth said "six male narco-terrorists were aboard the vessel during the strike, which was conducted in international waters — and was the first strike at night. All six terrorists were killed and no U.S. forces were harmed in this strike." Aside from announcing the strikes, the U.S. military and the Trump administration have provided virtually no information about how they are carried out, based on what intelligence, or who, specifically, has been killed. In an exclusive conversation with CBS News, Petro said some of those killed in the U.S. strikes have been innocent civilians, and he reiterated his accusation that the attacks violate international law. The White House denies those accusations, and President Trump has defended the strikes as a legitimate part of his fight against drug trafficking gangs. Asked if he was ready to lower the rhetorical tone in his war of words with Mr. Trump, to seek a diplomatic way of stopping the U.S. attacks on boats, Petro insisted that he was merely replying to the American leader in kind. The Drug Enforcement Administration says about 90% of the cocaine that reaches the U.S. comes from Colombia, and President Trump has blamed Petro, saying he's failed to rein in drug cartels that operate in his country. "They have insulted me," he told CBS News. "And a lot, but all I can do is be frank."

The Hill: Intel Democrats press Gabbard on Trump administration boat strikes

The Hill [10/24/2025 6:10 PM, Rebecca Beitsch and Filip Timotija, 12595K] reports leading Intelligence Committee Democrats are accusing the Trump administration of leaving them in the dark on strikes in the Caribbean that have killed more than 40 people, demanding information about the intelligence community's role. The letter requests the legal justifications for the strikes, which has targeted a series of boats the Trump administration has claimed without evidence are ferrying drugs off the coasts of Venezuela and Colombia. "Despite our repeated requests, the intelligence committees have received virtually no information about the Intelligence Community's support for these operations," Rep. Jim Himes (D-Md.) and Sen. Mark Warner (D-Va.), the top Democrat on each chamber's Intelligence Committee, wrote to Director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard. "We have not been told which agencies are providing intelligence support, the nature of that assistance, or the amount of IC resources and personnel dedicated to this effort," they continued. "Nor have we been advised about the IC's role in collecting and analyzing intelligence after the strikes to assess the identities of those targeted, the type and quantity of drugs that may have been onboard, and the impact of the strikes."

Washington Examiner: Trump administration shows no signs of seeking declaration of war for cartel operations

Washington Examiner [10/25/2025 7:00 AM, Mike Brest, 1563K] reports the U.S. military has conducted at least 10 strikes, killing more than 30 people, in an effort to target drug smuggling, while President Donald Trump has said he doesn't believe he needs a formal declaration of war from Congress. During an event on Thursday focused on his Homeland Security Taskforce, Trump said his administration would brief Congress, but stopped short of saying they would seek a declaration of war from lawmakers. "I don't think we're necessarily going to ask for a declaration of war, I think we're just gonna kill people that are bringing drugs into our country. We're going to kill them. They're going to be, like dead," the president said on Thursday. The U.S. military has announced ten strikes targeting alleged drug smuggling vessels in the western hemisphere since this campaign began last month. Secretary of War Pete Hegseth announced on Friday that six people were killed in the most recent strike, and the secretary said it was the first of these operations to occur at night.

CBS News: What is known — and not known — about U.S. strikes on alleged drug boats

CBS News [10/24/2025 5:22 PM, Kathryn Watson, Eleanor Watson, 39474K] reports the U.S. has been carrying out intermittent strikes on vessels alleged to be carrying drug smugglers and illegal narcotics in international waters off South American coastlines since early September. President Trump and Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth say the boats were known to be involved in drug smuggling, and insist they have the authority to carry out the strikes without authorization from Congress. Mr. Trump has long decried the influence of drug cartels in the United States, although the lethal strikes represent the biggest escalation in his war on drugs. As of Friday, Oct. 24, the Trump administration has publicly disclosed strikes on 10 vessels since the president revealed the first operation on Sept. 2. Mr. Trump told reporters Thursday it's possible that the U.S. may begin carrying out strikes on land. So far, the administration says it has only targeted vessels in international waters. At least 43 people have been killed in the strikes as of Friday, Oct. 24, according to the numbers released by the Trump administration. Congress has not authorized the use of military force to target drug cartels.

Washington Examiner: Trump administration cartel crackdown includes prosecuting illegal fishing in Gulf of America

Washington Examiner [10/24/2025 6:00 AM, Mike Brest, 1394K] reports the U.S. military and relevant law enforcement agencies have reported an initial dip in illegal fishing activities in the Gulf of America in recent months after the Justice Department began arresting and prosecuting people instead of releasing them back to Mexico. The Coast Guard is among several agencies that work to ensure non-American fishermen don't operate within the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone. Mexican fishermen will illegally fish in U.S. waters and try to make it back to Mexican waters before getting caught. If they pull that off, they will sell the fish — sometimes into U.S. markets — and the Gulf Cartel gets a cut of the proceeds, according to the Treasury Department. The Gulf Cartel relies "on a variety of illicit schemes like [illegal, unreported, and unregulated] (IUU) fishing to fund their operations, along with narcotics trafficking and human smuggling," former acting Undersecretary for Terrorism and Financial Intelligence Bradley T. Smith said last year, when the Treasury Department announced it was sanctioning five individuals with ties to the cartel.

CBS News: Accused fentanyl kingpin dubbed "Brother Wang" extradited from Cuba to U.S., Mexico says
CBS News [10/24/2025 11:36 AM, Staff, 39474K] reports a Chinese citizen accused of trafficking fentanyl has been extradited from Cuba to the United States, according to the Mexican government, which helped facilitate the transfer. Zhi Dong Zhang, known as "Brother Wang," escaped house arrest in Mexico in July, and has now been transferred into U.S. custody, according to Mexican Security Secretary Omar Garcia Harfuch. Zhi is accused of being "responsible for international drug trafficking, money laundering, and alliances with criminal groups with a presence in the Americas, Europe, and Asia," Harfuch said, according to BBC Mundo. He is alleged to have worked closely with Mexico's Sinaloa and Jalisco New Generation drug cartels, designated "foreign terrorist organizations" by Washington. The Cuban government said that "after a formal request for extradition," the alleged trafficker was handed over to Mexican authorities. Neither Mexico nor Havana has specified whether Zhang was transferred to the United States via Mexican soil, or if he was transported directly from Cuba. A wanted poster released by Mexican prosecutors in July said that in addition to "Brother Wang," Zhi has multiple other aliases, including "BW," "Pancho," "HeHe" and "Mr. T." Zhi is considered "a major international money laundering operator," Garcia said last year. He is accused of laundering at least $20 million in the U.S. between 2020 and 2021 by using more than 100 shell companies and bank accounts, El Pais reported.

Reported similarly:
Reuters [10/24/2025 8:44 AM, Lizabeth Diaz, 36480K]

CNN: How DHS's public statements differ from what it says in court
CNN [10/24/2025 11:36 AM, Margaret Dawson, 18595K] reports CNN's Omar Jimenez breaks down what the Department of Homeland Security puts out publicly via social media or press releases, versus what the agency is arguing through court documents over recent cases in Chicago and Newark. [Editorial note: consult video at source link]

CBS News: Federal workers hunker down as they go without pay in shutdown: "Protect every penny"
CBS News [10/24/2025 11:19 AM, Megan Cerullo, 39474K] reports Jill Hornick, a 59-year-old service representative at a Social Security Administration field office in Illinois, would normally have received her latest paycheck on Friday. Instead, she was last paid on Oct. 10 — for three days less than she had worked. Hornick is defined as an essential worker and continues to report to the office on a daily basis during the government shutdown. She said she doesn't have time to search for a second job and isn't eligible for unemployment benefits. Because of the stalemate in Congress, now in its 24th day, Hornick also has no clue on when the next paycheck will arrive. "It's very annoying that employees who are furloughed can collect unemployment, but employees who are essential and have to work without pay cannot collect unemployment," Hornick told CBS News. "And yet I am showing up on my own dime because we still have to pay money to put gas in the car, pay the daycare center, because they are not going to take kids for free." While roughly 670,000 federal employees are furloughed, approximately 730,000 other government employees deemed essential — such as air traffic controllers and Transportation Security Administration officers — continue to work without pay during the shutdown, according to estimates from the Bipartisan Policy Center. Hornick, whose annual income is about

$75,000 a year, is now scrambling to stay afloat. That means paring her spending and contacting her mortgage lender and other creditors to ask for lenience.

Opinion – Op-Eds

San Diego Union Tribune: Mike Levin: Kristi Noem's $170 million jets are a symbol of her arrogance

San Diego Union Tribune [10/24/2025 11:00 AM, Mike Levin, 1538K] reports public service is supposed to be about duty, not luxury. Yet Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem just signed off on the purchase of two Gulfstream G700s, luxury aircraft worth a combined $170 million. The Coast Guard had requested one replacement plane for an aging jet used for official travel. Somewhere along the way, that single, practical request turned into a pair of top-of-the-line aircraft awarded through a no-bid contract, without a clear explanation or a shred of humility. Secretary Noem says the planes are necessary for the mission of the Coast Guard, but that is not what the record shows. The Department of Homeland Security originally requested one $50 million aircraft. Now, it is buying two "used" Gulfstreams that the manufacturer markets for billionaires, not public servants. And it is happening during a government shutdown, when some of the very workers Secretary Noem leads are missing their paychecks. As a member of the House Appropriations Committee, I find this entirely unacceptable. Taxpayer dollars must be spent in a way that is justified, transparent, and defensible. A $170 million luxury purchase at a time when federal employees are going unpaid fails every one of those tests. Secretary Noem has implemented a policy that requires her personal sign-off on any department expense over $100,000. That means this decision, one of the larger discretionary purchases in the Department of Homeland Security's history, went directly across her desk. Accountability begins and ends with her. Every federal employee knows that taxpayer money is a public trust. In my district, I see that respect every day. Coast Guard members work long hours under tough conditions with aging equipment. They are motivated by service, not status. The same goes for the TSA officers at John Wayne Airport or the CBP personnel at our ports of entry. These men and women keep our country safe. They deserve leaders who share their sense of duty, not one who seems to view public office as an opportunity for personal luxury. The Coast Guard's mission is vital, from rescuing families at sea to interdicting drug traffickers to protecting our coastlines from environmental threats. But no one needs a Gulfstream G700 to do that job. It is impossible to explain how two luxury jets take priority over the paychecks, boats, or aircraft that actually keep Americans safe. Even in normal times, this purchase would raise eyebrows. During a shutdown, it is a symbol of Washington's worst instincts — entitlement, self-importance, and a growing distance from the people government is supposed to serve. When a leader's first instinct is to take care of herself instead of her workforce, something fundamental has gone wrong. Secretary Noem has tried to deflect criticism by saying Congress already appropriated the money. But that excuse only makes things worse. Leadership means making responsible choices with the funds entrusted to you, not grabbing what you can because you think you are above the rules. The fact that the money was available does not make the decision wise. Every appropriator knows that funds are allocated broadly, but discretion matters. How leaders choose to use those dollars defines their priorities.

NewsMax: Trump Ended Immigration Caravan, Democrats Can't Handle It

NewsMax [10/24/2025 11:03 AM, Ken Buck, 4109K] reports on the campaign trail last year, then-presidential candidate Donald Trump pledged to stop the flow of illegal immigrants

flooding across America's borders and "carry out the largest domestic deportation operation" in U.S. history. Since winning reelection, the Trump administration has delivered on its promises. Within the first 250 days of the president's second term, the Department of Homeland Security has deported more than 400,000 illegal aliens. Another 1.6 million voluntarily self-deported. In August, arrests on the southern border were down nearly 90% from a year earlier, and September marked the U.S. Border Patrol's fifth consecutive month with zero releases. President Trump's decisive action stands in stark contrast to former President Joe Biden, who refused to act and sought to deflect blame for his administration's porous borders. "I've done all I can do," Biden whined — even as Republicans and Democrats alike urged him to take executive action to address the crisis. Congress should "show some spine," Sleepy Joe puffed in February 2024 — the same month that border crossings exceeded 9 million, not including over 1.8 million "got-aways." "It has become clear that the current situation remains untenable," 15 House Democrats pleaded in May 2024. "All of our constituents, no matter our congressional district, have felt the impacts of the current border situation." Trump has given those leaders (and most Americans) what they asked for: secure borders, safer streets, and a plan to rid our country of violent criminals here illegally. But you wouldn't know it listening to Democrats and the liberal media.

The Hill: Don't make federal workers pay the price for the government shutdown
The Hill [10/24/2025 12:00 PM, Rep. Donald Norcross, 12595K] reports that, when the federal government shuts down, the civil servants who keep it running should not pay the price. Yet today, hundreds of thousands of federal workers, including air traffic controllers, firefighters and nurses, are being forced to work without pay. Instead of working to end this shutdown or pass legislation to pay all these hardworking individuals, the Trump administration has chosen to pay only select groups, leaving the rest behind. On Oct. 15, President Trump signed a memo to pay members of the military during the shutdown by repurposing unspent federal funds. The following day, the Trump administration announced it would extend pay to thousands of law enforcement officers, including those working for the Transportation Security Agency, Immigration and Customs Enforcement and Secret Service. Although paying these individuals is the right thing to do, the problem lies in deciding who deserves a paycheck and who doesn't. The federal government doesn't function without its full workforce. Right now, federal employees across the nation are working without pay to keep America running. Air traffic controllers are working mandatory overtime and six-day shifts to manage the safe travel of millions of passengers and tons of cargo every day. Nurses at the Department of Veterans Affairs are providing care to our nation's veterans. First responders are keeping our families safe. Every one of these public servants has a family to support, bills to pay, and obligations that don't disappear simply because Congress and the White House have reached an impasse. The president's decision to selectively pay certain employees based on political optics is a slap in the face to every federal worker who wakes up in the morning ready to serve their country. This also comes during a time when our federal workforce has faced relentless attacks from Trump and his administration. Over the past year, the Trump administration has eliminated the roles of more than 200,000 federal workers at more than a dozen agencies, including firing an estimated 6,000 veterans. This has resulted in complete and utter chaos, with many of the services Americans rely on under threat and ultimately resulting in the rehiring of many of these purged employees. It's time for Trump and congressional Republicans to come back to the negotiating table, reopen the federal government and lower health care costs. The American people deserve a functioning government, and every federal employee

deserves the pay they've earned. Until then, the message from the Trump administration is painfully clear: some public servants matter more than others.

Washington Post: [CA] When ICE came for a U.S. citizen and Army veteran
Washington Post [10/24/2025 7:00 AM, George F. Will, 24149K] reports one Immigration and Customs Enforcement agent's knee was on his neck, another's was grinding his back. Drenched with tear gas and pepper spray, George Retes might have wished that his 137 pounds were back in Kirkuk, Iraq, one of his Army deployments. Herewith a glimpse of your tax dollars at work.. Born 26 years ago in Ventura, California, where his mother was born, he enlisted after high school and calls the Army "the best job ever," adding, "I love the infantry." He married a woman he deployed with, thereby acquiring a stepson, soon a daughter, and a reason to leave the Army: to avoid long absences from his children. He loves Ventura ("The beach is my life"), where he landed a job with a security firm protecting an agriculture plant, which he approached by car mid-afternoon on July 10. ICE agents wearing gas masks — indicators of their dispositions — were blocking entry, he recounts, saying the plant was not operating. This was not the last ICE lie. The ICEmen were presumably looking for undocumented immigrants. Retes's driver's license, which he says the ICEmen never asked to see, identifies him as "Veteran Army." His license plate includes "DV": disabled veteran. While ICE's warriors were trying and ultimately succeeding in smashing his driver's-side window (the better to pepper spray him), they apparently did not notice his rear window's "Iraq Combat Veteran" sticker. Amid a torrent of shouted and contradictory ICEmen commands, and after he asked for an agent's badge number, he says, Retes was dragged from his car, his wrists were zip-tied behind his back, and he was seated on the roadside ground for four hours. He was taken to a Navy base, where he was strip searched, then on to incarceration in Los Angeles, he says, handcuffs having replaced the zip ties. No charges had been made against him, but a mouth swab collected his DNA without his consent. He says his requests for a lawyer, and for a shower to ease the discomforts of tear gas and pepper spray residues, were ignored. After three days, during which he missed his daughter's third birthday, an agent told him the charges against him had been dropped. "What charges?" he recalls asking. Silence. When, two months later, Retes published a newspaper op-ed about his experience, ICE suddenly claimed Retes had been resisting its agents. Video from a Los Angeles television station's helicopter monitoring ICE's operation seems to refute the agency's fabrication. An anonymous spokesperson for the Department of Homeland Security, which includes ICE, dismissed Retes's account as "garbage." Not much of an argument, but evidence of the milieu and mentality that produces ICEmen like those Retes met.

San Francisco Chronicle: [CA] Can San Francisco police arrest ICE agents who defy California's mask law?
San Francisco Chronicle [10/24/2025 7:00 AM, Erwin Chemerinsky, 4722K] reports tensions between the federal government and state and local governments are nothing new, but we are in a moment unlike anything we have seen for decades, if ever. President Donald Trump is sending troops to cities over the objections of governors and mayors, and his encouraging aggressive actions by Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents are understandably provoking the desire for resistance. Even with the announcement that Trump is backing away, at least for now, from sending troops to San Francisco, the underlying issue remains: What can state and local governments do? The simple answer is that state and local governments cannot obstruct the federal government. But they can apply their general laws against federal agents so long as they do not unreasonably

interfere with the federal government carrying out its policies. So, for example, Portland, Ore., and Chicago cannot prohibit Trump from sending troops there, but they can — and have — sued in court to have the deployments declared illegal as violating federal law. Federal law is restrictive about when the president can federalize a state's National Guard, and it flatly prohibits troops from being used for domestic law enforcement. These challenges are pending in courts now, and I am hopeful that the Supreme Court will conclude that the federalization of the state national guards and the use of troops to assist ICE agents violates federal law.

San Diego Union Tribune: [Mexico] Drone attack in Tijuana a glimpse of a new kind of narco war

San Diego Union Tribune [10/24/2025 9:00 AM, Tania Navarro, 1538K] reports on Oct. 15 in Tijuana, three drones carrying explosives dropped their payload onto a state government legal facility. No officials were killed or injured, but the attack sent shockwaves through one of Mexico's busiest border cities. It wasn't a random act of violence. It was a message — and a warning. The use of drones by criminal organizations marks a new phase in the evolution of Mexico's cartels. What once were tools for surveillance and smuggling are now weapons of intimidation and terror. The kind of technology used in the Ukraine-Russia war to strike armored vehicles has made its way into the hands of traffickers who operate just a few miles from the U.S. border. This should concern both Mexico and the United States. Organized crime is entering a technological era, and our governments aren't ready. In recent years, drone attacks have been documented in Michoacán, Jalisco and Guanajuato, often linked to the Jalisco New Generation Cartel. However, those incidents were mostly confined to rural areas, targeting rival groups or small towns. What happened in Tijuana is different — it's a major urban hub, home to more than 2 million people and the busiest land border crossing in America. A drone strike here isn't just another cartel tactic; it's a signal that this technology has reached the doorstep of the United States. Drones give organized crime a new kind of power. They are cheap, easy to buy and hard to trace. A single operator can fly one from miles away, avoiding the street battles that once drew police attention. A few hundred dollars' worth of equipment can now carry explosives capable of damaging buildings or killing targets. In a city like Tijuana, where law enforcement is already under-resourced and outgunned, this new aerial threat tilts the balance even further toward the cartels. The United States understands that this isn't just Mexico's problem. On the night of the attack, the U.S. Consulate in Tijuana issued a security warning, acknowledging the broader threat. The same networks using drones to target government offices can also deploy them to smuggle drugs, track Border Patrol movements or deliver fentanyl across the border. And while the U.S. has invested billions in walls and sensors to stop people and vehicles, far less has been spent on aerial or cyber surveillance systems capable of detecting small, low-flying drones.

The Hill: [Venezuela] War with Maduro would carry immense risks

The Hill [10/24/2025 9:30 AM, Dov Zakheim, 12595K] reports that, nearly 36 years ago, the U.S. invaded Panama to dislodge its strongman, General Manuel Noriega. A force of 27,000 overcame Panamanian resistance in a matter of just two weeks. Noriega, transported to the U.S., was tried and convicted for drug trafficking and money laundering. He spent 18 years in a Miami prison until he was extradited to France in 2010 to face additional money laundering charges. Like President George H.W. Bush, who called Noriega a "drug kingpin," President Trump has accused Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro of drug trafficking and linked him to criminal gangs. Trump has made no secret of

wanting to remove Maduro from power. He has ramped up the pressure on Maduro by authorizing the sinking of seven Venezuelan ships in Caribbean international waters and an eighth in the Pacific, accusing the crews of drug smuggling. With the exception of two Colombians citizens who were repatriated, all aboard the ships perished in the attacks. Trump has authorized the largest deployment of U.S. forces in the Caribbean since the 1989 operation — 10,000 troops, four surface warships, drones, surveillance aircraft, and a Marine Amphibious Ready Group, plus 2,200 Marines accompanied by tactical aviation. On Oct. 15, Trump announced that he had authorized the CIA to conduct covert operations inside Venezuela. He even said he was considering air strikes on Venezuelan territory — a threat backed up by U.S. fighters and bombers flown off Venezuela's coast. Maduro, who has no desire to share Noriega's fate, had already announced in August that he was mobilizing 4.5 million militia members to defend the country against a "gringo" invasion. Many observers have discounted his announcement as mere rhetoric. Others have pointed out that the Venezuelan military is both ill-equipped and poorly trained. Nevertheless, just as Maduro is not planning to give up the presidency, an attack on Venezuela is not going to be a reprise of America's fortnight war against Panama. For starters, Venezuela has twelve times the land area of Panama, and its population is about eight times greater. Indeed, Maduro's militia alone is larger than Panama's entire population. Nor is it clear that the Venezuelan opposition will work alongside the U.S. to dethrone the Venezuelan dictator. Venezuelans may instead put their politics aside and defend their homeland, much like Russians, despite their recent suffering under Stalin's Great Purge, united in 1941 to fight the German invasion. America's twenty-year experience in Afghanistan, like that of the Soviets in the late twentieth century, demonstrates how a determined force can still hold out against a far more technically capable foreign invader and ultimately prevail. And Ukraine's resistance to the Russian invaders at the very outset of what is now approaching four years of war also demonstrates that the strategy of decapitation that succeeded in 1989 did not yield similar results in February 2022. Finally, the possibility that other countries will come to Venezuela's aid cannot be ruled out. Colombian President Gustavo Petro suggested last month that any U.S. attack on Venezuela would be considered an attack on all Latin America. The leftist Petro, whose term of office does not end for another seven months, has had several verbal clashes with Trump and may be prepared to send his far more capable and mostly U.S.-trained troops to assist Maduro.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement

New York Times: Trump Administration Plans a Shake-Up at ICE to Speed Deportations

New York Times [10/24/2025 9:59 PM, Hamed Aleaziz and Tyler Pager, 135475K] reports the Trump administration is drawing up plans for a shake-up at Immigration and Customs Enforcement, with officials looking to replace several senior leaders in field offices across the country, according to three people familiar with the plans. The proposal stems from frustration in the White House and the Department of Homeland Security over the pace of deportations, which are lagging behind President Trump's goal of more than a million by the end of the first year of his second term. The people cautioned that the plans, which involve reassigning about a half dozen field office leaders, had not been finalized. The people spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss ideas still under consideration. The proposed shake-up illustrates how the administration is still scrambling to satisfy Mr. Trump's demand to crack down on immigration, an issue at the heart of his political agenda, even as the president and his top aides have promoted their efforts to secure the border and deport

hundreds of thousands of people. Abigail Jackson, a White House spokeswoman, would not comment on the plans for a shake-up. But she said in a statement that “the president’s entire team is working in lock step to implement the president’s policy agenda, and the tremendous results from securing the border to deporting criminal illegal aliens speak for themselves.” There are more than two dozen field office directors overseeing deportation efforts across the country. Each officer’s region can be expansive, encompassing multiple states or large territories such as Northern California. The regional directors have been under pressure to help ICE boost arrests. The agency has already removed its acting director and top deportation officials — twice. “They are under constant threat; people are ground down; it’s a culture of fear,” said Claire Trickler-McNulty, a former senior ICE official in the Biden administration. “There has been so much shuffling of deck chairs — I can’t imagine anyone even having the ability to take on real challenges.” The Department of Homeland Security says that it has deported more than 400,000 people since Mr. Trump took office, and that it expects to deport 600,000 in total by the end of Mr. Trump’s first year in office. Still, those numbers are slightly misleading. The Trump administration counts people who are turned back at the border and other ports of entry as “deportations,” even though they have never lived inside the United States. Earlier this year, Stephen Miller, Mr. Trump’s deputy chief of staff, met with senior ICE leaders in Washington and discussed ways to pick up the pace of enforcement. Soon after, he appeared on Fox News and said the agency would try to hit a goal of 3,000 arrests a day. The number of arrests shot up after the comments, to more than 2,000 a day. But the arrest numbers have since declined, and ICE has not been able to hit the 3,000 daily arrest figure floated by Mr. Miller. Since the summer, the agency has typically arrested more than 1,000 people a day. “The Trump administration continues to be focused on delivering results and removing violent criminal illegal aliens from this country,” said Tricia McLaughlin, a Department of Homeland Security spokeswoman. “As for personnel, there have been no changes, and we have nothing to announce.”

Breitbart: ICE Agents Arrest Convicted Killers, Sex Offenders, Robbers Across U.S.
Breitbart [10/24/2025 5:16 PM, John Binder, 2416K] reports Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is continuing to arrest criminal illegal aliens across the United States, even in sanctuary jurisdictions that have attempted to thwart such enforcement of federal immigration law. "Every day, and despite the Democrats’ government shutdown, our ICE officers are arresting pedophiles, sexual assailants, murderers, and violent criminals," the Department of Homeland Security’s (DHS) Tricia McLaughlin said in a statement.

New York Times: Can ICE Stop People Solely Based on Their Race?
New York Times [10/24/2025 5:00 AM, Jazmine Ulloa, 153395K] reports again and again in Chicago and elsewhere in recent weeks, masked federal agents have accosted people who appear to be Latino, and have confronted them with questions about their immigration status. Targeting people for immigration enforcement based on race or ethnicity alone was forbidden by the U.S. Supreme Court in a unanimous decision 50 years ago. After all, it’s impossible to determine the immigration statuses of people simply by looking at them. So for decades, agents seeking to question people about their citizenship were supposed to rely on more than just appearance. But as President Trump has intensified his mass deportation campaign, roving patrols that have targeted predominantly Latino communities have become a key part of the administration’s playbook. And whether the tactics are legal appears to be an open question, one likely to be decided by the Supreme Court. Lawsuits challenging the administration’s sweeps in Los Angeles and elsewhere are making their

way through the courts. The outcomes could redefine the limits on the discretion officers have to stop, question and detain people over their immigration statuses and how much race and ethnicity can play into those decisions. “We are in nebulous land,” said Mark Fleming, a lawyer at the National Immigrant Justice Center, which is representing plaintiffs in Chicago. “We have never seen this type of enforcement on the streets ever.”

Univision: ICE told her she was pregnant and detained her for months: organizations report similar cases in "unprecedented" numbers.
Univision [10/24/2025 6:11 AM, Patricia Clarembaux, 5004K] reports when Alicia was admitted to the ICE Processing Center in South Louisiana in April, she learned she was pregnant. She was detained when she showed up for a routine appointment in New Orleans, and shortly afterward, the federal facility’s medical staff broke the news. The separation from her two minor children (ages 5 and 15) caused her significant stress. She wasn’t eating well, only receiving minimal portions of food "of poor quality, which left her hungry and malnourished." Her pregnancy wasn’t easy. In May, she began experiencing severe abdominal pain, vaginal discharge, contractions, and bleeding. Her story is part of a letter sent by various organizations to the acting director of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Todd Lyons, with more testimonies from pregnant women who were detained—or who are still detained—and reported that they did not receive adequate prenatal care, were denied essential supplies, and suffered medical neglect by staff at two detention centers: the one in South Louisiana, known as Basile, and the one in Stewart, Georgia.

NPR: Congress is investigating cases of U.S. citizens detained in immigration raids
NPR [10/24/2025 5:35 PM, Staff, 28013K] Audio: HERE reports U.S. citizens have been arrested in the Trump Administration’s aggressive immigration crackdown. According to ProPublica, at least 170 have been arrested or detained by immigration agents since President Trump took office for his second term. In response, Texas Rep. Robert Garcia and Sen. Richard Blumenthal of Connecticut — both Democrats — have announced an investigation into these detentions. It is incredibly concerning that now anyone can be targeted,” Rep. Garcia tells NPR. “It’s important that we begin documenting all of this.” [Editorial note: consult audio at source link]

Daily Mail: [MA] Brazilian ‘gangster’, 13, issues groveling apology and begs for freedom after he was taken into custody ‘for threatening child with knife’
Daily Mail [10/24/2025 7:53 PM, Natasha Anderson] reports a 13-year-old suspected Brazilian gang member has apologized ‘for everything’ and is begging for his freedom after being taken into ICE custody, his attorney has claimed. Arthur Yuri De Almeida Silva Berto, 13, was arrested at his Massachusetts school on October 9 for allegedly threatening to ‘shoot and kill’ a fellow classmate. Berto, a seventh-grader from Brazil, was transferred to ICE custody after being held at the local police station. Officers did not detain the boy for immigration authorities, but claim federal agents showed up at the station after his fingerprints were put into a national database. Homeland Security officials alleged that Berto had a gun on him, but he was carrying a 5-inch Milwaukee knife when he was detained by Everett police, city officials said. DHS also alleged that Berto is a suspected ‘33’ gang member and had 11 prior police complaints, including breaking and entering, vandalism, theft, fighting and ‘flash mob’ style shoplifting. Berto appeared before a judge via Zoom for a bond hearing Thursday where he pled for forgiveness and shared how he misses his mother, The Boston Globe reported. The judge denied bond, citing how he ‘dangerous’ and

a ‘flight risk,’ his lawyer Andrew Lattarulo said. Berto reportedly apologized after the ruling was issued. He remains in federal custody at a juvenile detention facility in Virginia pending his asylum hearing. His next court appearance is scheduled for November 5.

Bloomberg: [NY] Manhattan DA Bragg Says at Debate He’s Examining Prosecuting ICE

Bloomberg [10/24/2025 10:20 PM, Mike Vilensky, 803K] reports Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg said he’s looking at whether his office can prosecute ICE agents if they break local laws, saying the immigration agency’s tactics in New York are "anathema to public safety." Bragg was asked at a NY1 debate on Friday, alongside two opponents challenging him for the Manhattan DA role, if his office would take action against Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers if they were found in violation of local statutes. "It is something we are looking at," he said, noting Manhattan Rep. Dan Goldman wrote a recent letter to New York Police Department Commissioner Jessica Tisch.

NBC News: [NY] New York City’s Canal Street slowly rebounds after ICE raid

NBC News [10/24/2025 3:28 PM, David K. Li and Daniella Silva, 34509K] reports the nine men arrested were all in the United States illegally, DHS said. Five were from Senegal and one each was from Mali, Mauritania and Guinea. DHS didn’t identify the country of origin of one of the men. The agency said it also took five protesters into custody, accusing four of assaulting law enforcement and one of obstruction. DHS told NBC News on Thursday that the protesters had been released pending further investigation with the U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York. Makonnen, of the group African Communities Together, said they’ve been working closely with street vendors and other local organizations to ensure they know their rights and the resources available to them.

Daily Caller: [NY] Trump Torches ‘Loser’ Dan Goldman Over Calling On NYPD To Arrest ICE Agents For Doing Their Jobs

Daily Caller [10/24/2025 11:18 AM, Jason Cohen, 835K] reports President Donald Trump criticized Democratic Rep. Dan Goldman of New York on Thursday over his push for the New York City Police Department (NYPD) to arrest federal agents. Goldman sent a letter making the request to NYPD Commissioner Jessica Tisch on Oct. 16, alleging Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Customs and Border Protection (CBP) agents have engaged in "outrageous and unlawful conduct … including violently and improperly arresting United States citizens." When a reporter asked Trump for his response to Goldman’s request on Thursday, the president insulted him and his party. "Dan is a loser, you understand. He’s a guy that doesn’t have what it takes. He’s been trying so hard. And they are exhausted," Trump said. "It’s so ridiculous, right? A suggestion like that. They are trying so hard and it’s not working.” "Even now, they started imitating me — of all people. They want to imitate me, and they start using foul language, but they use too much of it," he continued. "You can’t use the F-word seven times in one sentence. It doesn’t work. It might work every seven news conferences, but you can’t do it … seven times in one sentence. … They’re in big trouble, that party.” Democratic members of Congress increased their use of profanity to become more relatable to Americans, Politico reported in March. Moreover, Goldman also dismissed violence against federal immigration enforcement officers on "CNN NewsNight" Oct. 8.

New York Times: [NY] A Woman Self-Deported, Hoping to Shield Her Son. He Was Detained Anyway.

New York Times [10/25/2025 3:21 AM, Ana Ley, 330K] reports a 16-year-old undocumented immigrant living without a parent in New York City was detained Thursday morning during a routine check-in with federal officials, as President Trump's immigration crackdown has begun to target more minors who entered the United States illegally. The immigrant, Joel Camas, had been without his mother for about four weeks after she voluntarily returned to Ecuador in hopes that her son could avoid being deported. On Thursday morning Joel arrived for a routine appearance at 26 Federal Plaza in Lower Manhattan, the New York City headquarters for the Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency. With him was an entourage of eight adults that included Beth Baltimore, his lawyer, and Brad Lander, the city comptroller. Because Joel has no legal guardian in the United States, he was turned away from that building, which has become the epicenter of adult migrant detentions in New York, and directed to a different federal building. There, employees said they were confused by his arrival, and asked the group to wait; hours later, Joel was abruptly escorted behind closed doors with Ms. Baltimore, then taken from her. From a room that is inaccessible to the public, Ms. Baltimore texted Mr. Lander: "Detaining him" Mr. Lander gasped and doubled over, distraught by the news. "Oh, no, no," he said as his voice weakened. Ms. Baltimore then emerged, tears welling in her eyes. "I had no idea this was going to happen," she said. "I was too hopeful." The government had issued a deportation order against Joel, but he had applied for and received a designation known as special immigrant juvenile status, which opens a pathway to lawful permanent residency. Ms. Baltimore said that, historically, the classification has protected minors from deportation, but the rules seemed to be shifting rapidly during Mr. Trump's administration. Tricia McLaughlin, a spokeswoman for the Department of Homeland Security, said that Joel and his mother had been issued final orders of removal by a federal judge on Feb. 28, 2024, under the Biden administration. "His mother self-deported to Ecuador and Camas remained in the U.S.A. alone as a minor," Ms. McLaughlin wrote in an email. "Fortunately, now Mr. Camas will be reunited with family." From Mr. Trump's inauguration in January through the end of July, ICE has detained about 50 children younger than 18 in the New York City area, according to federal data obtained by the Deportation Data Project at the University of California, Berkeley. Like Joel, many have been from Ecuador. At least 38 children and teenagers from the metropolitan region have been deported, the data shows. Joel had been staying in the Bronx with relatives and attending Gotham Collaborative High School. He met Ms. Baltimore, his lawyer, through a youth social services center called the Door, which offers essential services such as health care, mental counseling and legal assistance to 12- to 24-year-olds. As he arrived for his check-in on Thursday morning, he was carrying a black Nike backpack and hoped to get back to school before the first bell at 8 a.m. He was looking forward to his favorite subject, English, and to having a warm meal after standing in the cold for much of the morning. On Halloween, he said, he had planned to hang out with his friends. The immigration officials who detained Joel did not tell Ms. Baltimore where he would be taken, and on Thursday afternoon she rushed to find him, and to file legal paperwork to prevent his transfer to another jurisdiction, where he would be removed from his lawyer and his relatives. She also notified the city's Department of Education as well as the office of Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, whose district includes Joel's home in the Bronx. Lawyers with the New York Civil Liberties Union were also working with Ms. Baltimore to free him, and on Friday morning, they filed an emergency petition to challenge his detention, deeming it illegal because of Joel's special immigrant juvenile status.

CBS New York: [NY] 16-year-old boy detained by ICE after scheduled immigration appointment in NYC

CBS New York [10/25/2025 12:06 AM, Alecia Reid, 39474K] reports a teenage boy was detained by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents after showing up for a scheduled immigration appointment this week. His mother self-deported but believed her son's status would have kept him safe. Joel Camas, 16, showed up to a scheduled immigration check-in at 26 Federal Plaza bright and early Thursday morning. "We were gonna do this ICE check-in. It was gonna be quick, maybe he wouldn't even be late for school that starts at 8," said Beth Baltimore, director of legal services for The Door. Instead, he was detained and sent to a facility where minors are being held. He and his mother, Elvia Chafla, are undocumented. In September, Chafla flew back to their Ecuadorian hometown instead of facing arrest. She thought Joel would be fine because of his special immigrant juvenile status. "It is a status available to young people who are under 21, unmarried, have been found to have been abused, abandoned or neglected by ... a parent or parents," Baltimore said. The family's lawyer says a family court judge found that it was in Joel's best interests to remain in the U.S. He is a junior at Gotham Collaborative High School and lives with family in the Bronx. Joel's mother says he had a very difficult life in Ecuador and she brought him to New York seeking asylum. "What is going to happen to him? What is going to happen to my son? Right now, there's a lot of violence here and I don't want him to come back to that ... Right now, I have no work," she said in Spanish. The Department of Homeland Security says in February 2024, during the Biden administration, the teen and his mother were given final orders to leave. "His mother self-deported to Ecuador and Camas remained in the USA alone as a minor. Fortunately, now Mr. Camas will be reunited with family," DHS said in a statement, in part. The family's lawyer says the rules for migrants are in constant flux with the current Trump administration, and if the teen is deported, his pathway to lawful permanent residence will be terminated. "Every day is just, there's another terrifying thing that's happening," Baltimore said. "Also just the changes in law every few minutes, every few seconds. Different cases coming out." The Civil Liberties Union and the organization representing Joel filed a Habeas petition on his behalf. They are seeking his release and a stop on the removal order so he can stay in school and continue on his path. [Editorial note: consult video at source link]

NBC News: [VA] Man was fatally hit by vehicle while fleeing ICE on Virginia highway, officials say

NBC News [10/24/2025 4:04 PM, Daniella Silva, 34509K] reports a man fleeing Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents ran out onto a busy highway and was struck and killed Thursday in Virginia, authorities said. The incident appeared to be the second time since August that a person was killed by oncoming traffic while attempting to flee ICE agents, according to local officials. Jose Castro-Rivera died Thursday after ICE officers made a car stop in what a senior Department of Homeland Security official said was a "targeted, intelligence-based immigration enforcement operation." The DHS official told NBC News that after determining that the occupants were allegedly in the United States illegally, the immigration agents began detaining the people in the car; that's when Castro-Rivera resisted and ran onto a busy highway. The official did not provide additional details about the other people in the car.

Washington Post: [FL] ICE agent threatens to check deputy's status during DUI stop, asks if he's Haitian

Washington Post [10/24/2025 6:36 PM, Kim Bellware and Ben Brasch, 24149K] reports U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agent arrested in August on suspicion of driving drunk questioned the nationality of a sheriff's deputy and threatened to check the

deputy's immigration status, according to newly released body-camera footage. Scott Deiseroth, a 42-year-old ICE agent, faces misdemeanor charges of driving under the influence with children in the car and resisting officers without violence following the Aug. 13 traffic stop in the Florida Keys. A spokesperson for ICE confirmed Friday that Deiseroth, a former U.S. Army staff sergeant, is an agent in Miami and has been on administrative leave since his arrest. During the stop, Deiseroth repeatedly asked Monroe County sheriff's deputies for leniency because of his law enforcement status and several times demanded to know the nationality of one of the deputies, who is Black and speaks with a Caribbean accent, the body-camera footage shows. "Are you Haitian?" Deiseroth asked Deputy Markens Dorestant during a field sobriety test that he eventually failed. "[It has] nothing to do with my race, buddy," Dorestant replied, prompting Deiseroth to ask again. After Deputy Jonathan Lane said his colleague's nationality doesn't matter, Deiseroth retorted, "it does." Deiseroth grew belligerent at times during the stop and emotional at others, the video shows. At one point, he told the deputies he was going through a divorce and feared losing custody of his sons if he was arrested. On the drive to jail following his arrest, Deiseroth continued to question Lane about Dorestant's nationality.

Chicago Tribune: [IN] Dozens protest ICE deportations at Gary airport
Chicago Tribune [10/24/2025 3:33 PM, Maya Wilkins, 4829K] reports Bolaños was one of the speakers at Friday's "ICE out of NWI" protest at the Gary/Chicago International Airport, where about 50 people gathered to protest U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Authorities, who conduct removal flights from the Gary airport. ICE has been reported in Gary, East Chicago and Hammond multiple times this month, with the Southeast Side Rapid Response Team confirming multiple locations in East Chicago and Hammond on Monday, according to a social media post. ICE officials were not present at Friday's protest.

Chicago Tribune: [IL] Feds say man clipped ICE vehicle during attempted arrest in Gary: records
Chicago Tribune [10/24/2025 5:07 PM, Meredith Colias-Pete, 4829K] reports federal prosecutors allege that a man hit a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement vehicle in Gary while trying to evade an immigration arrest Oct. 13 after dropping his child at school. Charges were unsealed Thursday for Rosario Carrillo Lopez. He was charged in the U.S. District Court in Northern Indiana with forcibly assaulting, resisting, opposing, impeding or interfering with an officer or employee of the United States while engaged in or on account of performance of official duties. The lengthy charge accuses him of assaulting officers with a "deadly weapon" – his SUV. His lawyer Roxanne Mendez Johnson did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Documents state he could face up to 20 years in prison. Gary Police notified ICE on a previous date when he showed officers his Mexican Consulate identification card, U.S. Homeland Security Investigations Special Agent Steven Moran wrote. When U.S. Homeland Security agents ran his information, they discovered he was in the U.S. illegally and had been arrested in the past for a "narcotics offense." Formal charges could not be immediately found in Lake County. ICE agents staked out the listed Gary address on the ID and followed the SUV when Carrillo Lopez appeared to take the child to school. All had body armor labeled "Police." At least one also wore an "ICE badge patch.". They pulled him over on Clark Road, between 5th and 6th avenues, records show. One agent said he was from "Homeland Security." Carrillo Lopez asked in English the reason for the traffic stop. He declined to turn the vehicle off. At least two agents were on each side of the SUV. When one tried to reach into a half-open window to unlock the driver's door, Carrillo Lopez took off over a curb, leading them on a high-speed chase for

two blocks before they cut him off near the Willows apartments entrance. There, Carrillo Lopez forcibly side-swiped one government vehicle to escape, filings show. He cracked and scraped the side passenger bumper while damaging the wheel well, documents state. Immigration agents called Gary Police to report the accident. The Post-Tribune previously reported ICE agents said a man hit their vehicle on the 300 block of Clark Road on Oct. 13. Gary Police Cmdr. Tom Pawlak said ICE agents had targeted the individual and attempted to stop his car about 9 a.m. When agents approached the vehicle, they asked the driver to step out of the car. Pawlak said the man put the car in gear and rammed one of the ICE vehicles, drove over the curb and fled. Pawlak said the incident took place about three blocks south of the Gary Lighthouse Charter High School, 725 Clark Road on the city's west side. Pawlak said Gary police were not involved in the attempted arrest but did take an accident report filed by ICE agents at the police station.

ABC News/Chicago Tribune: [IL] Chicago school board members call for virtual learning amid ICE raids

ABC News [10/24/2025 3:19 PM, Staff, 30493K] reports that some members of the Chicago Board of Education are calling for virtual learning options for students in the face of ongoing Immigration and Customs Enforcement raids in the city. The members spoke at a board meeting just hours after a 17-year-old Benito Juarez High School student was detained on his way to school during an anti-ICE protest in Little Village, according to a letter sent to parents, obtained by Chicago ABC station WLS. "We have received reports of federal law enforcement activity in a nearby neighborhood, and I am very sorry to share that a member of our school community was impacted," the letter from Chicago Public Schools reads. The student was later released without charges, according to WLS. The Department of Homeland Security did not immediately respond to ABC News' request for comment on the student's arrest. The Chicago Tribune [10/24/2025 4:09 PM, Jake Sheridan, 4829K] reports Mayor Brandon Johnson urged Gov. JB Pritzker Friday to weigh allowing Chicago public school students to learn from home because ICE agents are arresting parents and students on their way to and from schools. Pritzker later took a dim view of the idea, saying kids belong in classrooms and pointing to ways schools and residents have already taken steps to protect students and their parents from federal immigration raids. Asked during a news conference if he is considering implementing remote learning at Chicago Public Schools, Johnson said "there are people who are afraid to go to school, are afraid to go to work" before shifting shot-calling responsibilities Pritzker.

FOX News: [MN] Convicted illegal immigrant child killer who murdered infant son arrested in Twin Cities ICE sweep

FOX News [10/24/2025 8:49 PM, Alexandra Koch Fox, 40621K] reports Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem announced a number of arrests made Friday by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in the Twin Cities area of Minnesota, including repeat child sex abusers, murderers, drunk drivers and violent assailants. One of the criminal illegal immigrants, Aldrin Guerrero-Munoz, has been incarcerated on the taxpayer's dime since 2004 with a 32-year prison sentence for the intentional murder of his 3-month-old son. While incarcerated, Guerrero-Munoz was convicted of assaulting a fellow inmate at Stillwater Prison, according to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). ICE lodged a detainer and received custody of him Monday. "Sanctuary politicians like [Minneapolis] Mayor Jacob Fray, who are refusing to work with ICE, are allowing criminals like Aldrin Guerrero-Munoz to live in our communities, unchecked," Noem wrote in a statement. "Under the leadership of President [Donald] Trump, ICE is no longer allowing the guise of

moral superiority and political correctness to supersede the safety and security of Americans." Noem said 70% of ICE arrests are of illegal immigrants convicted or charged with a crime in the U.S. "This statistic doesn't even include foreign fugitives, illegal aliens convicted of crimes in other countries, gang members and suspected terrorists," she added. Other criminal illegal immigrants arrested in the area include: Francisco Javier Garcia-Olivar of Mexico has multiple convictions, including sexual assault and sodomy of a child, attempted sexual assault of a child and sexual assault, according to DHS. Jose Ruben Gomez Munoz of Mexico was convicted of sexual assault, according to DHS. He was also charged with incest with a minor. Humberto Us-Juarez of Guatemala was convicted of molestation of a minor and aggravated felony sex assault, according to DHS. Jose Israel Hernandez Rivas of El Salvador was convicted of human slavery or trafficking and commercial sex, according to DHS. Manuel Betancourt-Renteria of Mexico has 10 convictions, including two counts of assault, possession of methamphetamine, possession of marijuana, larceny and five traffic offenses, according to DHS. He was also charged with driving under the influence of drugs and possession of methamphetamine. Nicolas Lopez Juarez of Guatemala was convicted of aggravated assault with a weapon, three counts of driving under the influence and obstructing police, according to DHS. Juan Alejo-Alejo of Mexico was convicted of homicide by reckless driving and driving under the influence, according to DHS. He was also charged with driving under the influence in a separate incident. Officials confirmed Alejo-Alejo was previously deported before reentering the U.S. David Antonio Gonzalez Rivas of El Salvador was convicted of drug possession and fleeing a peace officer in a motor vehicle to avoid prosecution on two separate occasions, according to DHS. Rivas was arrested 14 additional times for crimes including felony assault, receiving stolen property and obstructing police, officials said. Pedro Cortez Soriano of Mexico was convicted of criminal vehicular homicide, driving under the influence, probation violation, illegal reentry and arrested for driving under the influence, according to DHS. He was previously deported twice with a final order of removal from 2004, officials said.

Daily Wire: [CA] ICE Continues To Round Up 'Depraved' Illegals In California Despite Dem Shutdown

Daily Wire [10/24/2025 1:16 PM, Leif Le Mahieu, 3184K] reports Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) arrested more illegal alien criminals on Thursday as the Democrat-led shutdown continued into its fourth week. In a "worst-of-the-worst" update provided to The Daily Wire, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) highlighted five illegals convicted of crimes ranging from sexual assault to robbery picked up by ICE. "Every day, and despite the Democrats' government shutdown, our ICE officers are arresting pedophiles, sexual assailants, murderers and violent criminals," said DHS Assistant Secretary Tricia McLaughlin. "It is unimaginable to think sanctuary politicians put these monsters and sickos over their own constituents." "American citizens deserve better. Under President Trump and Secretary Noem, we are making America safe again one depraved criminal illegal alien removal at a time," McLaughlin said.

San Francisco Chronicle: [CA] S.F. supervisor wants to create 'ICE-free' zones but details are unclear

San Francisco Chronicle [10/24/2025 4:32 PM, Laura Waxmann, 4722K] reports a San Francisco supervisor wants to create "ICE-free" zones on city-owned property as part of a larger legislative package that aims to provide a blueprint for how cities across the country can protect themselves from federal immigration enforcement. The proposal comes after

San Francisco nearly became the target of a federal immigration surge. Border agents arrived at a Coast Guard facility near Alameda Wednesday but President Donald Trump on Thursday morning said he was calling off a "federal deployment" in the city, convinced by several tech moguls to give Mayor Daniel Lurie more time to deal with crime and drug dealing. But that doesn't mean the city is in the clear, Supervisor Bilal Mahmood, who is pushing the legislation, told the Chronicle. As part of Mahmood's "Safe Cities Blueprint" package — which he plans to introduce to the Board of Supervisors on Tuesday — the supervisor is exploring the feasibility of limiting the use or leasing of schools, parks, libraries, vacant lots and other city-owned properties to federal agencies, including ICE, as staging areas and operations bases, unless required by a court order. Mahmood's representatives said they are not aware of any city properties being leased to ICE currently. Other cities, including Chicago, Santa Clara and San Jose, have created or voted to create such zones already, according to Mahmood. The Department of Homeland Security has pushed back at plans by Santa Clara and San Jose to create "No ICE" zones, telling Newsweek that the agency "will not be deterred from enforcing immigration law."

Univision19: [CA] Immigrant mother arrested after reporting sexual harassment by ICE contractor

Univision19 [10/24/2025 4:50 PM, Staff, 5004K] reports an immigrant woman was arrested by immigration authorities after reporting alleged sexual harassment by an ICE contractor, KCRA3 reported. Silvia Reyna Mendoza fled Mexico as a teenager to escape domestic violence and has lived in the United States for 40 years. She also has eight children who are U.S. citizens. However, she is not. Reyna Mendoza has spent years navigating the immigration system in Sacramento, and based on her status, she had to be fitted with an ankle monitor, which is monitored by an ICE contractor called BI Incorporated, KCRA3 reported. Court documents say BI required Silvia to check in periodically with a specialist on her case, but in 2023, her fight for citizenship was derailed after she reported that the specialist handling her case, named Luis Ruiz, was sexually harassing her. Silvia reported Ruiz to another company specialist and to the supervisor, Montserrat Esquivel, in November 2024, however, court documents say that Esquivel deleted the messages and videos that Ruiz had sent to Silvia. The lawsuit alleges that BI Incorporated failed to follow up on Silvia's sexual harassment complaint, instead toughening its procedures and requiring Silvia to wear an ankle monitor in March 2025. She was finally detained by ICE in September 2025. Her children claim that her arrest was in revenge for the sexual harassment claim.

NPR: [CA] A U.S. citizen detained by ICE is pushing to hold agents accountable

NPR [10/24/2025 4:07 PM, Adrian Florido, Tyler Bartlam, and Patrick Jarenwattananon, 28013K] Audio: HERE reports NPR's Adrian Florido speaks with George Retes, a U.S. citizen who was detained by federal immigration officers in July while attempting to enter his workplace. [Editorial note: consult audio at source link]

CBS News: [Venezuela] Nearly 8,000 Venezuelan nationals returned on ICE deportation flights since March

CBS News [10/24/2025 8:30 PM, Staff, 39474K] reports the Trump administration has conducted 40 removal flights to the Venezuelan capital of Caracas, deporting nearly 8,000 Venezuelan nationals since March, according to senior Department of Homeland Security officials who spoke to CBS News on the condition of anonymity. The flights began after Venezuela agreed in March to resume repatriation flights, and have continued amid

heightened U.S.-Venezuelan tensions in recent weeks. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) deported approximately 140 individuals back to Venezuela in its latest removal flight on October 15. Last Wednesday's flight included at least seven individuals with criminal histories, including alleged members of the Tren de Aragua gang and sexual predators, according to DHS. Among those deported include Jefferson Bracho Haddad, an alleged Tren de Aragua gang member that a DHS spokesperson tells CBS News had six criminal arrests, including for larceny and drug possession. The agency spokesperson added that the flight also returned Angelo Dennis-Jesus Ainaga-Jaspe, convicted of multiple weapons offenses, plus Diego Alejandro Mavarez Arocha, convicted of sexual assault. DHS has repeatedly spotlighted removals of individuals with criminal histories as part of an ongoing effort by the Trump administration to deport undocumented migrants the government determines pose threats to public safety. "These individuals, including confirmed Tren de Aragua gang members, sexual predators, and violent offenders, should have never been in our country in the first place," said DHS Assistant Secretary Tricia McLaughlin in a statement provided to CBS News, adding that an estimated 2 million undocumented immigrants have left the U.S. since January. McLaughlin did not specify how many of those individuals were believed to have departed the U.S. voluntarily, versus those who have been deported. The vast majority would have needed to leave without making contact with DHS to reach that total. According to internal government figures previously obtained by CBS News, over the first six months of President Trump's second term, the administration deported nearly 150,000 people and recorded 13,000 who self-deported. According to senior DHS officials, the deportations to Venezuela have occurred alongside the intensified U.S. campaign against drug trafficking and transnational crime in South America. The Trump administration has carried out at least 10 known strikes on suspected narcotics vessels over the past two months, including two this week off Colombia's Pacific coast. The most recent strike, conducted overnight, targeted a vessel allegedly operated by Venezuela's Tren de Aragua gang in the Caribbean Sea.

Citizenship and Immigration Services

Bloomberg: Will Foreign MBAs Win or Lose With Trump's H-1B Reforms? Maybe Both

Bloomberg [10/24/2025 1:34 PM, Robb Mandelbaum, 18207K] reports the first academic quarter at Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management had only just begun, but Luca, a first-year MBA student, was already deep into his studies on business strategy, corporate finance and more. Then, at the end of the term's first week, he had to dive into a very different subject. "I've become an expert in immigration law," he says. Luca is a Mexican citizen, and, like most international students in US MBA programs, he'd like to stay on after graduation and work here, most likely for a real estate investment company in Chicago. All that may now be in jeopardy. ("Luca" is a pseudonym; he requested that Bloomberg Businessweek use it to avoid drawing the government's attention—especially given the immigrant enforcement campaign now underway in Chicago.) On Sept. 19, President Donald Trump signed a proclamation to rein in the H-1B program, which allows nonimmigrant foreigners to work in the US. H-1B status ostensibly lasts for three years, although it can be, and often is, extended. Anti-immigration organizations and liberal economic groups alike have long attacked H-1B visas as a tool for replacing US employees with lower-paid foreign ones. New private-sector H-1B jobs are capped at 85,000 annually, but the program is so popular the government holds a lottery to dole out approvals. And the Department of Homeland Security estimates that, on average in each of the last five years,

83% of the petitions for new employment filed by companies were for jobs that the employer initially identified as paying below the median wage; 28% were deemed entry-level.

Los Angeles Times: [CA] Asylum seekers face deportation over failure to pay new fees — before being notified

Los Angeles Times [10/24/2025 6:00 AM, Andrea Castillo, 14862K] reports late last month, an immigrant seeking asylum in the U.S. came across social media posts urging her to pay a new fee imposed by the Trump administration before Oct. 1, or else risk her case being dismissed. Paula, a 40-year-old Los Angeles-area immigrant from Mexico, whose full name The Times is withholding because she fears retribution, applied for asylum in 2021 and her case is now on appeal. But when Paula tried to pay the $100 annual fee, she couldn't find an option on the immigration court's website that accepted fees for pending asylum cases. Afraid of deportation — and with just five hours before the payment deadline — she selected the closest approximation she could find, $110 for an appeal filed before July 7. She knew it was likely incorrect. Still, she felt it was better to pay for something, rather than nothing at all, as a show of good faith. Unable to come up with the money on such short notice, Paula, who works in a warehouse repairing purses, paid the fee with a credit card. "I hope that money isn't wasted," she said. That remains unclear because of confusion and misinformation surrounding the rollout of a host of new fees or fee increases for a variety of immigration services. The fees are part of the sweeping budget bill President Trump signed into law in July. Paula was one of thousands of asylum seekers across the country who panicked after seeing messages on social media urging them to pay the new fee before the start of the new fiscal year on Oct. 1.

Customs and Border Protection

Reuters: US expands facial recognition at borders to track non-citizens

Reuters [10/24/2025 11:26 AM, Ted Hesson, 36480K] reports the U.S. will expand the use of facial recognition technology to track non-citizens entering and leaving the country in order to combat visa overstays and passport fraud, according to a government document published on Friday. A new regulation will allow U.S. border authorities to require non-citizens to be photographed at airports, seaports, land crossings and any other point of departure, expanding on an earlier pilot program. Under the regulation, set to take effect on December 26, U.S. authorities could require the submission of other biometrics, such as fingerprints or DNA, it said. It also allows border authorities to use facial recognition for children under age 14 and elderly people over age 79, groups that are currently exempted. The tighter border rules reflect a broader effort by U.S. President Donald Trump to crack down on illegal immigration. While the Republican president has surged resources to secure the U.S.-Mexico border, he has also taken steps to reduce the number of people overstaying their visas. The growing use of facial recognition in U.S. airports has raised privacy concerns from watchdog groups worried about overreach and mistakes. A 2024 reportby the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights said tests had shown facial recognition was more likely to misidentify Black people and other minority groups. The Congressional Research Service estimated in 2023 that some 42% of the 11 million immigrants in the U.S. illegally at the time had overstayed a visa. The U.S. Congress in 1996 passed a law mandating the creation of an automated entry-exit system, but it has never been fully implemented. U.S. Customs and Border Protection already uses facial recognition for all commercial air entries but only employs it to record exits at certain locations, the regulation said. CBP estimates that a biometric entry-exit system can be fully implemented at all

commercial airports and seaports for both entry and exit within the next three to five years.

Reported similarly:
NewsNation [10/24/2025 12:03 PM, Ted Hesson, 8017K]

Bloomberg: US to Photograph All Non-Citizens Entering, Exiting Country
Bloomberg [10/24/2025 1:15 PM, Andrew Kreighbaum, 18207K] reports the Department of Homeland Security will require all immigrants and non-citizens to be photographed when entering and leaving the US under new regulations released Friday. Photographs and fingerprints were already required for certain immigrants and foreign visitors at designated locations. The regulation from US Customs and Border Protection allows for a comprehensive data collection system for non-citizens regardless of where they enter or leave the country. The rule comes amid broader efforts by the Trump administration to expand collection of data on immigrants and foreign nationals in the US. That's included a new immigrant registry rule as well as use of taxpayer data for enforcement purposes. Comprehensive data gathering for entry and exit of non-citizens will help address national security concerns, fraudulent use of travel documentation, and visa overstays, DHS said. CBP has collected biometric data from certain non-citizens upon arrival in the US since 2004, but the rule marks a significant expansion of that data collection. New advances in facial comparison technology allow the agency to roll out broader inspections for entry and departure, CBP said. Those tools will use passenger information along with photographs provided in passports or visa applications to verify a traveler's identity. The agency has already fully adopted that facial recognition system for commercial air travel upon entry through a program known as "Simplified Arrival." It estimates that it can fully adopt entry and exit screening at airports and sea ports in three to five years. The regulation follows through on efforts to expand photo and data collection from the Trump administration. Most public comments submitted in response to a 2021 proposed rule opposed the plan, with many groups citing privacy concerns, including the American Civil Liberties Union. The final rule released by DHS doesn't make substantive changes to that proposal.

Washington Examiner: Tariffs, smuggling, and the US-Mexico border wall puts a lot on Customs and Border Protection's plate
Washington Examiner [10/24/2025 5:30 AM, Jeremy Lott, 1394K] reports Customs and Border Protection is the government agency charged with overseeing all ports of entry in the United States. On a typical day, the last full fiscal year available (2024), CBP processed: 3.8 million de minimis (e.g., low dollar) shipments, 1,150,387 passengers and pedestrians, 88,582 truck, rail, and sea containers, 270,800 incoming privately owned vehicles, $9.2 billion worth of imported products, 105,103 entries of merchandise, $241 million in duties, taxes, and other fees, Underlying those numbers are countless stories. When the CBP held a media availability at Blaine, Washington's commercial truck crossing in June, it was hard to know exactly what to expect. A taxidermied bald eagle certainly was not on the list. The eagle had been hunted and killed in one province of Canada, legally, agents said, and duly declared at the border as the owner tried to import it into America. There was no violation of law involved, and thus no fines or other penalties were assessed. However, it is next to impossible for a private individual to import a bald eagle into the country, due to the Endangered Species Act and other legislation. The owner had been given the option of sending it back, but had elected to abandon it at the border instead. Thus, the dead, preserved adult eagle, mounted on a wild wooden base, was brought out to pose for the cameras and flashbulbs. The official moral of the story was that people who want to bring

something over the border that is legally questionable should call first, to save themselves a great deal of hassle if it is not allowed in the country. Agents for both CBP and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service — though not the Border Patrol — also had many other stories about animals coming through the border, legally and illegally.

ABC News: [IL] Judge orders CBP official leading immigration crackdown to appear in Chicago court next week

ABC News [10/24/2025 7:33 PM, James Hill, 30493K] reports a judge has ordered Greg Bovino, a top U.S. Customs and Border Protection official, to appear in court next week for proceedings in a lawsuit against the federal government over immigration enforcement tactics in Chicago. Bovino, who is commanding CBP field operations in the city for "Operation Midway Blitz," has been ordered to appear in person for a status hearing on Tuesday in federal court in Chicago, according to a court filing on Friday. The plaintiffs in the lawsuit -- journalists and demonstrators -- have alleged violations of a temporary restraining order issued by Ellis earlier this month that restricts ICE and CBP agents from using non-lethal munitions without warning and justification. On Thursday, the plaintiffs submitted a notice of alleged violation that included a video that they contend shows Bovino tossing a canister of tear gas "without justification" toward a crowd of protesters this week in Chicago's Little Village neighborhood. Homeland Security Assistant Secretary Tricia McLaughlin said Bovino deployed "riot control measures" after "rioters" threw rocks and other objects at agents while Border Patrol agents were conducting immigration enforcement operations. Bovino was struck in the head but was not seriously injured, DHS said. "Border Patrol agents repeated multiple warnings to back up and that chemical agents would be deployed if warnings were ignored," McLaughlin said in a statement on Friday. "Riot control measures were deployed, including by Chief Bovino, and arrests were made. Agents properly used their training. The use of chemical munitions was conducted in full accordance with CBP policy and was necessary to ensure the safety of both law enforcement and the public." U.S. District Judge Sara Ellis had previously issued an order allowing the plaintiffs to depose Bovino for two hours; on Thursday, she expanded the time allotted for the deposition to five hours.

Los Angeles Times: [CA] Ex-LAPD officer indicted for murder in on-duty killing of homeless man

Los Angeles Times [10/24/2025 12:40 PM, James Queally, 14862K] reports Los Angeles County prosecutors unsealed an indictment Friday against a former LAPD officer responsible for the 2015 on-duty shooting of an unarmed man in Venice. The ex-cop, Clifford Proctor, pleaded not guilty to the charges during a brief hearing in a downtown courtroom. Wearing an orange jumpsuit, Proctor, 60, leaned over several times to whisper to his attorney but otherwise said little during the hearing, a portion of which was held behind closed doors. He waived a reading of the indictment. He will remain in custody with no bail, and is expected to return to court for a hearing early next month. Proctor's lawyer, Anthony "Tony" Garcia, said he would reserve comment until he'd had a chance to review the case. But he questioned the timing of the charges, which came more than a decade after the incident in question. The L.A. County District Attorney's office reviewed the case when it was fresh and "determined there was nothing to proceed," Garcia said. Proctor was arrested at Los Angeles International Airport last week when U.S. Customs and Border Protection agents noticed he had an active warrant. Proctor has been living abroad for several years, according to sources who were not authorized to speak publicly about the pending case.

Federal Emergency Management Agency

AP: Tropical Storm Melissa poised to become a hurricane and drop torrential rain on Caribbean

AP [10/25/2025 12:07 AM, Staff, 13945K] reports Tropical Storm Melissa was expected to strengthen into a hurricane on Saturday as forecasters warned of massive rainfall and life-threatening flooding and landslides in the northern Caribbean, with an astounding 35 inches (89 centimeters) of rain anticipated in southwest Haiti. The erratic and slow-moving storm has killed at least three people in Haiti and a fourth person in the Dominican Republic, where another person remains missing. Up to 25 inches (64 centimeters) of rain was forecast for Jamaica and the southern regions of Haiti and the Dominican Republic through Monday, with up to 35 inches (89 centimeters) of rain possible across Haiti's Tiburon Peninsula, according to the U.S. National Hurricane Center. "If those rains were to occur, you're talking about catastrophic flooding potential," said Jamie Rhome, the center's deputy director. Melissa was located about 180 miles (290 kilometers) southeast of Kingston, Jamaica, and about 245 miles (390 kilometers) southwest of Port-au-Prince, Haiti. It had maximum sustained winds of 65 mph (100 kph) and was moving northwest at 3 mph (6 kph), according to the U.S. National Hurricane Center. A hurricane watch and tropical storm warning was in effect for Jamaica and the southwestern peninsula of Haiti. The center of Melissa is expected to move near or over Jamaica early next week, forecasters said. Melissa was expected to become a major hurricane by Sunday and possibly reach Category 4 status by early Monday, U.S. forecasters said. The storm is then forecast to hit eastern Cuba early Wednesday, where up to 12 inches (30 centimeters) could fall in some areas. The Bahamas Department of Meteorology said Melissa could bring tropical storm or hurricane conditions to islands in the Southeast and Central Bahamas and the Turks and Caicos Islands by early next week. Authorities in Jamaica warned that all airports would close within 24 hours if a hurricane warning is issued. More than 650 shelters were activated. Officials said warehouses across the island were well-stocked and thousands of food packages prepositioned for quick distribution if needed. "I urge Jamaicans to take this weather threat seriously," said Jamaican Prime Minister Andrew Holness. "Take all measures to protect yourself." The storm has damaged nearly 200 homes in the Dominican Republic and knocked out water supply systems, affecting more than half a million customers. It also downed trees and traffic lights, unleashed a couple of small landslides and left more than two dozen communities isolated by floodwaters. Melissa is the 13th named storm of the Atlantic hurricane season, which runs from June 1 to Nov. 30. The U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration had predicted an above-normal season with 13 to 18 named storms.

CNN: Tropical Storm Melissa expected to explode into a Category 4 hurricane and could bring catastrophic impact to Jamaica

CNN [10/25/2025 6:50 AM, Chris Dolce, 18595K] reports Tropical Storm Melissa is forecast to rapidly intensify into a major hurricane this weekend as it lashes Jamaica and parts of the northern Caribbean, bringing days of life-threatening, potentially catastrophic impact. Jamaica looks to be the epicenter for the worst of Melissa's triple threat of extreme rainfall flooding, wind damage and storm surge. Melissa could make landfall on Jamaica late Monday or early Tuesday. Haiti also continues to be in thick of Melissa's destructive flood and landslide threats. A hurricane warning is effect for Jamaica, where strong winds are expected to begin tonight. Southern Haiti is under a hurricane watch. Melissa has been moving at a snail's pace for days and it won't pick up speed anytime soon as it tracks

generally westward through Sunday night. The storm is centered 165 miles southeast of Kingston, Jamaica, and is packing winds up to 70 mph as of Saturday morning. That slow movement has already caused problems. Torrential rain bands have swamped Haiti and the Dominican Republic for much of the week, causing flooding and triggering landslides. At least three deaths have been reported in Haiti due to the storm, two of which were the result of a landslide, the Haitian Civil Protection Agency said in a statement. In the Dominican Republic, at least one person has died and more than 1,000 people have evacuated or been displaced, officials said Friday.

NPR: [AK] Alaskan village destroyed by flooding tries to rebuild as winter looms
NPR [10/24/2025 4:25 PM, Eric Stone, 28013K] Audio: HERE reports over a week after ex-typhoon Halong swept through western Alaska, people in the affected villages are taking stock. In Kipnuk, state officials estimate that over 90% of structures have been destroyed. [Editorial note: consult audio at source link]

Coast Guard

AP: [MA] Woman who escaped from boat fire off Cape Cod with her husband and son dies at a hospital
AP [10/24/2025 5:54 PM, Michael Casey, 31753K] reports asleep on their boat anchored off Cape Cod, the Sullivan family was awaken to their dogs barking, the sound of fireworks and smoke. Their boat was on fire. Tyler Sullivan and his parents jumped from the boat Monday night and, in the darkness, began swimming to a privately-owned island. Tyler and his father, Patrick Sullivan, survived, but Cynthia "Cici" Sullivan was badly injured during the ordeal and died Thursday at a hospital, a spokesperson for the Cape & Islands district attorney's office said. She was 73. Patrick Sullivan, who was also injured in the fire, is awake and breathing without help, his family posted on Facebook. By Tuesday night, relatives began to worry when the family hadn't returned and the Coast Guard joined local authorities in a search. Other boaters were alerted to the search efforts Tuesday night, according to audio provided by Broadcastify. A Coast Guard helicopter rescued the family and flew them to a hospital. Authorities say the matter remains under investigation.

CISA/Cybersecurity

FOX News: Hackers steal medical records and financial data from 1.2M patients in massive healthcare breach
FOX News [10/24/2025 1:00 PM, Kurt Knutsson, 40621K] reports that more than 1 million patients have been affected by a data breach involving SimonMed Imaging, one of the country's largest outpatient radiology and medical imaging providers. The breach came to light after a cyberattack compromised sensitive patient data, with reports indicating that ransomware operators may have been behind the incident. What makes this case particularly concerning is the scale of the attack and the type of information stolen, which could easily be misused for financial or identity fraud. In January 2025, SimonMed Imaging was alerted by one of its vendors about a potential security incident. The following day, the company noticed suspicious activity on its own network. The company says in response, it reset passwords, enforced two-factor authentication and tightened endpoint security while cutting off third-party vendor access. Unfortunately, the attackers had already gained access. Between Jan. 21 and Feb. 5, 2025, cybercriminals exfiltrated sensitive data

belonging to around 1.2 million individuals. The Medusa ransomware group later claimed responsibility, alleging they had stolen more than 200 GB of data, including patient IDs, financial records and medical scans. The attackers reportedly demanded 1 million dollars to delete the stolen files, or 10,000 dollars per day to delay publishing. SimonMed was later removed from the Medusa leak site, which could suggest a ransom payment, although the company has not confirmed this. In the aftermath, SimonMed brought in cybersecurity experts to investigate and has offered complimentary credit monitoring services to affected individuals.

CyberScoop: National cyber director says U.S. needs to counter Chinese surveillance, push American tech
CyberScoop [10/24/2025 12:30 PM, Tim Starks] reports the United States needs to counter China's "attempt to export a surveillance state across planet Earth," and instead push a "clean American tech stack" globally, National Cyber Director Sean Cairncross said Friday. "It's important that we send that message and engage with not only partners that we have now, but potential partners who are looking for assistance and open to help in that regard," Cairncross said in remarks at the 2025 Meridian Summit in Washington, D.C. The Chinese threat promises to be a big focus for Cairncross, a message he's been sending in his short tenure thus far. "To date, I don't think the United States has done a terrific job of sending the signal, in particular to China, that their behavior in this space is unacceptable," he said. "It's meant to do us harm. It sits on our critical infrastructure systems and threatens chaos. "It tries to put us in strategic dilemmas that impact our decisionmaking," Cairncross continued about Beijing. "And that is something that is scaling. It is something that is seen as cost-free, I think, across the ocean, and that is something that needs to be reset so that there is strategic stability in this domain."

CyberScoop: Shifting from reactive to proactive: Cyber resilience amid nation-state espionage
CyberScoop [10/24/2025 7:30 AM, Nick Carroll] reports in recent years, the cybersecurity industry has made significant strides in securing endpoints with advanced Endpoint Detection and Response (EDR) solutions, and we have been successful in making life more difficult for our adversaries. While this progress is a victory, it has also produced a predictable and dangerous consequence where threat actors are shifting their focus to the network perimeter, a domain often plagued by technical debt and forgotten hardware. The recent cyber espionage campaign by the China-linked group Salt Typhoon demonstrates this shift. It is the latest in a series of attacks that highlight a dangerous and common thread connecting them to other major adversaries, including Russia's Static Tundra and various ransomware groups. These groups are all exploiting the ghosts in our networks. Old, unpatched, and forgotten routers, VPNs, and firewalls that make up our network perimeter are making very attractive targets.

Terrorism Investigations

New York Times: [Mexico] After the Cartel Comes, They Pick Up the Piecesf
New York Times [10/24/2025 11:26 AM, Paulina Villegas and Adriana Zehbrauskas, 135475K] reports by the time Ramón Soto reached the crime scene, the wounded man was twitching, bloody and barely alive. A woman nearby collapsed to her knees, wailing, and a poster lay on the ground with a drug cartel's warning: "You know who is next." Mr. Soto,

though, showed no trace of emotion as the man went still. “He is dead,” he said. “He is dead.” Then he asked the sobbing woman if she was family and needed funeral services. For a quiet fraternity of funeral workers in Mexico’s Sinaloa State, each day begins and ends with death. But what was once a dignified profession, they say, guiding the bereaved through the disorienting maze that follows a death, now puts them at the center of the carnage engulfing their state. Warring factions of the Sinaloa Cartel, one of the world’s most powerful criminal groups, are vying for control of its multibillion-dollar empire. The Mexican government, under intense pressure from the Trump administration, has begun an aggressive crackdown on the cartel, too. The battle has sown chaos in the state, leaving more than 1,900 dead and 2,000 missing over the last year, according to official data. For the barely 30 funeral home workers of the state capital, Culiacán, the business of ferrying the dead, whether cartel gunmen or innocent people caught in between, has never been busier or harder to bear. “I live alongside death, day in and day out,” said Josué Nahum García, an employee at the San Martin Funeral Home. “Not only do I see it every day, but I feel it too — in the pain and tears of the families who have lost their loved ones.”

National Security News

Federalist: Trump Should Stop Sharing Intel With The U.K. Until It Punishes Chinese Espionage

Federalist [10/24/2025 7:21 AM, Helen Raleigh, 785K] reports the recent collapse of the prosecution in a major China spy case has unfolded as one of the most significant scandals for the U.K.’s Labour government since it assumed power last year. At the center of this case are Christopher Berry and Christopher Cash, British citizens who both have connections to China. Witness statements from Matthew Collins, the U.K.’s deputy national security adviser, reveal that Berry was recruited by China’s spy agency, the Ministry of State Security (MSS), to gather intelligence on the U.K. parliament while he was teaching in China. At the time, Cash, Berry’s friend, was a researcher at the China Research Group (CRG), a think tank co-founded by conservative members of parliament (MPs) Tom Tugendhat and Neil O’Brien. With CRG members primarily holding hawkish views on China and its Communist Party (CCP), it is no surprise that Beijing has sanctioned the CRG and several conservative MPs since 2021. Collins reveals that Berry’s Chinese handler, code-named "Alex," is associated with the MSS. Their operation went like this: Alex directed Berry to enlist his friend Cash at the CRG as a subsource to extract vital intelligence about the British parliament’s inner workings and spy on MPs’ activities. The goal was to sway the U.K. government’s policies on China. Cash reportedly provided sensitive details, including the names and photos of Taiwanese defense ministry officials who visited the U.K. in 2022 to discuss defense strategies against potential Chinese aggression. During the Conservative Party’s leadership election in 2022, a senior CCP official instructed Alex, via Cash and Berry, to gather intelligence on Conservative MPs one by one. The goal of the CCP’s overseas influence operation was to allocate resources to prevent known China hawks from securing key government positions that could shape Britain’s China policy. Collins stated that this incident highlights how China’s espionage operations threaten the integrity of the U.K.’s democratic institutions. The most notable aspect of this espionage case is the swift transfer of intelligence from Westminster to Beijing, along with its significant reach inside the CCP. As Collins pointed out, "on one occasion, only thirteen hours passed between Mr. Berry receiving a task, consulting with Mr. Cash, and then reporting back to ‘Alex.’" This level of efficiency is concerning, particularly because some of the intelligence

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reached a senior CCP leader who is a confidante of General Secretary Xi Jinping, enabling the CCP's "real-time" decision-making.

The Hill: [Canada] Trump: Canada 'trying to illegally influence' Supreme Court on tariffs

The Hill [10/24/2025 8:35 AM, Ryan Mancini, 12595K] reports President Trump defended his decision to call off trade negotiations with Canada on Friday, accusing the U.S.'s northern neighbor of attempting to "illegally influence" a pending Supreme Court case over tariffs. "CANADA CHEATED AND GOT CAUGHT!!!" Trump posted to Truth Social. "They fraudulently took a big buy ad saying that Ronald Reagan did not like Tariffs, when actually he LOVED TARIFFS FOR OUR COUNTRY, AND ITS NATIONAL SECURITY." "Canada is trying to illegally influence the United States Supreme Court in one of the most important rulings in the history of our Country," Trump wrote. In a second post, the president suggested the U.S. is "WEALTHY, POWERFUL, AND NATIONALLY SECURE AGAIN" because of his tariffs, and called the looming case, "THE MOST IMPORTANT CASE EVER." In a third post, Trump argued that the stock market was now "STRONGER THAN EVER BEFORE BECAUSE OF TARIFFS!". The latest clash between Trump and Canada began with an ad campaign launched earlier this month by Ontario Premier Doug Ford. The advertisement shows former President Reagan delivering an address in 1987 about the tariffs on Japanese imports and warning against the risks of long-term trade disputes. "High tariffs inevitably lead to retaliation by foreign countries and the triggering of fierce trade wars. Then the worst happens," Reagan said in the ad. "Markets shrink and collapse, businesses and industries shut down, and millions of people lose their jobs." In response, Trump said Thursday: "ALL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS WITH CANADA ARE HEREBY TERMINATED."

FOX News: [Lithuania] NATO fighter jets scrambled after Russian planes allegedly violate airspace

FOX News [10/24/2025 7:32 AM, Rachel Wolf, 40621K] Video: HERE reports two Spanish fighter jets were scrambled while on NATO air policing missions after Russian aircraft violated Lithuanian airspace. The Lithuanian armed forces said that at approximately 6:00 p.m. local time on Thursday, two Russian aircraft — an SU-30 and an IL-78 — flew about 765 yards into Lithuanian airspace, The Associated Press reported. The aircraft allegedly flew away after approximately 18 seconds. "This evening, Russian military planes violated Lithuanian airspace. This is a blatant breach of international law and territorial integrity of Lithuania. Once again, it confirms the importance of strengthening European air defense readiness," Lithuanian President Gitanas Nausėda posted on X. Nausėda announced that the Lithuanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs would summon representatives from the Russian embassy in Vilnius "to protest against reckless and dangerous behavior." The ministry later confirmed on X that the Russian charge d'affaires was summoned in protest of the airspace violation. "Russia must cease its aggressive behavior, respect international law and the borders of neighboring states," the ministry said in a post on X. Russia's defense ministry denied Lithuania's claim, saying that SU-30 fighter jets were conducting training flights over the Kaliningrad region in strict compliance with the rules, the AP reported. "The aircraft did not deviate from their flight route or violate the borders of other states, as confirmed by objective monitoring means," the ministry said, according to the AP.
[Editorial note: consult video at source link]

Reuters: [China] Trump seeks trade deal with Xi during Asia trip

Reuters [10/24/2025 6:00 AM, Trevor Hunnicutt, 36480K] reports U.S. President Donald Trump will test his deal-making prowess in a region battered by his hardball trade policies on a trip to Asia next week, as doubts hang over his highly anticipated meeting with China's Xi Jinping. Trump, who leaves Washington on Friday night, is set for a five-day trip spanning Malaysia, Japan and South Korea, his first to the region and his longest journey abroad since taking office in January. The Republican leader hopes to pile up trade, business and ceasefire deals before turning to the toughest challenge, a face-to-face with Xi on Thursday in South Korea. The trip comes as Trump works to maintain the signature foreign policy achievement of his second term, a fragile ceasefire he helped strike in the Israel-Gaza conflict, while the Russian war in Ukraine rages and a trade war with China shows little sign of abating. Washington and Beijing have hiked tariffs on each other's exports and threatened to cut off critical minerals and technologies altogether, putting markets on edge. The trip was formally announced by the White House on Thursday and details remain in flux, including the meeting between leaders of the world's two largest economies. Neither side expects a breakthrough that would restore terms of trade that existed before Trump's second-term inauguration in January, according to a person familiar with the conversations. Instead, talks between the two sides to prepare for the meeting focused on managing disagreements and modest improvements.

{End of Report} RETURN TO TOP

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DHS MORNING BRIEFING

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TO: **Homeland Security Secretary & Staff**
DATE: **Tuesday, November 4, 2025 6:00 AM ET**

Top News

Blaze: Deportations top 2 million under Trump — and most aren't by force

NewsMax: Trump Orders Expanded Hill Briefings on Anti-Narcotics Operations in Caribbean

NewsMax/NBC News: Trump Admin Trains Troops for Possible Targeting of Mexico Cartels

FOX News: Trump backs ICE raid tactics, says they 'haven't gone far enough'

FOX News: Trump reveals immigration raids 'haven't gone far enough' on '60 Minutes'

NewsMax: DHS' McLaughlin to Newsmax: Pritzker 'Dehumanizes, Vilifies' ICE Agents

CBS News: Violent threats, once concentrated in Washington, are increasing against local public servants, new data shows

New York Times: The Battle in Virginia Over an Activist Who Protested Stephen Miller

Breitbart: Chicago Lawfare Activists Use Bovino Court Case to Spy on Stephen Miller

Breitbart: Gov. JB Pritzker Called Out After Illegal Alien Allegedly Kills GOP Official, His Wife: 'How Many More Have to Die?'

Chicago Tribune: Deposition of Border Patrol Cmdr. Gregory Bovino nearly ground to halt last week, records show

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Chicago Tribune: Operation Midway Blitz linked to dip in 911 calls, especially in Little Village

Chicago Tribune: Location of man hospitalized after federal immigration arrest in Melrose Park unknown, family says

Wall Street Journal: How Elite Agents Use High-Risk Military Tactics on Civilians in Chicago

USA Today: 'Terrified': Video of masked agents hauling woman from car renews outrage in Chicago

Axios: Chicago Sun-Times demands DHS stop using its photos of immigration enforcement

AP: Judge again bars Trump administration from deploying troops to Portland

NPR: Trump's National Guard deployments aren't random. They were planned years ago

New York Times: How to Make Sense of the Federal Forces on the Streets

Wall Street Journal: Homeland Security Biometric Policy for Foreign Travelers Poses Data-Theft Risks

NBC News: Jury selection begins in the trial of D.C.'s 'sandwich guy'

CNN: DC jurors dismissed in the trial of man charged with throwing sandwich at federal agent are deeply skeptical of the case

CBS Mornings: Truck Driver Not Under Influence During Crash

The Hill: Congressional approval for alleged drug boat strikes not needed, White House says

Washington Examiner: Trump cagey about looming Venezuela strikes, but says Maduro's days are numbered

Opinion – Editorials

Houston Chronicle: [TX] Houston police called ICE on a missing teen. Then they blamed his mom.

Opinion – Op-Eds

NewsMax: Time for SCOTUS to End Birthright Citizenship

FOX News: Their plan was a flood of illegal immigration. Our answer is an immigration moratorium

Wall Street Journal: Trump's New World Order

The Hill: [Venezuela] Please don't invade Venezuela

Immigration and Customs Enforcement

FOX News: Acting ICE director pledges to fulfill Trump's largest deportation effort: 'No one's off the table'

FOX News: ICE reveals stunning statistic after exposing Halloween weekend's 'worst of the worst' arrests

NPR: ICE seizing migrants from county jails, raising due process concerns

AP: [PA] Courts Order ICE Not to Deport Man Who Spent 43 Years in Prison Before Murder Case Overturned

Chicago Tribune: [IL] Chicago woman dragged out of her car after colliding with ICE demands accountability

Chicago Tribune: [IL] ICE pushes Chicago restaurants in immigrant neighborhoods into survival mode: 'We are dying a slow death'

Chicago Tribune: [IL] Lake Bluff officials weighing whether to object to ICE's practices during raids in Chicago area

ABC News: [IL] Faith leaders blocked by ICE from delivering Communion to immigrants speak out

New York Times: [IL] Trump, Chicago and the logistics of hosting a global sports match

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Breitbart: [MN] Minneapolis Mayoral Candidate Plans to Alert Illegal Aliens Ahead of ICE Raids

AP: [TX] Data shows 1 in 4 immigration arrests happen in Texas, where about 1.6M immigrants illegally live

Breitbart: [TX] 120 Illegal Aliens Arrested on Houston Streets in One Day

Houston Chronicle: [TX] A Texas priest is in ICE custody even though he can legally work in the U.S., diocese says

New York Times: [CO] An Altercation With ICE Prompts a Police Chief to Push Back

Washington Examiner: [OR] 'Latinx' leader who served as Oregon policy advisor was illegal immigrant convicted of sex crimes

New York Times: [CA] Man Shot by ICE Was Not Trying to Run Over Agent, Lawyers Say

AP: [CA] Courts order ICE not to deport man who spent 43 years in prison before murder case overturned

Los Angeles Times: [CA] She helped get her violent husband deported. Then ICE deported her — straight into his arms.

San Francisco Chronicle: [CA] Bay Area advocates urge city leaders to provide stronger immigrant protections

Chicago Tribune: [Mexico] 'They destroyed us': East Chicago woman with schizophrenia who opted for deportation now missing in Mexico

Citizenship and Immigration Services

Breitbart: Trump Streamlines Voter Verification, Ensuring Only U.S. Citizens are Voting

Federalist: A Judge Just Blocked Trump's Voter Citizenship Order. Congress Should Pass The SAVE Act

Telemundo51: Venezuelans with TPS face uncertainty as immigration benefit ends

Customs and Border Protection

The Hill/NewsMax: Federal memo says cartels offering $10K for shooting at Border Patrol agents

Telemundo: Trump will place Border Patrol chiefs in charge of ICE in US cities

Washington Examiner: Border Patrol in rare position to prepare for future amid illegal immigration recession

Transportation Security Administration

Reuters: US travel group warns Congress of Thanksgiving chaos amid government shutdown

San Diego Union Tribune: [CA] After widespread delays, operations back to normal at San Diego International Airport

Federal Emergency Management Agency

Miami Herald: [FL] Movie cash circulating in the Florida Keys, Monroe County Sheriff's office warns

Secret Service

FOX News: [IL] Illinois man allegedly threatens Trump execution in profanity-laced videos, faces federal charges

CBS Chicago: [IL] Man arrested, home searched by Secret Service and SWAT in Winthrop Harbor

GMA3: [IL] Secret Service Investigating at Lake County, IL Home

Coast Guard

NBC News Daily: [FL] Crews Battle Boat Fire

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CBS Miami: [FL] Good Samaritan, U.S. Coast Guard help rescue 2 men after boat catches fire near Hollywood Beach

CISA/Cybersecurity

Bloomberg: US Elections Face Security Test as DHS Cuts Local Support

Bloomberg: Ex-Cybersecurity Staffers Charged With Moonlighting as Hackers

NPR: Researchers uncover security gap while studying satellite communications

Terrorism Investigations

Reuters/New York Times/CNN/Washington Examiner: [MI] Suspects charged in alleged terror plot cited ISIS and may have tried to replicate Paris terror attack on US soil, FBI says

FOX News: [MI] Suspects in foiled Halloween terror plot pictured practicing at Michigan gun range: FBI

The Hill: Halloween terror plot Patel described never existed: Lawyer

Detroit Free Press: [MI] Dearborn leaders skeptical of government after alleged terrorism plot

Detroit Free Press: [MI] Ferndale police chief thanks FBI; terror attack could have 'come to our doorstep'

FOX News: [NV] Questions grow about soldier's Tesla Cybertruck attack at Trump Las Vegas hotel

National Security News

Daily Caller: 'Arctic Frost' Prosecutor Could Use Cushy Big Tech Job To Target Conservatives, Watchdog Warns

The Hill: Trump tariffs face Supreme Court

ABC News: [Nigeria] US designates Nigeria 'Country of Particular Concern' after Trump threat over alleged attacks on Christians

Axios: [Nigeria] Trump threatens U.S. military intervention in Nigeria

Breitbart: [Nigeria] Nigerian President Denies Jihadist Slaughter, Says via Adviser He Will Meet Trump

CNN: [Nigeria] The violence in Nigeria that Trump cites as a reason for military strikes is not limited to Christians

FOX News: [Tanzania] Urgent advisory for safari destination warns of 'terrorist violence' and risk of 'unrest'

Los Angeles Times: [Israel] Israel hands over bodies of 45 Palestinians after Hamas returns the remains of 3 soldiers

New York Post: [Iraq] Iraqi PM: Let us join in America's peaceful prosperity — and help calm the Middle East

CNN: [China] China backs off chip export ban that could have shut down global auto plants

Top News

Blaze: Deportations top 2 million under Trump — and most aren't by force
Blaze [11/3/2025 4:00 PM, Cooper Williamson, 1442K] reports deportations and border security have been a crucial part of the second Trump administration, and nine months in, the government has started to release some results. Despite seemingly constant obstruction from Democrats, the administration has begun to deliver on its promises of mass deportations. "The president is all about results, ... and what President Trump, Secretary Noem, and our law enforcement have been able to do in the past 270 days, despite the injunctions, despite the obstruction from sanctuary city politicians and these activist judges, is

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really nothing short of extraordinary," Department of Homeland Security Assistant Secretary Tricia McLaughlin said in a Fox News interview on Monday. She went on to report that over 2 million illegal aliens have left the country since the beginning of Trump's term, citing an October 27 press release. McLaughlin claimed in the press release that the majority of the deportations have been voluntary: "More than 2 million illegal aliens have left the U.S. including 1.6 million who have voluntarily self-deported and over 527,000 deportations."

NewsMax: Trump Orders Expanded Hill Briefings on Anti-Narcotics Operations in Caribbean
NewsMax [11/3/2025 5:04 PM, Staff, 4109K] reports President Donald Trump has ordered his national security and defense teams to expand classified briefings for Congress on his administration's anti-narcotics operations in the Caribbean and Pacific, Axios reported Monday. The move comes as lawmakers in both parties demand more transparency after a wave of deadly maritime interdictions and increased U.S. military activity near Venezuela. Axios reports U.S. forces have sunk at least 15 vessels and killed more than 60 suspected smugglers since the spring. Pentagon officials say the operations are meant to "disrupt and dismantle" criminal networks, though they warn cartels are increasingly armed and confrontational.

NewsMax/NBC News: Trump Admin Trains Troops for Possible Targeting of Mexico Cartels
NewsMax [11/3/2025 10:30 AM, Charlie McCarthy, 4109K] reports the Trump administration reportedly has begun training U.S. troops for a potential mission to target drug cartels inside Mexico. Two current and two former U.S. officials told NBC News that the early stage training involves Joint Special Operations Command units and intelligence officers under Title 50 authority, which allows covert operations led by the CIA. The effort could represent a major escalation in President Donald Trump's campaign against cartels, expanding from recent strikes in Venezuela and maritime operations in the Caribbean to potential ground missions in Mexico. Newsmax has reached out to the White House for comment. The CIA declined comment, while the Pentagon referred inquiries to the White House. According to NBC News, U.S. forces would focus primarily on drone strikes against cartel drug labs and leadership targets, with some drones requiring on-the-ground operators for precision and safety. Although no final decision has been made, officials described ongoing debates over the mission's scale and whether it should proceed with or without coordination from the Mexican government. "The Trump administration is committed to utilizing an all-of-government approach to address the threats cartels pose to American citizens," a senior administration official told NBC. The reported planning comes as the administration intensifies efforts to dismantle human smuggling and narcotics networks linked to cartels operating across Mexico, Venezuela, and beyond. NBC News [11/3/2025 5:00 AM, Courtney Kube, Dan De Luce, and Gordon Lubold, 34509K] reports that the early stages of training for the potential mission, which would include ground operations inside Mexico, has already begun, the two current U.S. officials said. But a deployment to Mexico is not imminent, the two U.S. officials and one of the former U.S. officials said. Discussions about the scope of the mission are ongoing, and a final decision has not been made, the two current U.S. officials said. The U.S. troops, many of whom would be from Joint Special Operations Command, would operate under the authority of the U.S. intelligence community, known as Title 50 status, the two current officials said. They said officers from the Central Intelligence Agency also would participate. A U.S. mission using American forces to hit drug cartel targets inside Mexico would open a new front in President Donald Trump's military campaign against drug cartels in the Western Hemisphere. So far, the administration has focused on Venezuela and conducting strikes on alleged drug-carrying boats.

FOX News: Trump backs ICE raid tactics, says they 'haven't gone far enough'
FOX News [11/3/2025 8:29 AM, Ashley Carnahan, 40621K] Video: HERE reports President Donald Trump said he believes U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) raids "haven't gone far enough" when asked about the federal agency's tactics that have sparked protests and lawsuits. Trump sat down for a "60 Minutes" interview that aired Sunday with CBS News' Norah O'Donnell, who asked the president about videos of an ICE agent shoving a woman to the floor at an immigration courthouse, federal agents deploying tear gas in Chicago's Irving Park neighborhood and smashing car windows. "Have some of these raids gone too far?" O'Donnell asked. "No. I think they haven't gone far enough

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because we've been held back by the – by the judges, by the liberal judges that were put in by Biden and by Obama," Trump replied. [Editorial note: consult video at source link]

Reported similarly:
USA Today [11/3/2025 11:40 AM, Kathryn Palmer, 67103K]

FOX News: Trump reveals immigration raids 'haven't gone far enough' on '60 Minutes'
FOX News [11/3/2025 11:25 AM, Staff, 40621K] reports DHS Assistant Secretary Tricia McLaughlin joins 'America's Newsroom' after the president's interview, revealing that ICE will be 'surging resources' in the coming days for immigration raids. [Editorial note: consult video at source link]

NewsMax: DHS' McLaughlin to Newsmax: Pritzker 'Dehumanizes, Vilifies' ICE Agents
NewsMax [11/3/2025 11:55 AM, Staff, 4109K] reports Tricia McLaughlin, Department of Homeland Security assistant secretary for public affairs, sharply criticized Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker during a Monday morning appearance on Newsmax, accusing the Democrat governor of "dehumanizing and vilifying" Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents and other federal law enforcement officers. McLaughlin said Pritzker's rhetoric misrepresents the actions of federal officers and distorts the reality of violent confrontations that law enforcement faces. "The way he's been framing this is completely to whitewash and manipulate the American people," she said on "Wake Up America." "He's acting as if there's tear gassing of the public going on. That's absolutely not true," McLauglin added. McLauglin also described increasingly hostile encounters between federal officers and organized agitators. "What the facts on the ground are, we are routinely seeing highly organized agitators and rioters not only stalk our law enforcement but then surround them, begin throwing rocks at them, and otherwise assaulting them," McLaughlin said. "They will deploy tear gas to control that crowd as a method to make sure that the public is safe." McLaughlin charged that Pritzker's characterization of law enforcement actions emboldens criminal elements and undermines public safety in cities like Chicago.

CBS News: Violent threats, once concentrated in Washington, are increasing against local public servants, new data shows
CBS News [11/3/2025 7:50 PM, Nicole Sganga, Laura Geller, 39474K] reports Matt McCaffery was a relatively unknown GOP chair in suburban Pennsylvania when police showed up at his door last year after an anonymous tip accused the Marine veteran of holding his family hostage — a swatting incident meant to terrorize him and his family just hours after he endorsed Kamala Harris for president. "If it could happen to me, small-town Matt McCaffery, it can happen to you," said the former chairman of the Upper Merion Republican Committee. The hoax call was just one of nearly 2,000 records of threats to local officials identified over the past decade in new data from the Impact Project and the Public Service Alliance. CBS News received exclusive access to the dataset, dubbed the "Security Map," ahead of its public release. It compiles more than a decade of cases from court filings, news reports and academic databases. The findings show that violent threats targeting public officials have surged across all levels of government and political parties. At the same time, the threat landscape has "fundamentally changed," according to researchers. "We're seeing not only an increase in volume, but also an expansion in who's being targeted," Abby André, executive director and cofounder of the Impact Project, said in a statement. "A decade ago, threats were concentrated at the federal level. Today, school board members, county clerks, and even mail carriers face similar dangers." While federal officials remain the most frequent targets, threats against local officials are growing and now make up roughly one-third of all documented threats, researchers found. "That's what we see in the map. The threats facing public servants — they span the entire country," said Isa Ulloa, founder of the Public Service Alliance. Threats were recorded in every state, with roughly a quarter of incidents concentrated in the seven battleground states, including Pennsylvania, Georgia and Michigan. And for every physical threat, researchers found nine verbal or online threats — fueling what they call a dangerous chilling effect. Both Democrats and Republicans were targeted at almost equal rates, with 58% of reviewed threats affecting Democrats. Ulloa isn't just measuring the problem — her organization also offers security and privacy tools for the nation's roughly 40 million current and former public officials, including McCaffery, who is considering another run for

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office. "Who wants to run for public office if your family's being put in threat, even at the local level where most of the decisions in your life are being made? If they're too scared to do it, we're not gonna have anybody run," McCaffery said.

New York Times: The Battle in Virginia Over an Activist Who Protested Stephen Miller

New York Times [11/3/2025 6:44 PM, Devlin Barrett, 135475K] reports federal and state criminal investigations into a Virginia woman who distributed leaflets disclosing the home address of a White House official, Stephen Miller, have prompted a secret court fight over the balance between personal safety and free speech at a time of rising political violence, recently unsealed court documents show. The records, which were reviewed by The New York Times, reveal that a local court approved the search of a cellphone belonging to the woman as part of an investigation that included multiple local law enforcement agencies as well as the F.B.I. and Secret Service. The activist, Barbara Wien, has not been charged with any crime, though the Virginia State Police still have her phone. The investigation remains active, leaving it unclear whether law enforcement has since gathered additional evidence. The dispute captures the fierce tensions over political activism that have become a defining feature of the second Trump presidency, pitting the Miller family's concerns for their security against the First Amendment claims of a critic of the administration. In an atmosphere in which political violence against Republicans and Democrats has become more common, administration officials have increasingly voiced worries about their security, citing in particular the assassination of the right-wing activist Charlie Kirk and two attempts in 2024 to kill Donald J. Trump. But liberal groups and activists say the White House is seeking to demonize its political opponents and use the levers of government to stamp out opposing views in the name of public safety. At the heart of the clash is whether the involvement of federal authorities in investigating a local act of protest, and the tactics used by state and federal investigators, amount to overkill, or whether Ms. Wien posed a true threat to Mr. Miller and his family. A lawyer for Ms. Wien and a county prosecutor have raised concerns over the conduct of the investigation, including the involvement of multiple federal and state agencies. They have also raised questions about the issuance of the search warrant for Ms. Wien's phone by state authorities based on evidence that she might have committed a misdemeanor. Ms. Wien's lawyer, Bradley R. Haywood, said law enforcement agencies were misusing their authority to pursue a political critic. The county prosecutor, a Democrat, has accused the state attorney general's office, led by a Republican, of overstepping its authority in trying to intervene in the case. A White House spokeswoman, Abigail Jackson, said that the law enforcement response was warranted, noting that Mr. Trump and others in his administration had been targets of members of the public. "Doxxing and any other actions that directly threaten the safety of officials and their families should be resoundingly denounced and thoroughly investigated to ensure attacks against members of the administration are not realized," she said.

Breitbart: Chicago Lawfare Activists Use Bovino Court Case to Spy on Stephen Miller

Breitbart [11/3/2025 5:58 PM, Warner Todd Huston, 2416K] reports pro-migrant lawyers proved to be far more interested in uncovering intel on Donald Trump adviser Stephen Miller than they were in Chicago ICE actions during a legal deposition by Border Patrol Chief Gregory Bovino. Bovino was dragged into court by activists who claim that his immigration agents are indiscriminately using violence against anti-Trump and pro-illegal migrant protesters in Chicago. Obama-appointed District Judge Sara Ellis ordered Bovino to give a deposition last week, but it seemed to quickly grind to a halt, as the Chicago Tribune reported. The activist lawyers and Judge Ellis seemed far more interested in uncovering communications between ICE and Border Patrol and Stephen Miller than they were in local Chicago ICE actions. Justice Department attorney Sarmad Khojasteh protested all the questions about Miller and said she was "sandbagged" after concentrating her preparation on what was going on in Chicago. Khojasteh said she worked to prep Bovino on the local issues, only to have plaintiffs' attorneys throw a "grab bag of anything" at him that had nothing to do with what was going on in Chicago.

Breitbart: Gov. JB Pritzker Called Out After Illegal Alien Allegedly Kills GOP Official, His Wife: 'How Many More Have to Die?'

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Breitbart [11/3/2025 3:39 PM, John Binder, 2416K] reports Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker (D), a fierce defender of sanctuary policies, is getting called out as an illegal alien is accused of killing a local elected Republican official and his wife last week. As Breitbart News reported, 34-year-old illegal alien Edwin Pacheco-Meza of Honduras was driving a van on Oct. 24 when he crossed the center lane and struck 71-year-old Michael Clayton and his wife, 66-year-old Gail Clayton — killing them instantly. Pacheco-Meza, who crossed the southern border as an unknown got-away, was in his vehicle with 18-year-old illegal alien Juan Morales-Martinez of Guatemala, who crossed the border in December 2023 and was released into the United States interior by the Biden administration.

Chicago Tribune: Deposition of Border Patrol Cmdr. Gregory Bovino nearly ground to halt last week, records show

Chicago Tribune [11/3/2025 1:03 PM, Jason Meisner, 4829K] reports the deposition of Border Patrol Cmdr. Greg Bovino nearly ground to a halt last week as government lawyers repeatedly objected to questions by plaintiffs' attorneys, including some about communications between Bovino and White House advisor Stephen Miller, court records obtained by the Tribune show. The impasse prompted attorneys for both sides to go before U.S. District Judge Sara Ellis in the middle of Bovino's sworn testimony on Thursday, where lawyers for the Justice Department complained that Bovino was being asked questions that were overbroad, poorly constructed and were not directly tied to the claims in the underlying lawsuit about the use of force by immigration agents during "Operation Midway Blitz." During the hearing, Justice Department attorney Sarmad Khojasteh piqued the frustration of the judge by repeatedly interrupting her and fumbling over the facts of the case. Kosjasteh, who filed his first appearance in the case the day before Bovino's deposition, repeatedly referred to the Chicago immigration push as "Operation Midway Drift" and had to apologize for being new to the table. "This is the problem when people come in, right, and we've got a revolving door of attorneys and they haven't been here for the entire thing," Ellis told Khojasteh, according to a transcript of the proceedings. "…They haven't sat through people's testimony, they haven't sat through these hearings, and so now I'm having to explain myself multiple times. And I find it at this point extremely frustrating and a waste of time."

Chicago Tribune: Operation Midway Blitz linked to dip in 911 calls, especially in Little Village

Chicago Tribune [11/3/2025 7:30 AM, Sam Charles, Laura Rodríguez Presa, and Rebecca Johnson 4829K] reports the rate of 911 calls made in Chicago has dropped precipitously in the two months since the start of Operation Midway Blitz, a Tribune review of city data found. And nowhere is the decrease more pronounced than in Little Village, home to Chicago's largest Mexican American population, where calls to 911 have fallen by more than 21% since the surge of federal immigration officers began, city data show. Neighborhood leaders acknowledge a sharp year-over-year decline in crime, but note that the wave of immigration enforcement has left many residents in fear of calling 911 for help during that stretch. The decline reflects more than just safer streets in Little Village, said Matt DeMateo, executive director of New Life Centers, a nonprofit serving youths and families in Little Village. It's residents' fear, fueled by federal immigration enforcement, that may be driving the decline. "It's less about trust in police, it's more about fear," DeMateo said. "ICE is creating chaos, and people are making decisions for their own safety."

Chicago Tribune: Location of man hospitalized after federal immigration arrest in Melrose Park unknown, family says

Chicago Tribune [11/3/2025 7:33 PM, Adriana Pérez and Laura Turbay, 4829K] reports family members of a man hospitalized after being arrested by federal immigration agents in Melrose Park on Sunday morning said they were not allowed to see Ricardo Aguayo Rodriguez during his stay in the hospital and no longer know where he is. According to a statement from the Department of Homeland Security: "He will remain in custody under medical supervision pending removal proceedings." Stephanie Suane, 33, Aguayo Rodriguez's niece, said her uncle was released Monday afternoon from Loyola Medicine's Gottlieb Memorial Hospital, but the doctor did not tell them where he was sent. The family believes he may have been moved to the Broadview detention facility. Dora Suane, Aguayo Rodriguez's older sister, said earlier Monday that she was denied a visit by the Melrose Park hospital for a second day in a row. Videos shared on social media show Aguayo Rodriguez struggling on the ground, lying next to a white

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truck, while a federal agent kept him in a headlock. "Por favor, amigo," he can be heard pleading as he groans and yells in pain. "Please, friend." According to the DHS statement, Aguayo Rodriguez fled from U.S. Border Patrol agents and resisted arrest. "He actively resisted and assaulted law enforcement," the statement said. "The agent deployed pepper spray to deescalate the situation and stop the assaults. After Rodriguez continued to violently resist and put law enforcement in danger, the agent delivered strikes as a last resort. As a precaution, Border Patrol took the suspect to a hospital for medical treatment. He will remain in custody under medical supervision pending removal proceedings." Aguayo Rodriguez has a criminal record that includes convictions for assault and battery as well as possession of a controlled substance, according to the statement. A hospital spokesperson said in an emailed statement: "Loyola Medicine treats federal agencies like U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) the same way we treat all law enforcement personnel. If they need to enter our facilities, they coordinate with our Security team. This morning, ICE personnel came to Gottlieb Memorial Hospital to accompany a patient in their custody who required medical care. Visitation is restricted for any patient in custody and is at the discretion of the law enforcement agency. Hospital staff have been in contact with the family to update them on the patient's condition."

Wall Street Journal: How Elite Agents Use High-Risk Military Tactics on Civilians in Chicago
Wall Street Journal [11/3/2025 4:10 PM, Staff, 646K] reports federal officers from various agencies have been reassigned to assist with immigration enforcement operations. WSJ analyzes the use of force, high-risk maneuvers and military-style tactics agents from elite units have deployed in Chicago. [Editorial note: consult video at source link]

USA Today: 'Terrified': Video of masked agents hauling woman from car renews outrage in Chicago
USA Today [11/4/2025 12:07 AM, Michael Loria, 67103K] reports a woman on her way to work got into a traffic accident that turned into an ordeal where masked federal agents holding weapons dragged her out of her car and detained her without telling her why, the woman's family says. The video of masked men detaining Dayanne Figueroa, a U.S. citizen and paralegal, after a traffic accident in Chicago is the latest to make the rounds in the city where federal agents have faced scrutiny over aggressive tactics. Figueroa's account of the incident comes as the Supreme Court weighs whether to allow President Donald Trump to deploy the National Guard to the city. The White House says a rebellion is potentially underway in the Prairie State and troops are needed to help carry out Trump's immigration enforcement crackdown known as Operation Midway Blitz. Local Democratic leaders view the Republican president's efforts to deploy the military as a power grab. Many Chicagoans and residents of the surrounding areas view federal agents already deployed to the city as an occupying force. Reached on the phone by USA TODAY, the Figueroa family declined to immediately speak, citing potential upcoming litigation. Dayanne Figueroa released a statement online. "I was in shock and terrified," she said of the moment when she was dragged from her car and pinned to the asphalt. "Agents crashed into me. I was not involved in any protest or related activity and I intend to seek justice for how I was treated." Figueroa's encounter with agents came on Oct. 10 and was covered by the Chicago Tribune on Nov. 3. The woman's account of her detainment comes just days after Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem told reporters at a news conference in Gary, Indiana, that no U.S. citizens had been detained in connection with the blitz crackdown. Homeland Security officials did not immediately respond to requests for comment on the incident or on Noem's comment. The Figueroa family is raising funds for legal and medical fees associated with the incident. The woman says the encounter came after a recent kidney surgery and that afterwards she went to the hospital "because of the excessive force used during her detention." Video published on YouTube by the Figueroa family shows immigration agents detaining a man on a city street while a handful of passersby protest the arrest.

Axios: Chicago Sun-Times demands DHS stop using its photos of immigration enforcement
Axios [11/3/2025 12:54 PM, Carrie Shepherd, 12972K] reports that the Chicago Sun-Times has told the Department of Homeland Security to stop using the newspaper's photos and videos in the federal agency's videos of immigration enforcement. Why it matters: In a letter to the department, the Sun-Times

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accuses DHS of using three of the paper's photos in its social media posts, which the paper's attorney says is intellectual property rights infringement, but also implies that the paper "endorses" DHS' enforcement tactics. What they're saying: "It is imperative that, as a news organization, CSTM [Chicago Sun-Times Media] maintains its independence in order to fairly report on government agencies," attorney Steven Mandell wrote in the letter. DHS' "false implication that CSTM gave permission for its intellectual property to be used in connection with the Department's publicity campaign damages CSTM's credibility and interferes with its ability to report on these issues." Zoom in: One of the examples Mandell cites is a photo of U.S. Customs and Border Patrol agents walking in front of Trump Tower, taken by Sun-Times photo editor Ashlee Rezin in September. Two other examples cited include photos in a montage posted last week by DHS of Border Patrol Cmdr. Gregory Bovino in a video superimposed with the text: "We Will Not be Stopped." Zoom out: This is not the first time DHS has been called out by artists and photographers for using their work in the department's media, including a Thomas Kincaide painting that the late artist's foundation asked DHS to remove, according to ABC News. When asked if DHS has responded to the letter, Mandell told Axios: "Crickets."

AP: Judge again bars Trump administration from deploying troops to Portland

AP [11/3/2025 11:35 PM, Claire Rush and Gene Johnson, 31753K] reports a federal judge in Oregon on Sunday barred President Donald Trump's administration from deploying the National Guard to Portland, Oregon until at least Friday, saying she "found no credible evidence" that protests in the city grew out of control before the president federalized the troops earlier this fall. The city and state sued in September to block the deployment. It is the latest development in weeks of legal back-and-forth in Portland, Chicago and other U.S. cities as the Trump administration has moved to federalize and deploy the National Guard in city streets to quell protests. The ruling from U.S. District Court Judge Karin Immergut, a Trump appointee, followed a three-day trial in which both sides argued over whether protests at the city's U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement building met the conditions for using the military domestically under federal law. In a 16-page filing late Sunday, Immergut said she would issue a final order on Friday due to the voluminous evidence presented at trial, including more than 750 exhibits. The purpose of the deployment, according to the Trump administration, is to protect federal personnel and property where protests are occurring or likely to occur. Legal experts said that a higher appellate court order that remains in effect would have barred troops from being deployed anyway. Immergut wrote that most violence appeared to be between protesters and counter-protesters and found no evidence of "significant damage" to the immigration facility at the center of the protests.

Reported similarly:
The Hill [11/3/2025 8:58 AM, Zach Schonfeld, 12595K]
USA Today [11/3/2025 8:53 AM, Bart Jansen, 67103K] r
Daily Caller [11/3/2025 11:29 AM, Hailey Gomez, 835K]

NPR: Trump's National Guard deployments aren't random. They were planned years ago

NPR [11/3/2025 5:00 AM, Kat Lonsdorf, 28013K] reports President Trump's deployments of National Guard troops to U.S. cities have outraged his political rivals, tested legal precedents and led to nationwide protests. The courts are weighing in on their legality. But — if successful — they could also fulfill a long-running administration goal of employing America's military to aid in the mass deportation of immigrants without legal status, according to an NPR review of past comments from Trump and his allies. It's a move that would stray significantly from past federal use of the Guard, challenging laws that dictate how the U.S. military can be used domestically. And with the 2026 midterms looming, some experts worry Guard troops could even be used as a tool of systemic voter suppression and intimidation. Trump has sent troops into four Democratic-led cities and threatened to send them to several more, claiming they are needed to crack down on crime and protect federal immigration facilities and officers. Those deployments, and the White House's rhetoric around them, have regularly conflated violent crime and illegal immigration into a single crisis, blurring the lines around the role of the Guard and federal agents. Taken one at a time, the deployments can seem random or fickle — Trump will often muse about sending troops into a city, only to back track his comments and focus on a different city days later. But the president and several

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others in his inner circle — most notably Stephen Miller, a senior aide to Trump in his first term, and now Trump's right hand man on immigration — have long talked about using the National Guard to help with mass deportations and immigration raids, despite U.S. laws broadly preventing the military from being used for domestic policing. To get around those laws, both Trump and Miller have talked about invoking the Insurrection Act, which allows the president to deploy the military within the U.S. in certain situations. Legal experts, activists and watchdog groups worry the Trump administration could fundamentally change the way the military is used on U.S. soil, specifically raising concerns about the upcoming 2026 midterm elections and what armed troops on the streets could mean as voters cast ballots.

New York Times: How to Make Sense of the Federal Forces on the Streets

New York Times [11/4/2025 2:47 AM, Bora Erden, 330K] reports that, with the Border Patrol marching through Chicago and the National Guard patrolling Memphis, the variety of federal forces deployed to support President Trump's mass deportation campaign and anticrime efforts continues to expand. Often, it can be difficult for the public to tell them apart, or to understand what powers each agency has. Here is a guide to how these forces are operating, including alongside local law enforcement. Immigration and Customs Enforcement is the primary immigration law enforcement agency in the country, and its officers wear a variety of uniforms and identifiers. ICE is made up of two main branches. The officers of Enforcement and Removal Operations typically handle arrests and deportations. In the past, Homeland Security Investigations focused on transnational crimes, but Mr. Trump has called on its officers to make other arrests in the field. Confusion over immigration officers' relationship to other law enforcement is not new. In 2020, community organizations in California sued ICE, claiming officers misrepresented themselves as the police during immigration operations. The lawsuit was settled in August and mandated that officers clearly identify themselves as ICE on their clothing. Elsewhere, ICE officers may operate in plain clothes with no or minimal identification but are supposed to identify themselves during arrests. One case involving a Turkish doctoral student sparked outrage when footage surfaced of plainclothes agents confronting her on the street outside Boston in March. Still other ICE officers may appear in full military-style fatigues, like the agency's Special Response Teams, who are trained for high-risk operations. Since the anti-ICE summer protests in Los Angeles, they have also been guarding ICE facilities and making some street arrests. Customs and Border Protection is charged with law enforcement at the border, but Mr. Trump has deployed its agents nationwide to arrest immigrants. Within 100 miles of the border, they have greater authority than local law enforcement to conduct certain searches. Like ICE officers, their uniforms vary. After protests mounted over his immigration crackdown, Mr. Trump sent National Guard troops to Chicago, Los Angeles and Portland, Ore., citing a need to protect immigration agents and federal property. He also has called upon the National Guard to work alongside the local police in Memphis and Washington, D.C. Local officials in most of these cities, which are led by Democrats, have strongly objected to the deployments, saying Mr. Trump is misusing the Guard, a part-time military force that most often is called upon during natural disasters, wars or civil unrest. Where the president's deportation and crime-prevention campaigns intersect, the lines have blurred, and all types of law enforcement share overlapping roles. While immigration enforcement is the purview of ICE and Border Patrol, other agencies within the Department of Homeland Security and in the Justice Department have increasingly taken on this work. ICE often conducts raids on residences, and the agency has revived workplace raids, a practice largely suspended under the previous administration. Officers more often now stop people on the street, sometimes detaining U.S. citizens. ICE and Border Patrol agents also make arrests at courthouse immigration hearings, a practice legal groups say violates due process protections. In many places, the local police work directly with Homeland Security to arrest immigrants, or to detain them until immigration officers arrive. In Washington, at least eight federal agencies were part of Mr. Trump's efforts to take control of law enforcement. The local police helped immigration officers identify targets during stops for minor infractions, and immigration officers helped with arrests for nonimmigration crimes.

Wall Street Journal: Homeland Security Biometric Policy for Foreign Travelers Poses Data-Theft Risks

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Wall Street Journal [11/3/2025 3:09 PM, Angus Loten, 646K] reports the Department of Homeland Security is directing border-patrol agents to screen all foreign travelers with facial recognition tools as they enter and leave the U.S., seeking to identify immigrants who entered the country illegally or overstayed visas, the agency said. Expanding the use of facial recognition at border checkpoints will “make the process for verifying the identity of aliens more efficient, accurate and secure,” DHS said. The move, set to take effect in late December, would also create a massive biometric database—what DHS is calling a “gallery”—on countless non-U. S. citizens that risks becoming a rich source for deepfakes and other cybercrimes, security experts said. Biometric data can include fingerprints or voice patterns to identify individuals. Initially, the new directive will apply only to photos and at commercial airports. The agency plans to eventually extend the screening to all air, sea and land ports of entry. “Anytime you collect and build a large, centralized database of biometrics, especially one which can span decades and include data from millions of individuals, it creates the opportunity for long-term risk,” said Patrick Joyce, global resident chief information security officer at cybersecurity firm Proofpoint. “As we’ve seen in other attacks, such systems are incredibly valuable targets,” Joyce said. Beyond secure storage, passing biometric data along to other government agencies or third-party contractors can create additional vulnerabilities, said Mark McCreary, co-chair of the privacy and data security practice at law firm Fox Rothschild. McCreary said there is an “ongoing concern about the potential for data breaches, mission creep and the lack of transparency around how data is shared across agencies and with commercial partners.” Extending biometric data-gathering to include foreign travelers leaving the U.S. also comes with added risks, McCreary said. Because exit-screening is relatively new and untested, the initial program will likely rely on a mix of government and airline-provided cameras, along with mobile devices used by U.S. Customs and Border Protection agents, he said: “This hybrid approach increases the number of entities handling sensitive biometric data, amplifying the risk of unauthorized access or misuse.”

NBC News: Jury selection begins in the trial of D.C.’s ‘sandwich guy’

NBC News [11/3/2025 12:38 PM, Megan Lebowitz and Ryan J. Reilly, 34509K] reports jury selection started Monday in the trial of former Justice Department employee Sean Dunn, also known as the "sandwich guy," months after he went viral for throwing a salami sub at a Customs and Border Protection agent in Washington, D.C., at close range. In return, prosecutors hit Dunn with a misdemeanor assault charge in August. That came a day after U.S. Attorney Jeanine Pirro’s office failed to persuade a grand jury to indict Dunn on felony charges — a sub-optimal result for prosecutors. Dunn pleaded not guilty to the misdemeanor charge in September. The case is proceeding after a judge rejected the government’s motion to delay the trial because of a disagreement over jury instructions. Jury selection is being done in open court, but U.S. District Judge Carl Nichols is using technology, including a white noise machine, to block members of the public and the media from hearing what the potential jurors are being asked and what they’re answering. In the past, such broad restrictions on jury selection have been found to be unconstitutional. Dunn’s lawyers have claimed the case is "selective and vindictive prosecution," arguing he was singled out for prosecution "not because of the nature of his alleged conduct — throwing a soft object that caused no injury — but because his outspoken, viral critique of the current administration’s policing and immigration policies made him a political target.” Federal prosecutors opposed Dunn’s lawyers’ motion to dismiss the charge, writing that Dunn was "recorded throwing a sandwich at a federal officer at point-blank range."

Reported similarly:
NewsMax [11/3/2025 11:57 AM, Solange Reyner, 4109K]

CNN: DC jurors dismissed in the trial of man charged with throwing sandwich at federal agent are deeply skeptical of the case

CNN [11/3/2025 5:47 PM, Holmes Lybrand] reports potential jurors who were not selected to serve in the trial of a DC man accused of throwing a sub sandwich at a Customs and Border Protection officer expressed deep skepticism of the federal case. A group of eight dismissed jurors spoke to CNN Monday, questioning whether any jury in DC would convict the accused sandwich-thrower, Sean Dunn. Dunn has pleaded not guilty to a misdemeanor assault charge. A jury was selected in the trial Monday afternoon. A

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grand jury declined to hand up a more severe assault charge against Dunn over the summer, which carried a maximum sentence of nearly a decade in prison. Prosecutors then filed a complaint against Dunn that carries a far lower maximum sentence of 1 year. Dunn, who worked at the Justice Department at the time of the alleged sandwich throwing, was quickly fired after the incident, which Attorney General Pam Bondi publicly announced. Prosecutors say Dunn, in early August, yelled offensive things at a group of officers before throwing the sandwich and running away.

CBS Mornings: Truck Driver Not Under Influence During Crash

(B) CBS Mornings [11/3/2025 10:56 AM, Staff] reports that a semi-truck driver who allegedly hit and killed three people in a crash in southern California will no longer be charged with a felony DUI. Prosecutors now say he was not under the influence during the wreck. The San Bernadino County district attorney said toxicology reports confirm Jashanpreet Singh was not under the influence of drugs, alcohol, or any tested substances. He remains in jail and still facing vehicular manslaughter charges. The Department of Homeland Security said Singh is in the country illegally.

The Hill: Congressional approval for alleged drug boat strikes not needed, White House says

The Hill [11/3/2025 9:12 PM, Filip Timotija, 12595K] reports the White House argued lethal military strikes against alleged drug-trafficking boats in the Caribbean and Eastern Pacific do not rise to the level of "hostilities" that would warrant authorization from Congress under the War Powers Resolution (WPR). The administration said the WPR, which Congress passed in 1973, would only apply when putting the U.S. in harm's way and that the strikes on alleged drug-smuggling boats, which so far have killed at least 64 people, are not endangering military personnel since they are "largely" conducted by unmanned aerial vehicles that take off from Navy vessels. "Here, the operation comprises precise strikes conducted largely by unmanned aerial vehicles launched from naval vessels in international waters at distances too far away for the crews of the targeted vessels to endanger American personnel," a senior administration official, speaking on condition of anonymity, told The Hill on Monday. Monday marked the 60-day deadline since the White House first notified Congress of its initial strike against an alleged drug-trafficking vessel. The WPR says the president needs to discontinue military operations after 60 days if an authorization from Congress is not obtained or the commander-in-chief can request a 30-day extension. The administration official said the escalating strikes do not meet the threshold of "hostilities" and that the Trump administration's Office of Legal Counsel's (OLC) position on the matter is "consistent with its traditional approach," pointing to legal opinions authored by assistant attorneys general during the Clinton and Reagan presidencies. In a 1996 opinion, Walter Dellinger, the assistant attorney general in the OLC, did not discuss the 60-day limit when addressing former President Clinton's deployment of peacekeeping forces to Haiti, but added the decision would "not involve the risk of major or prolonged hostilities or serious casualties to either the United States or Haiti." "The Executive Branch has taken the position from the very beginning" that the WPR "does not constitute a legally binding definition of Presidential authority to deploy our armed forces," former Assistant Attorney General Theodore Olson wrote in the 1984 legal opinion, referenced by the White House. Other administrations have made similar arguments. In 2011, the Obama administration said the WPR was not applicable since there were no U.S. troops on the ground and continued fighting with opposing forces during the air campaign against Libya. The strikes targeting alleged drug-smuggling boats have continued, with Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth announcing late Saturday that the U.S. military took out a "narco-trafficking" vessel operated by a designated terrorist organization in the Caribbean, killing three. "On the campaign trail, President Trump promised to take on the cartels — and he has taken unprecedented action to stop the scourge of narcoterrorism that has resulted in the needless deaths of innocent Americans," the administration official said Monday. Lawmakers on both sides of the aisle have asked the administration for more information about the legal rationale the White House is relying on for the strikes. Democrats on the House Armed Services Committee were not satisfied with last week's briefing on the boat strikes, expressing frustration with the answers they have gotten on the legality of the operations and the White House's "end game." The administration official pushed back, saying by "regularly notifying and briefing the House and the Senate on this important matter, the Administration continues to demonstrate great transparency in its communications" with Congress.

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Washington Examiner: Trump cagey about looming Venezuela strikes, but says Maduro's days are numbered
Washington Examiner [11/3/2025 7:11 AM, Jamie McIntyre, 1394K] reports if President Donald Trump's strategy is to keep everybody guessing whether he is considering airstrikes on Venezuela, he doesn't seem to be fooling anyone, but he's doing his best not to say what is looking more and more likely — that military action is coming. Asked on Friday by a reporter on Air Force One, whether reports were true that he was "considering strikes within Venezuela," Trump said flatly, "No, it's not true." The same day, he sat for a lengthy interview with 60 Minutes, which aired last night, and gave contradictory answers to CBS correspondent Norah O'Donnell. "Are we going to war against Venezuela?" O'Donnell asked. "I doubt it. I don't think so." Trump said, only to indicate just a few minutes later that Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro may soon be deposed. "Are Maduro's days as president numbered?" asked O'Donnell. "I would say yeah. I think so, yeah," Trump replied. "And this issue of potential land strikes in Venezuela, is that true?" she pressed. "I don't tell you that. I mean, I'm not saying it's true or untrue, but you know, I wouldn't be inclined to say that I would do that." Later on Air Force One, Trump berated a reporter for even asking the question. "How can I answer a question like that? Are there plans for a strike on Venezuela? Who would say that? Supposing there were, would I say that to you? Listen, we have very secret plans."

Opinion – Editorials

Houston Chronicle: [TX] Houston police called ICE on a missing teen. Then they blamed his mom.
Houston Chronicle [11/3/2025 6:00 AM, Staff, 2983K] reports she is poised and impossibly polite. Through a blur of calls with a case worker, a social worker, another case worker, the 42-year-old mother doesn't snap. Even as she's told her video calls with her son will be limited to weekly 15-minute phone calls. Even as her questions are met with scripted non-answers. Still, every indignant word the mother speaks is carefully calibrated. But the moment Maria García hears her son's voice over the phone, her own voice breaks. When he asks how she's doing, she doesn't tell him about the sleepless nights, about the tears, about the hours clutching her rosary – praying for an end to this nightmare. She steadies her voice and asks what any mom would: "Are they taking good care of you?" she says into a speaker phone, as a member of the editorial board listens nearby. The 15-year-old gives one-word answers. Trapped inside a federal children's detention center in Houston, Emmanuel Gonzalez García says he's bored. He's desperate. On Oct. 4, Emmanuel wandered from his mother's side on the corner of Clay and Hempstead Road, disappearing on a Metro bus in the time it took her to finish preparing a spicy-sweet mango snack for a customer from her makeshift roadside stall. For nearly a week, Maria had no idea where her son was. She had no way to know whether her baby was dead or alive – even as the Houston Police Department, the very people she turned to for help, knew exactly where he was. Even as they knew they'd handed her child over to immigration authorities and put him at risk of deportation. The disappearance of Emmanuel is a story that has ricocheted in our city and beyond in recent weeks – breathlessly covered by TV news outlets, dissected on Facebook and debated at City Hall.

Opinion – Op-Eds

NewsMax: Time for SCOTUS to End Birthright Citizenship
NewsMax [11/3/2025 12:06 PM, Michael Dorstewitz, 4109K] reports one of the first things President Trump did at the start of his second term was to sign an executive order ending birthright citizenship — the notion that a woman could cross the border into the United States and deliver a child for one purpose: To grant the child U.S. citizenship. Birthright citizenship is based on the Citizenship Clause of the 14th Amendment to the Constitution. It states, "All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside." On the surface that would appear to end all debate. Birthright citizenship is the law of the land and therefor so called "anchor babies" are legitimate American citizens — until you consider the purpose of the amendment. It was among the three post-Civil War amendments known as the Reconstruction Amendments. The 13th Amendment abolished slavery, the 14th granted citizenship and guaranteed equal

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protection under the law, and the 15th prohibited states from denying the right to vote based on race. Getting to specifics, the Citizenship Clause was included to reverse a portion of the Dred Scott decision. It held that African Americans were not and could not become United States citizens or enjoy any of the privileges and immunities of citizenship. So the Citizenship Clause was included in the Reconstruction Amendments to clearly make former slaves, and children of those former slavers, American citizens. It was meant to correct a past wrong, and never intended to create "anchor babies."

FOX News: Their plan was a flood of illegal immigration. Our answer is an immigration moratorium
FOX News [11/3/2025 5:00 AM, Nate Morris, 40621K] reports President Joe Biden's decision to allow the free flow of illegal immigration into our country has resulted in 20 million illegal immigrants living in the United States. We knew nothing about these people. We didn't know where they came from or why they were here. Now Americans are forced to compete even more with illegal immigrants for jobs and housing, to have their children share our classrooms, to wait longer at the hospital, and to even have their lawfully earned, government-funded benefits depleted because of them. Why? All because career politicians either turned a blind eye to it, or, as I suspect, more insidiously cheered it on. But illegal immigration is frankly a symptom of the broader disease that, if we choose to ignore, will cost us our country. This very minute, New York City is on the precipice of electing a Ugandan immigrant who is hell-bent on the destruction of a once great city. There's a member of Congress from Mogadishu whose entire existence is predicated on turning America into Somalia. These are not isolated incidents, either — they're a sign of things to come. This is what happens when career politicians have contempt for a secure border.

Wall Street Journal: Trump's New World Order
Wall Street Journal [11/3/2025 4:59 PM, Walter Russell Mead, 646K] reports "On Venezuela in particular," CBS News's Norah O'Donnell asked President Trump on "60 Minutes" Sunday, "are Maduro's days as president numbered?" "I would say yeah. I think so, yeah," he replied. "And this issue of potential land strikes in Venezuela, is that true?" "I don't tell you that. . . . You know, you're a wonderful reporter, you're very talented, but I'm not gonna tell you what I'm gonna do with Venezuela, if I was gonna do it or if I wasn't going to do it." And that's where matters stand. With a carrier strike group joining eight warships already in the region, a squadron of F-35s in Puerto Rico, and assorted elite military units in the area, the Trump administration has ramped up its standoff with Venezuela. Regime change is clearly the goal; the timetable and means are unspecified. In normal times, a crisis of this magnitude would dominate world news, but in our era it struggles to stay on the front page. The Venezuela crisis escalated to the brink of war the same week Mr. Trump's lightning Asia tour concluded with a summit with Xi Jinping. While senators such as Kentucky's Rand Paul denounced what they called illegal American strikes against alleged drug-running boats in the Caribbean and Eastern Pacific, lawyers on both sides were prepping oral arguments for the historic Supreme Court showdown over the legality of Mr. Trump's tariffs, which have upended world trade. Russian troops ground out more gains in Ukraine even as the air war between Kyiv and its nuclear-armed neighbor raged. Scenes of horror unfolded in Darfur as Sudan descended deeper into civil war. The fragile cease-fire in Gaza hung by a thread. Meanwhile, on Truth Social, Mr. Trump threatened to attack Nigeria if that country doesn't do a better job of protecting Christians. Not since Franklin D. Roosevelt has an American president been this powerful or this busy.

The Hill: [Venezuela] Please don't invade Venezuela
The Hill [11/3/2025 1:00 PM, Harlan Ullman, 12595K] reports that the U.S. Navy nuclear carrier USS Gerald Ford and its battle group, which includes some 80 strike and other aircraft and Tomahawk equipped surface combatants, is about to join a dozen other warships including a force of about 2,000 Marines, in the Caribbean. Part of this force includes the U.S. Military Sealift Command's Ocean Trader, a 22,000-ton mystery ship over two football fields in length with a crew of about 40 and up to 200 special forces and their equipment embarked. All are off the Venezuelan coast as B-52's and B-2's pass overhead like wolves circling prey. A word of advice: Do not invade Venezuela. This is not Operation Just Cause of December 1989, in which George H.W. Bush ordered 27,000 U.S. troops to capture Panamanian President Manuel Noriega. The U.S. had a base in Panama facilitating that operation. No such base exists in or near Venezuela. And Venezuela is 12 times larger than Panama with about six

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times the population. As far as regime change, the White House needs to be reminded of a bit of history. We tried that in Vietnam, Afghanistan and Iraq as well as a number of attempts in Central America. Further, Venezuela is viewed as the center of gravity for these operations. But U.S. intelligence and law enforcement reports show that Colombia and especially Mexico are the villains in the drug and fentanyl trade. Venezuela is a sideshow. The White House has already disclosed that CIA units have been authorized to operate in Venezuela in what are now non-covert ways.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement

FOX News: Acting ICE director pledges to fulfill Trump's largest deportation effort: 'No one's off the table'

FOX News [11/3/2025 5:25 PM, Maria Lencki, 40621K] reports acting U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Director Todd Lyons is pledging to keep President Donald Trump's promise to have one of the largest deportation efforts the country has seen. The president was pressed on his immigration policy on Sunday's "60 Minutes" interview on CBS, where he was asked if some of the raids have gone "too far." "No, I think they haven't gone far enough, because we've been held back by the judges, by the liberal judges that were put in by Biden and by Obama," Trump said. "You have to get the people out, you know? You have, look at the people. Many of them are murderers. Many of them are people that were thrown out of their countries because they were, you know, criminals." Lyons told "America Reports" ICE will work with state and local partners as they identify as many illegal immigrants as they can and "take action on them." "No one's off the table," he warned. "We're going to use all the tools in the toolbox. We have great federal partners. Department of Justice has been outstanding with us, and we are going to team up with everyone that wants to work with us, and we're to go out there and keep the president's promise to sure that we have one of the largest deportation efforts ever." The acting ICE director, who says many agents have been targeted due to the rhetoric against them, explained that officials are being swarmed by protesters before even making arrests.

FOX News: ICE reveals stunning statistic after exposing Halloween weekend's 'worst of the worst' arrests

FOX News [11/3/2025 8:02 PM, Peter Pinedo, 40621K] reports U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) continued its crackdown on the "worst of the worst" dangerous illegal immigrants over Halloween weekend, arresting criminals convicted of intercourse with minor, sexual abuse, kidnapping, homicide and other serious crimes. The Department of Homeland Security highlighted that 70 percent of ICE arrests are of criminal illegal aliens charged or convicted of a crime in the U.S., according to a statement to Fox News Digital. One criminal illegal, Sisawang Khambounheuang, from Laos, was arrested by ICE after being convicted of unlawful sexual intercourse with a minor in San Diego. Just to the north, another criminal illegal alien, Milton Rene Mendez-Arevalo, from Guatemala, was arrested after a conviction for kidnapping in Los Angeles. In Houston, where ICE arrested over 120 illegal immigrants over the weekend, the agency nabbed Honduran criminal illegal Hector Eugenio Ramirez-Martinez, who was convicted for indecency with child sexual contact in Harris County. Another, Francisco Nava-Garcia, from Mexico, was arrested in Houston after being convicted of assault on a family/household member. Elsewhere in Texas, ICE arrested Kunal Chhetri, an illegal alien from India, who was convicted for alien smuggling in the United States District Court, Western District of Texas. ICE also continued its crackdown in Florida, arresting Lazaro Mateo Ruiz, from Cuba, who was convicted for homicide, weapon offense and robbery in Miami-Dade County. Over in Florida's gulf coast, ICE arrested Juan Gomez-Gutierrez, from Colombia, who was convicted for conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute five kilograms of cocaine while aboard a vessel in Tampa. Another drug distributor, Juan Brito-Rios, from Mexico, was arrested by ICE following his conviction for possession with the intent to distribute one kilogram or more of heroin, five kilograms or more of cocaine and money laundering in the U.S. Middle District Court of Tennessee. In Illinois, a sanctuary state that has been resisting the Trump administration's crackdown, ICE arrested Brigidio Ovido Gomez Garcia, from Guatemala, who was convicted of aggravated domestic battery/strangle, domestic battery, and driving under the influence in Wheaton, a Chicago suburb. Commenting on the arrests, DHS Assistant Secretary Tricia McLaughlin pointed out that amidst pushback

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from pro-sanctuary politicians, 70 percent of all ICE arrests are of illegal aliens charged or convicted of a crime in the U.S. "President Trump and Secretary Noem unleashed ICE to remove the worst of the worst criminal illegal aliens from American communities," McLaughlin told Fox News Digital. "Despite the Democrats' government shutdown, ICE is continuing to arrest criminal illegal aliens across the country," she continued. "While Americans enjoyed their weekends, ICE was hard at work getting the worst of the worst off our streets—including pedophiles, murderers, and kidnappers."

NPR: ICE seizing migrants from county jails, raising due process concerns
NPR [11/3/2025 4:59 AM, Mose Buchele, 28013K] Audio: HERE reports in some parts of the U.S., ICE agents are seizing people directly from county jails to take into immigration custody. The tactic has raised concerns over due process. [Editorial note: consult audio at source link]

AP: [PA] Courts Order ICE Not to Deport Man Who Spent 43 Years in Prison Before Murder Case Overturned
AP [11/3/2025 5:48 PM, Maryclaire Dale, 19051K] reports two separate courts have ordered immigration officials not to deport a Pennsylvania man who spent four decades in prison before his murder conviction was overturned. Subramanyam Vedam, 64, is currently detained at a short-term holding center in Alexandria, Louisiana, that's equipped with an airstrip for deportations. Vedam, a legal permanent resident known as "Subu," was transferred there from central Pennsylvania last week, relatives said. An immigration judge stayed his deportation on Thursday until the Bureau of Immigration Appeals decides whether to review his case. That could take several months. Vedam's lawyers also got a stay the same day in U.S. District Court in Pennsylvania, but said that case may be on hold given the immigration court ruling. Vedam came to the U.S. legally from India as an infant and grew up in State College, where his father taught at Penn State. He was serving a life sentence in a friend's 1980 death before his conviction was overturned this year. He was released from state prison on Oct. 3, only to be taken straight into immigration custody. The Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement is seeking to deport Vedam over his no contest plea to charges of LSD delivery, filed when he was about 20. His lawyers argue that the four decades he wrongly spent in prison, where he earned degrees and tutored fellow inmates, should outweigh the drug case. A Department of Homeland Security spokesperson said Monday that the reversal in the murder case does not negate the drug conviction. "Having a single conviction vacated will not stop ICE's enforcement of the federal immigration law," Tricia McLaughlin," Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs, said in an email.

Reported similarly:
Univision [11/3/2025 6:11 PM, Staff, 5004K]

Chicago Tribune: [IL] Chicago woman dragged out of her car after colliding with ICE demands accountability
Chicago Tribune [11/3/2025 12:55 PM, Laura Rodríguez Presa and Jonathan Bullington, 4829K] reports Dayanne Figueroa was on her way to get coffee before heading to work when she encountered a chaotic scene in West Town: heavily armed, masked federal agents making arrests on a residential street. People yelled as vehicles honked their horn - a sign now used to alert neighbors that immigration federal agents are in the area - and witnesses said federal agents had arrested several landscaper workers presumed to be in the country without authorization. As Figuero tried to drive through the 1600 block of West Hubbard Street on Friday, Oct. 10, an unmarked vehicle driven by federal agents collided with Figueroa's as it tried to speed away from a hostile crowd, multiple videos reviewed by the Tribune show. Seconds after the crash, agents abruptly stopped their vehicle and exited with weapons in hand pointing at Figueroa, a U.S citizen. Agents then forcibly opened her door and pulled her out of the vehicle by her legs without identifying themselves, presenting a warrant or informing her that she was under arrest. As bystanders yelled, "You hit her! We have it on video!" agents ignored the crowd and forced Figueroa into a red minivan and drove away. The Department of Homeland Security later released a statement claiming that Figueroa was at fault, saying "she crashed into an unmarked government vehicle and violently resisted arrest, injuring two officers." Figueroa was released the same day a few

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hours later without charges. Figueroa's arrest highlights growing concerns about the use of force against U.S. citizens and due process. Federal enforcement actions in Chicago have increasingly drawn scrutiny amid reports of aggressive tactics and blurred lines between immigration enforcement and public safety, including incidents involving deploying tear gas in residential areas and arrests of bystanders filming agents or for following the unmarked vehicles. While DHS says its operations are being impeded and that there will be consequences for interfering with federal agents, many individuals who are detained are released without charges. DHS, however, maintains that Figueroa was taken into custody because she "violently resisted" arrest. In a statement to the Tribune, Assistant Secretary Tricia McLaughlin alleged that Figueroa "used her vehicle to block in agents, honking her horn," and that she "stuck an unmarked government vehicle" as agents were departing. "In fear of public safety and of law enforcement, officers attempted to remove her from the vehicle. She violently resisted, kicking two agents and causing injuries. This agitator was arrested for assault on a federal agent," McLaughlin said.

Chicago Tribune: [IL] ICE pushes Chicago restaurants in immigrant neighborhoods into survival mode: 'We are dying a slow death'

Chicago Tribune [11/3/2025 6:00 AM, Zareen Syed, 4829K] reports most days as of late, a heaviness envelops 26th Street in Chicago's Little Village. Some restaurants are closing earlier than usual, street vendors are fewer and farther away, and more and more customers are using food delivery services instead of dining in. On a recent Wednesday, only a handful of people were nervously standing at the bus stop on Hamlin Avenue across from Carnitas Uruapan. Inside the popular Mexican restaurant, tables sat empty during what would typically be a busy weekday lunch hour. Staff were screening customers at the door before letting them in. It had been a chaotic morning marked by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents on the city's Southwest Side. Federal immigration agents, accompanied by Border Patrol Cmdr. Gregory Bovino, had swarmed one of Chicago's oldest and largest immigrant communities - known as "Mexico of the Midwest" - and neighboring Cicero, arresting at least seven people, including U.S. citizens, and clashing with residents who filmed them. The security camera at Carnitas Uruapan had caught what appeared to be an ICE agent trying to enter - but the door was locked. "We're being selective about who we let in today, I guarantee most places out here right now have their doors locked," Marcos Carbajal, owner of Carnitas Uruapan, told the Tribune on Oct. 22. "Lately, we have to keep an eye on the door just to make sure we're only letting people in who look like they're a regular diner."

Chicago Tribune: [IL] Lake Bluff officials weighing whether to object to ICE's practices during raids in Chicago area

Chicago Tribune [11/3/2025 7:12 PM, Daniel I. Dorfman, 4829K] reports amid growing concern about recent actions by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents, Lake Bluff officials are weighing possible steps to formally object to the agency's practices. The Trump administration in September launched "Operation Midway Blitz," an initiative it said was aimed at detaining "criminal illegal aliens." The effort has prompted anxiety in several Chicago-area communities, including Lake Bluff. During his report at the Oct. 27 Village Board meeting, Village President Regis Charlot said the village had received multiple letters and phone calls from residents about the impact of ICE raids in the greater Chicago region. "This is a very sad conversation," Charlot said. Charlot's comments came before reports surfaced of Border Patrol agents appearing in Evanston and other nearby communities, encounters that in some cases led to confrontations with residents. Trustee Shana Fried said she has heard from residents with family members who were detained in the area. "It is an issue that is already affecting our community and is having real practical and financial consequences," Fried said.

ABC News: [IL] Faith leaders blocked by ICE from delivering Communion to immigrants speak out

ABC News [11/3/2025 8:14 PM, Gaby Vinick, 30493K] reports faith leaders denounced Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security for rejecting access to give Communion to immigrants being held at an Illinois facility over the weekend. The Coalition for Spiritual and Public Leadership (CSPL), a Catholic and Christian-rooted nonprofit, organized a Mass by the immigration processing center on All Saints Day and Día de los Muertos, or the Day of the Dead. Organizers estimate some 2,000 people attended on Saturday, as many prayed, sang and held signs

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protesting ICE. "Operation Midway Blitz has caused chaos and mayhem in our city," Michael Okińczyc-Cruz, the executive director of CSPL, told ABC News, referring to the immigration crackdown in Chicago. "It's creating such fear and trauma for so many of the families that we work with and that are members of our coalition," he said. Okińczyc-Cruz said that CSPL formally submitted a letter requesting access more than a week in advance and took numerous steps for ministers to give Communion to migrants in the Broadview facility. This is the second time they were denied entry since their first attempt on Oct. 11, he told ABC News. "These days are so symbolically important for us in the Catholic Church to honor the saints who've come before us," Okińczyc-Cruz said. Katrina Thompson, the mayor of Broadview, also submitted a letter on their behalf to DHS and ICE requesting permission on Oct. 22. It went unanswered, according to Okińczyc-Cruz. ABC News reached out but did not immediately hear back from DHS. Sister JoAnn Persch is the president of Catherine's Caring Cause, an organization that supports asylum seekers with housing, legal and medical needs. She and Chicago Auxiliary Bishop José María Garcia-Maldonado led the delegation on Saturday. For nearly two decades, Persch and the late Sister Pat Murphy prayed for immigrants outside of the center, she said. A starkly different scene on Saturday emerged: leaders were not permitted to walk all the way down to the building, she told ABC News. "We never saw an ICE officer -- except when they kept riding up and down the street during the Mass," Persch said. Some members interpreted this to be an intimidation tactic, according to Okińczyc-Cruz.

New York Times: [IL] Trump, Chicago and the logistics of hosting a global sports match
New York Times [11/3/2025 5:06 PM, Adam Crafton, 153395K] reports on Thursday evening, at the official welcome reception for New Zealand's rugby union test match against Ireland, Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson took to the stage. "Holding this game at Soldier Field is a testament to Chicago's vibrant spirit," Johnson, a Democrat, began. "It is also about our ability to bring people from all around the world together. That is so critical at this time, because as a global city, we have a deep sense of local pride. We understand the combination of the ideal world, where we can bring all people together to understand the importance of not just the game, but also of our collective strength to uphold our humanity." For Chicago, it has been a fraught period in which the city, and the broader state of Illinois, has found itself at odds with President Donald Trump's administration. The federal government says there is a crime crisis in Chicago. In September, the administration launched Operation Midway Blitz, led by United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents, with the stated objective to target "criminal illegal aliens who flocked to Chicago and Illinois." Department of Homeland Security (DHS) assistant secretary Tricia McLaughlin accused Illinois Governor JB Pritzker, also a Democrat, of "making Chicago a magnet for criminals" — a claim he denies — and said the operation would target "the worst of the worst."

Breitbart: [MN] Minneapolis Mayoral Candidate Plans to Alert Illegal Aliens Ahead of ICE Raids
Breitbart [11/3/2025 9:15 PM, Jasmyn Jordan, 2416K] reports Minneapolis mayoral candidate Omar Fateh discussed a plan during a podcast interview involving coordination between city leadership and community-based organizations to ensure elected officials and neighborhood groups are informed before potential immigration enforcement activity. Fateh, a Minnesota state senator and self-described democratic socialist now running for mayor of Minneapolis, said during a podcast interview: "We need to strengthen our separation ordinance. We need to have better communication between the mayor and the chief, and also the city council members, so that whenever we know something is coming down the pike, the city council is alerted immediately because they're the connection point to the community, and they can articulate that and disseminate that information to folks. We really have to work really hard to better work with some of those boots-on-the-ground organizations that I just spoke about right now that are already providing the 'Know Your Rights' training, legal counseling, multilingual services. They're the ones that are finding out a lot of times what's happening on the ground. Because the city cannot do it alone, and we need to lock arms not just cross-jurisdictionally but with these organizations as well, because things are scary, and it's going to get scarier as well." According to a mayor's update from Jacob Frey, the separation ordinance is described as: "City employees — including police officers and firefighters — are prohibited from participating in civil immigration enforcement." Fateh is running on a platform that includes limiting police power, increasing non-police emergency response services, opposing cooperation between the Minneapolis Police Department and ICE, expanding funding for immigrant rights initiatives, and

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implementing carbon fees approved by the City Council. He previously supported legislation to provide taxpayer-funded college tuition to households earning under $80,000 per year, regardless of immigration status. He accused Rep. Lauren Boebert (R-CO) of "white supremacy" for opposing taxpayer-funded tuition for illegal aliens, and labeled the U.S. policing system "systemically white supremacist." Breitbart News has also reported that Fateh opened his campaign office as a support hub during the 2020 George Floyd riots, returned thousands in campaign donations tied to the Feeding Our Future fraud scheme after donors were identified in FBI warrants, pushed Amazon on mandatory prayer breaks for Muslim workers, supported banning tear gas and rubber bullets, cast an "uncommitted" vote in Minnesota's 2024 Super Tuesday primary over the Biden administration's Israel policy, and advocated raising the Minneapolis minimum wage to $20 per hour by 2028. Fateh received the Minnesota Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party's endorsement for mayor in July 2025, but the endorsement was later revoked by the DFL's Constitution, Bylaws & Rules Committee following verification of voting errors at the convention. Fateh criticized that decision and urged supporters to continue engaging in his campaign. He has drawn support from Rep. Ilhan Omar (D-MN) and former Rep. Jamaal Bowman (D-NY) in recent months.

AP: [TX] Data shows 1 in 4 immigration arrests happen in Texas, where about 1.6M immigrants illegally live

AP [11/3/2025 2:45 PM, Uriel J. Garcia, Colleen Duguzman, Alex Nguyen, and Carla Astudillo, 31753K] reports that on the evening of July 1, Luis Medrano called Houston police for help after his wife had gotten violent and punched him twice in the face during a schizophrenic episode in which she was hearing tormenting voices, according to a police report. Medrano, 50, a Mexican immigrant who met his wife when they crossed the Rio Grande with a group of about a dozen other migrants more than three decades ago, had tried to take his 47-year-old wife to the hospital, but she refused to go. So he did what he'd done three times before: called the police so they would take her to a hospital. But this time, the officer arrested her on suspicion of assault and booked her into jail. And after a prosecutor dismissed the case, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, also known as ICE, picked her up from jail and eventually deported her to Mexico. In Texas, which has the second-largest population of immigrants living illegally in the country — with more than 1.6 million of the estimated 13.7 million nationally — the local criminal justice system has become the main funnel sending immigrants into ICE custody, according to a Texas Tribune analysis of federal government data. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security, which oversees ICE, responded to questions from the Tribune by citing an Oct. 30 social media post by DHS Assistant Secretary Tricia McLaughlin that said "70% of illegal aliens ICE has arrested have criminal convictions or pending criminal charges. "And that doesn't even account for those wanted for violent crimes in their country of origin or another country, INTERPOL notices, human rights abusers, gang members, terrorists," the post says. "The list goes on. The media continues to act as a PR firm for criminals."

Breitbart: [TX] 120 Illegal Aliens Arrested on Houston Streets in One Day

Breitbart [11/3/2025 3:23 PM, Randy Clark, 2416K] reports more than 120 illegal aliens were arrested on Texas roadways in the greater Houston area in a single day. The operation that stretched into the late hours of October 29 cleared the roads of often unlicensed and uninsured illegal aliens, according to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). A social media post on Sunday shows a video of ICE Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO) officers carrying out the arrests in a parking lot near a Houston-area business and during several vehicle stops. The video described the activities with a statement saying, "We made over 120 arrests in Houston Oct.29-clearing our roads of dangerous, often uninsured, illegal aliens who should NOT be behind the wheel." As reported by Breitbart Texas, ERO officers and other federal agents in the greater Houston area have ramped up day and nighttime operations in targeted operations that have resulted in multiple arrests of illegal aliens around local businesses and on Houston roadways. During one nighttime sweep just days before the latest operation, Breitbart Texas's Bob Price rode with a team of 40 federal officers and agents as the group arrested approximately 25 illegal aliens, many with criminal records. Moving through Houston's high-crime corridors, Breitbart Texas observed the officers and agents, now armed with a new data-driven targeting system that seemed to send a clear message: ICE is now a 24/7 presence in Texas.

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Houston Chronicle: [TX] A Texas priest is in ICE custody even though he can legally work in the U.S., diocese says

Houston Chronicle [11/3/2025 6:04 PM, Julián Aguilar, Haajrah Gilani, 2983K] reports an Episcopal priest and immigrant who was legally employed by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice is in the custody of Immigration and Customs Enforcement in Conroe after being detained last month, the Episcopal Diocese of Texas said. The diocese said it's unclear why the Kenyan man, the Rev. James Eliud Ngahu Mwangi, was detained while returning from his job Oct. 25. Doyle told Religion News Service, who first reported the story, that it's unclear why the priest was taken into custody, adding that the immigrant had a valid work permit.

New York Times: [CO] An Altercation With ICE Prompts a Police Chief to Push Back

New York Times [11/3/2025 6:59 PM, Jack Healy, 135475K] reports Brice Current, the police chief in Durango, Colo., knew there was a problem the moment he saw the video of an immigration agent putting a protester into what the chief saw as a chokehold and throwing her down an embankment. Immigration agents had arrested a Colombian man and his two children on their way to school last week, provoking a furious response from this liberal college town of 20,000 in the mountains of southwest Colorado. Dozens of residents — many with their arms linked — descended on the small Immigration and Customs Enforcement building where the family was being held, set up camp outside the razor-wire gates and tried to block authorities from removing the family from Durango. What set the protest apart from similar clashes between residents and immigration agents in Chicago, Los Angeles and other cities was Chief Current's determination that the masked federal agent involved in the scuffle had crossed a line and his request for an investigation. He said he even considered filing criminal charges himself against the agent. "It appeared to be an out-of-policy and possibly illegal use of force," he said in an interview at police headquarters. The scene from Durango, captured by fellow protesters and put on social media, was violent and jarring, but no more so than many others across the country. Several protesters, including elected officials and a Democratic congressional candidate, have been arrested or charged with federal crimes at immigration detention centers. American citizens have been whisked into unmarked vehicles and charged with resisting arrest or attacking officers, though the people arrested have maintained they did no such thing. Protesters, journalists and clergy have sued over federal agents' use of tear gas and crowd-control munitions against protesters. A U.S. citizen who was violently thrown to ground in Chicago has vowed to "pursue all legal avenues" against the agents involved. But so far, no local prosecutors are known to have filed criminal charges against immigration agents. That might change. At Chief Current's request, the Colorado Bureau of Investigation has opened an investigation into the incident in Durango, putting Democratic-led Colorado on a potential collision course with the Trump administration, which has threatened to prosecute any local officials if they charge federal agents carrying out President Trump's immigration crackdown.

Washington Examiner: [OR] 'Latinx' leader who served as Oregon policy advisor was illegal immigrant convicted of sex crimes

Washington Examiner [11/3/2025 6:30 PM, Mia Cathell, 1394K] reports an illegal immigrant convicted of sex crimes in Oregon, a sanctuary state for unlawful immigration, held various advisory positions on state policymaking committees as a so-called "Latinx" community leader. Juan Pablo Villalobos Garcia, a criminally convicted Venezuelan national who had overstayed his visa, according to U.S. immigration authorities, served in several committee roles advising the state of Oregon on policy areas such as behavioral health, "health equity," and healthcare for all, regardless of immigration status. Before the U.S. Department of Homeland Security nabbed Garcia, a Portland-area activist and "educator," he was on Oregon's Community Engagement and Communications Committee to the Universal Health Plan Governance Board, which is tasked with creating a comprehensive plan for financing and administering a single-payer healthcare system that covers all Oregonians, no matter their immigration status. Garcia's committee is responsible for developing community outreach recommendations and informational material, as part of the universal health plan that the board will present to Gov. Tina Kotek (D-OR) and the Oregon legislature. The board looks to committee members for "expertise and lived experience." Committee members are recruited by the governor-appointed board and are supposed to embody

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"equitable representation from every region and population around the state." On the Oregon government website, the board's community engagement committee describes Garcia as the executive director of LatinX Recovery Center, who is "currently in recovery from substance abuse with a criminal justice history." Over video conference, Garcia attended the committee's monthly meetings as recently as Sept. 24 and would offer insight in Spanish. Garcia, whose record reportedly includes sexual abuse and bestiality, was also an active member of the Behavioral Health Crisis System Advisory Committee, which advises the Oregon Health Authority, the state's health department, on overseeing the statewide crisis response system. While on the committee, Garcia served as a certified peer support specialist. Committee members were eligible for a $166 stipend each day of work on the advisory council. As of September 23, Garcia regularly appeared at committee meetings via video call and participated in discussions ranging from funding deliberations to legislative proposals. "It is SICKENING this monster was hiding in Oregon thanks to the state's sanctuary policies," the Department of Homeland Security said in an X post announcing that Garcia was in the United States on an overstayed B2 tourist visa. "Under President Trump and Secretary Noem, if you break the law, you will face the consequences," DHS wrote. "Criminal illegal aliens are not welcome in the U.S.

New York Times: [CA] Man Shot by ICE Was Not Trying to Run Over Agent, Lawyers Say

New York Times [11/3/2025 7:46 PM, Soumya Karlamangla, 135475K] reports lawyers for a man shot last week by an immigration agent in Southern California are disputing the account given by federal officials who charged him with assault. The lawyers for Carlos Jimenez, 25, said on Monday that he was a bystander asking federal agents to move away from a bus stop where schoolchildren would soon be gathering. At the time, the immigration officers had stopped a vehicle near the bus stop in Ontario, Calif., about 40 miles east of downtown Los Angeles. Lawyers for Mr. Jimenez, a U.S. citizen, said he was later shot in the shoulder as he drove away from federal agents, but said that he did not try to use his vehicle to harm anyone. Federal prosecutors, however, said last week in a criminal complaint that an Immigrations and Customs Enforcement officer shot Mr. Jimenez because he pulled forward, turned his wheels and "rapidly accelerated" toward an officer during the vehicle stop on Thursday. Tricia McLaughlin, a spokeswoman for the Department of Homeland Security, said on Monday that at about 6:30 a.m. on Thursday morning, Mr. Jimenez drove up to a team of immigration officers overseeing a vehicle stop. He then "engaged in a verbal altercation with the officers," according to the criminal complaint filed against him, and officers ordered him to leave. Mr. Jimenez reversed his car toward them and "an ICE officer, fearing for his life, fired defensive shots at the vehicle," she said. He was charged on Friday with assault of a federal officer following the incident. He was released on bond. The altercation was the latest high-profile incident in which federal agents fired shots at drivers whom they accused of endangering them during immigration enforcement operations. Last month, a Mexican man targeted by immigration authorities was injured by gunfire during an operation in Los Angeles. In September, during a traffic stop in Chicago, an ICE agent shot and killed a man who authorities said had hit an officer with his car. A New York Times examination of video from the scene called into question elements of the official D.H.S. account of the encounter. Ms. McLaughlin called the most recent incident an example of increasing threats that ICE officers face "as they risk their lives to enforce the law and arrest criminals." She said that anyone who gets in the way of federal officers' duties or threatens them will be arrested and prosecuted. Mr. Jimenez's lawyers told a very different story. They described him, in an interview on Monday, as a father of three young children who lives in a mobile home park near where the officers were conducting their stop. He was headed to his job at a food bank, where he prepares and delivers donation boxes, when he noticed the officers blocking traffic, said Cynthia Santiago, one of his lawyers.

AP: [CA] Courts order ICE not to deport man who spent 43 years in prison before murder case overturned

AP [11/3/2025 5:48 PM, Maryclaire Dale] reports two separate courts have ordered immigration officials not to deport a Pennsylvania man who spent four decades in prison before his murder conviction was overturned. Subramanyam Vedam, 64, is currently detained at a short-term holding center in Alexandria, Louisiana, that's equipped with an airstrip for deportations. Vedam, known as "Subu," was transferred

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there from central Pennsylvania last week, relatives said. An immigration judge stayed his deportation on Thursday until the Bureau of Immigration Appeals decides whether to review his case. That could take several months. Vedam's lawyers also got a stay the same day in U.S. District Court in Pennsylvania, but said that case may be on hold given the immigration court ruling. Vedam came to the U.S. legally from India as an infant and grew up in State College, where his father taught at Penn State. He was serving a life sentence in a friend's 1980 death before his conviction was overturned this year. He was released from state prison on Oct. 3, only to be taken straight into immigration custody. The Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement is seeking to deport Vedam over his no contest plea to charges of LSD delivery, filed when he was about 20. His lawyers argue that the four decades he wrongly spent in prison, where he earned degrees and tutored fellow inmates, should outweigh the drug case. A Department of Homeland Security spokesperson said Monday that the reversal in the murder case does not negate the drug conviction.

Los Angeles Times: [CA] She helped get her violent husband deported. Then ICE deported her — straight into his arms.

Los Angeles Times [11/3/2025 6:00 AM, Rachel Uranga, 14862K] reports Carmen's abusive husband came home drunk one night last summer. He pounded and kicked the door. He threatened to kill her as her young son watched in horror. She called police, eventually obtaining a restraining order. Months later he returned and beat her again. Police came again and he was eventually deported. Thinking she finally escaped his cruelty, Carmen applied for what is known as a U-Visa. The visa provides crime victims a way to stay in the United States legally, but the Trump administration has routinely ignored pending applications. During a regular immigration check-in in June, Carmen was detained. Two months later, she was put on a plane with her 8-year-old son, who just completed second grade. She was headed to her home country, terrified her husband would find her. Lawyers for Carmen along with several immigrant victims of human trafficking, domestic violence and other crimes last month sued the Trump administration in the Central District of California for detaining and deporting survivors with pending visa applications, some of whom have been granted status to stay and sometimes work. Tricia McLaughlin, a spokeswoman for the Department of Homeland Security, defended the practice of deporting those stuck in limbo, saying every unauthorized immigrant ICE removes "has had due process and has a final order of removal — meaning they have no legal right to be in the country." The lawsuit argues the administration violated procedural rules in referencing the executive order "Protecting the American People Against Invasion" as the main justification for the policy. The invasion, it states, is "fictional" but the rhetoric has allowed Department of Homeland Security Sec. Kristi Noem and the immigration agencies to wage an "arbitrary, xenophobic and militarized mass deportation campaign that has terrorized immigrant communities and further victimized survivors of domestic violence, human trafficking and other serious crimes who Congress sought to protect."

San Francisco Chronicle: [CA] Bay Area advocates urge city leaders to provide stronger immigrant protections

San Francisco Chronicle [11/3/2025 12:00 PM, St. John Barned-Smith, 4722K] reports Bay Area immigration advocates called on San Francisco city leaders Monday to strengthen protections for the city's undocumented community. The move comes just weeks after President Donald Trump vowed to dispatch scores of federal immigration agents to San Francisco, only to about-face the following day after a conversation with Mayor Daniel Lurie. San Francisco Rising Executive Director Celi Tamayo-Lee said the threatened surge was "a drill," that Bay Area leaders should take note of in the face of future raids or immigration enforcement. "The crisis we're in presents an opportunity to work with the community. Last week, we realized we have a city of people dedicated to helping our immigrant neighbors in material ways. … This is a good time for an agenda to pose proactive measures to support our immigrant community." The 10-page letter from SF Rising, an alliance of grassroots organizations, provides guidance on reforms or other actions that Tamayo-Lee and others say are critical to protecting San Francisco's undocumented community. It asks to create a community safety plan that clarifies what residents can expect in case of a National Guard deployment, where to access resources, and how the city would protect people's safety and rights. The measures are meant to help the city's immigrant

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community be more prepared to fight potential deportation raids, strengthen the city's legal defense programs for its immigrants, and provide other resources to support San Francisco's immigrant community. In its letter, SF Rising called on city leaders to improve communication with organizations that provide immigration services and rapid response networks that track sightings of ICE raids or agents.

Chicago Tribune: [Mexico] 'They destroyed us': East Chicago woman with schizophrenia who opted for deportation now missing in Mexico
Chicago Tribune [11/3/2025 5:34 PM, Meredith Colias-Pete and Kate Perez, 4829K] reports when federal immigration agents raided Martha Porcallo Martinez's East Chicago, Indiana home on June 12, they also arrested her 26-year-old daughter who has schizophrenia. They were separated even before she got to Porter County Jail. For a week or two, she had no idea where her daughter was taken. When her lawyer intervened to ask, they found out she was at a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement detention facility in Kentucky. For Porcallo Martinez's family, the one anonymous phone call to a U.S. Homeland Security tip line in November that led to the arrest has had far-reaching consequences. Now, her daughter went missing a week ago in Mexico, her lawyer Adam Tavitas said in court Monday.

Citizenship and Immigration Services

Breitbart: Trump Streamlines Voter Verification, Ensuring Only U.S. Citizens are Voting
Breitbart [11/3/2025 6:35 PM, John Binder, 2416K] reports President Donald Trump's United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is streamlining the government's Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) program in the hopes of eliminating non-citizen voting from elections. On Monday, USCIS Director Joseph Edlow announced upgrades to the SAVE program, which allows states to verify that only American citizens are voting in federal elections. Previously, when verifying voter eligibility, states would have to input all nine digits of a voter registrant's Social Security Number. Now, thanks to the agency's reforms, states will only be required to use the last four digits of a registrant's Social Security Number. "USCIS remains dedicated to eliminating barriers to securing the nation's electoral process," agency spokesman Matthew Tragesser said in a statement: By allowing states to efficiently verify voter eligibility, we are reinforcing the principle that America's elections are reserved exclusively for American citizens. We encourage all federal, state, and local agencies to use the SAVE program. [Emphasis added].

Federalist: A Judge Just Blocked Trump's Voter Citizenship Order. Congress Should Pass The SAVE Act
Federalist [11/3/2025 12:58 PM, Brianna Lyman, 785K] reports that a federal judge on Friday ruled President Donald Trump's executive order requiring documentary proof of U.S. citizenship to register to vote is unconstitutional, making it even more necessary that Republicans in Congress take advantage of Trump's momentum and pass the SAVE Act. Trump signed the executive order in March, directing that within 30 days, "the Election Assistance Commission shall take appropriate action to require, in its national mail voter registration form issued under 52 U.S.C. 20508 … documentary proof of United States citizenship." The order also required state and local officials to record the type of documentation used and the date such documentation was issued. Some examples of documentary proof of citizenship include a United States passport, a REAL ID that indicates citizenship, a military identification card, and a valid federal or state government-issued identification. But District Judge Colleen Kollar-Kotelly ruled the order is unconstitutional, arguing Trump "lacks the authority to direct such changes." "Because our Constitution assigns responsibility for election regulation to the states and to Congress, this Court holds that the President lacks the authority to direct such changes."

Telemundo51: Venezuelans with TPS face uncertainty as immigration benefit ends
Telemundo51 [11/3/2025 4:47 PM, Alejandro Isturiz, 182K] reports Temporary Protected Status (TPS) expires at midnight on November 7 for thousands of Venezuelans in the United States. For many, returning to their country is not an option, and they say the most painful part is the possibility of losing

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what they have built over the years on American soil. It is estimated that some 250,000 Venezuelans will face deportation or will have to leave the country on their own. To prevent the cancellation of TPS, various Venezuelan organizations in the United States had filed injunctions and legal appeals seeking judicial approval. William Díaz, director of Casa Venezuela, says that "a DED, a deferred deportation, means that no one can be expelled or deported." Thus began a long journey through different courts until, on October 3, the Supreme Court confirmed a May decision, and Venezuelans with TPS will be left without work permits and will technically become undocumented. With its decision, the Supreme Court left 600,000 Venezuelans residing in the country without legal protection under that immigration benefit. The Trump administration has appealed the ruling, and the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals must now rule on the case.

Customs and Border Protection

The Hill/NewsMax: Federal memo says cartels offering $10K for shooting at Border Patrol agents
The Hill [11/3/2025 3:06 PM, Ali Bradley, 12595K] reports criminal cartels are offering payments of $10,000 to shooters who fire at U.S. Border Patrol agents on the southern border, federal authorities said in an internal communication. It says the Border Patrol's Rio Grande Valley Sector had received information about "a coordinated attack" in which cartels may be offering the $10,000 payments "to individuals who engage in shooting at" agents. The threat is believed to have originated from northern Sonora, Mexico, according to the communication. Sources said Border Patrol stations in Brownsville and Kingsville were the initial targets. NewsMax [11/3/2025 4:31 PM, Nicole Weatherholtz, 4109K] reports that the alert, which was obtained by NewsNation correspondent Ali Bradley, said that "additional reporting suggests that assailants may wear Mexican military uniforms to avoid raising suspicion while carrying long arms or machine guns." The threat is reportedly thought to have originated in northern Sonora, Mexico. Sources told The Hill that the Brownsville and Kingsville Border Patrol stations were the initial targets.

Telemundo: Trump will place Border Patrol chiefs in charge of ICE in US cities
Telemundo [11/3/2025 11:57 PM, Shelby Bremer, 57K] reports that, according to multiple sources, the Trump administration is planning a major restructuring of immigration enforcement, with the goal of putting Border Patrol leaders in charge of ICE operations in cities across the United States. This move comes after senior officials expressed frustration with the pace of deportations, as nationwide arrests average around 1,100 per day, well below the target of 3,000. "The mindset is that CBP does what it's told, and the administration believes ICE is not doing its job well," a Department of Homeland Security official told NBC News. "So CBP will take charge." Both the Border Patrol and ICE in San Diego said they could not comment because the matter is being handled by DHS in Washington, D.C. Previously limited to operations at or near the border, the Border Patrol has seen its powers expanded since Trump took office. It was the Border Patrol that was deployed to step up enforcement in Los Angeles and then in Chicago, where El Centro Sector Chief Greg Bovino was caught on video firing tear gas into a crowd. "This administration has reinstated mobile patrols like we've never seen before," said San Diego activist Benjamin Prado, who leads community patrols in response to police operations with his organization Unión del Barrio. "Everything indicates that this will be a much more aggressive and hostile entity than we have seen so far." DHS Deputy Secretary Tricia McLaughlin said the agency does not plan to announce any personnel changes at this time, but stated in a release: "This is one team, one fight. President Trump has a brilliant and tenacious team, led by Secretary Noem, to fulfill the American people's mandate to remove illegal immigrants with criminal records from the country." On the program 60 Minutes, President Donald Trump himself said he believed law enforcement had not gone far enough. "I think they haven't gone far enough because we've been held back by the judges, the liberal judges that Biden and Obama appointed," Trump said. When asked if he agreed with those tactics, Trump replied, "Yes, because you have to get people out." "It's very concerning," Prado said. "All of this indicates that we will see many more citizens and migrant workers being assaulted and attacked." [Editorial note: consult video at source link]

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Washington Examiner: Border Patrol in rare position to prepare for future amid illegal immigration recession

Washington Examiner [11/3/2025 8:00 AM, Anna Giaritelli, 1394K] reports the Border Patrol is in a rare position to get its back-of-house in tip-top shape while illegal immigration at the southern border is at a historic low. Current and former senior Border Patrol agents, as well as a U.S. congressman who represents the largest district on the U.S.-Mexico border, shared their top recommendations for how the federal law enforcement organization should be preparing during this lull for when President Donald Trump leaves office in 2029. Arrests of illegal border crossers have come crashing down from as much as 250,000 per month during former President Joe Biden's tenure to less than 10,000 per month under President Donald Trump. The drop in illegal border crossers means agents are not busy inside processing facilities, interviewing migrants, transporting them, and the gamut of tasks associated with temporary detention. It has freed up Border Patrol to be able to assist ICE by deploying its own agents across the country to assist their partners at the Department of Homeland Security, tracking down illegal immigrants who have criminal histories or who a judge has ordered be deported. Last week, ICE and Border Patrol officials disclosed to the Washington Examiner that tensions are running high between agencies as border agents have moved in to help ICE, and senior border officials are being installed at ICE's top ranks. Both feel the other is to blame for the millions of illegal immigrants who were released into the United States during the Biden administration and have struggled recently to work together and emerge as one united front. Despite its work with ICE, Border Patrol still has plenty of time to focus on drug smuggling and other threats, as well as take a step back and consider what needs to be addressed internally to be more effective in the future.

Transportation Security Administration

Reuters: US travel group warns Congress of Thanksgiving chaos amid government shutdown

Reuters [11/3/2025 7:19 PM, Anshuman Tripathy, 36480K] reports a travel association has urged the U.S. Congress in a letter on Monday to reopen the federal government ahead of the Thanksgiving travel rush, as the shutdown stretches into its 34th day. The prolonged shutdown has led to a spike in airline delays, affecting airports and 3.2 million passengers due to a high number of absences in air traffic controllers, with many of them taking up second jobs to cope. The shutdown is estimated to cost the U.S. economy between $7 billion and $14 billion, according to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office. "Air travel's number one priority is safety and while safety will be maintained, travelers will pay a heavy and completely unnecessary price in terms of delays, cancellations and lost confidence in the air travel experience," said U.S. Travel Association President and CEO Geoff Freeman. In a letter that was signed by 500 organizations, including Hilton (HLT.N) and MGM Resorts (MGM.N), Freeman urged the Congress that the fastest way to restore confidence and restart travel was to reopen the government by passing a clean continuing resolution. "The damage from this shutdown is growing by the hour with 60% of Americans reconsidering their travel plans". The shutdown has forced 13,000 air traffic controllers and 50,000 Transportation Security Administration officers to work without pay and snarled tens of thousands of flights.

San Diego Union Tribune: [CA] After widespread delays, operations back to normal at San Diego International Airport

San Diego Union Tribune [11/3/2025 6:30 PM, Alex Riggins, 1538K] reports operations were back to normal Monday at San Diego International Airport, a day after tower staffing issues linked to the federal government shutdown caused widespread delays, airport officials said. The Federal Aviation Administration issued a ground delay Sunday afternoon, and an FAA website indicated the delays were caused by staffing issues in the control tower. By Sunday night, the flight-tracking website FlightAware reported that all inbound and departing flights out of the downtown San Diego airport were delayed by about an hour. An airport spokesperson said there was no lingering impact Monday from the delays. In a statement nearly identical to one issued Sunday, the spokesperson advised passengers traveling out of San Diego International to check their flight status before leaving for the airport, and to arrive two hours early for flights. Los Angeles International Airport and other large airports around the country also

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experienced delays due to staffing shortages Sunday. While most appeared to be back to normal operations Monday, the FAA reported that three airports in Texas — Dallas Love Field, Dallas/Fort Worth International and Austin-Bergstrom International — were all experiencing widespread delays Monday due to staffing issues.

Federal Emergency Management Agency

Miami Herald: [FL] Movie cash circulating in the Florida Keys, Monroe County Sheriff's office warns

Miami Herald [11/3/2025 5:39 PM, David Goodhue] reports the $100 bills look real at first glance, but they are marked as fake and say they are only meant for use in making motion pictures, according to sheriff's office spokesman Adam Lindhard. Most of the counterfeit cash is turning up in the Lower Keys and Key West, Linhardt said. The Key West Police Department recently issued a similar warning about fake $20 bills finding their way to the Southernmost City. Linhardt said the bogus bills are likely left over from a previous film production in the Keys. Authorities are warning people and businesses to double-check all cash they receive. The Sheriff's Office has received reports of fake/counterfeit money that's used in films/movies circulating in Monroe County, notably the Lower Keys and Key West.

Secret Service

FOX News: [IL] Illinois man allegedly threatens Trump execution in profanity-laced videos, faces federal charges

FOX News [11/3/2025 9:17 PM, Greg Wehner, 40621K] reports federal agents say an Illinois man allegedly called for President Donald Trump's execution in a string of profanity-laced Instagram videos, prompting a Secret Service investigation that led to a federal charge of making interstate threats to kill public officials. In a criminal complaint filed Oct. 31 in the Northern District of Illinois and unsealed Monday morning, Trent Schneider, 57, of Winthrop Harbor, Illinois, was charged with allegedly making a true threat to injure another person in interstate commerce. According to the allegations, Schneider posted violent videos and memes on social media calling for Trump's execution as his home neared foreclosure. In one video posted Oct. 16, he allegedly looked directly into the camera and railed against judges, doctors, lawyers and police, saying, "People like me have suffered real f---ing crimes from f---ing judges, doctors, lawyers, police. They all should be killed. All of them should be executed for what they've done." "They need to be killed. They need to be executed, ok? They are frauds, ok? I think it's time. I've waited long enough," he allegedly continued. "I'm going to get some guns. I know where I can get a lot of f---ing guns and I am going to take care of business myself. I'm tired of all you f---ing frauds. People need to f---ing die and people are going to die. F--- all of you, especially you, Trump. You should be executed." Prosecutors allege Schneider reposted the same video nearly 20 times over several days, often tagging Trump Tower Chicago. Each post carried the same caption: "THIS IS NOT A THREAT!!! … AFTER LOSING EVERYTHING and My House Auction date is 11.04.2025 @realDonaldTrump SHOULD BE EXECUTED!!!". A viewer in Florida allegedly saw one of the videos and reported it to authorities, according to court documents. That tip led the U.S. Secret Service to begin investigating Schneider and identify his Instagram account, which agents say he used to post threats viewable nationwide. Agents went to Schneider's home in Winthrop Harbor on Oct. 22 to question him, according to the affidavit. When they arrived, they allegedly saw cameras set up on tripods in the driveway. Schneider came outside, yelled at the officers to get off his property and later posted a video of them walking away – with the same caption calling for Trump's execution. Law enforcement had previously encountered Schneider, according to the complaint. In 2022, agents interviewed him over violent social media posts targeting public officials, and later that year he was arrested after allegedly threatening to "shoot up" a T-Mobile store. A court found him unfit to stand trial in 2023, according to the complaint.

Reported similarly:

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Chicago Tribune [11/3/2025 5:43 PM, Jason Meisner, 4829K]
Telemundo52 [11/3/2025 5:57 PM, James Neveau, 76K]

CBS Chicago: [IL] Man arrested, home searched by Secret Service and SWAT in Winthrop Harbor
CBS Chicago [11/3/2025 5:06 PM, Staff, 39474K] Video: HERE reports a Winthrop Harbor man under investigation by the U.S. Secret Service was arrested Monday morning at his home in Lake County, Illinois.

GMA3: [IL] Secret Service Investigating at Lake County, IL Home
(B) GMA3 [11/3/2025 1:26 PM, Staff] reports Secret Service is investigating a home in Winthrop Harbor in Lake County, Illinois. Sources say a man is under investigation for allegedly making threats against President Trump and other online. The Secret Service will only say that they are working with local law enforcement on a protective intelligence investigation.

Coast Guard

NBC News Daily: [FL] Crews Battle Boat Fire
(B) NBC News Daily [11/3/2025 3:23 PM, Staff] reports that according to Broward Sheriff's officials, a fire erupted on a 35-foot vessel in the waters near Dania Beach and Hollywood. Two people were onboard when the fire started. The boat appears to be completely destroyed. The two passengers were taken aboard at US Coast Guard vessel. There were no injuries to report.

CBS Miami: [FL] Good Samaritan, U.S. Coast Guard help rescue 2 men after boat catches fire near Hollywood Beach
CBS Miami [11/3/2025 6:12 PM, Staff, 39474K] Video: HERE reports CBS News Chopper 4 captured the moment crews put out the blaze as the boat sank. Investigators are working to determine the cause of the fire.

CISA/Cybersecurity

Bloomberg: US Elections Face Security Test as DHS Cuts Local Support
Bloomberg [11/3/2025 6:21 PM, Patrick Howell O'Neill, 1538K] reports that, as voters across the U.S. from New York City to New Jersey and Virginia to California prepare to cast ballots Tuesday, election officials are operating with sharply reduced support from a federal government agency that had previously helped states and localities counter bomb threats and cyberattacks. The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency has abandoned an Election Day situation room it had operated for years to share vital intelligence on physical and cyber threats with state and local authorities, said Paul Lux, chair of the Elections Infrastructure Information Sharing and Analysis Center, a national coalition of election officials. CISA's decision to end the information-sharing arrangement follows the dismantling of the agency's election security team earlier this year. Remaining election personnel with CISA, a unit of the Department of Homeland Security, have since been prohibited from working with or contacting state election officials, according to a person familiar with the matter. The cuts have sent state and local officials responsible for running elections searching for ways to shore up potential gaps in cybersecurity, threat monitoring and physical protection of polling places. Changes at Homeland Security are sinking in as the nation confronts a bitterly divided political climate marked by violent outbursts including the assassination of conservative commentator Charlie Kirk. Americans will head to the polls on Tuesday to decide the winners of gubernatorial, mayoral and legislative races, as well as judicial seats and ballot initiatives. Election Day marks the first real test of the political landscape since Donald Trump's return to the White House, offering an early glimpse of how his administration will oversee elections whose integrity he and his allies have repeatedly challenged. The New York City mayoral race, in particular, has drawn national attention as a proxy battle over urban governance, progressive politics and the future of the Democratic party.

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Homeland Security officials continue to communicate and provide guidance to state and local personnel on other matters, according to an agency spokesperson. "Under the leadership of President Trump and Secretary Noem, CISA has refocused on its core mission and leads the nation's effort to secure critical infrastructure, and that includes election infrastructure from cyber and physical threats," said DHS spokesperson Scott McConnell. "Every day, DHS and CISA are providing our partners the most capable and timely threat intelligence, expertise and resources they need to defend against risks." DHS officials forcibly reassigned or put on leave members of CISA's election security and resilience team in the months after Trump returned to power in January, according to people familiar with the matter. The CISA team was charged with coordinating election security efforts among the more than 10,000 election jurisdictions throughout the U.S. The federal government has historically taken a lead in uniting, informing, and enabling state and local election officials to secure elections. In February, CISA froze all election security activities and the department initiated a review of CISA's role in helping state and local officials, Politico reported. Nine months later, the result has not been made public.

Bloomberg: Ex-Cybersecurity Staffers Charged With Moonlighting as Hackers
Bloomberg [11/3/2025 4:16 PM, Jake Bleiberg, 18207K] reports three employees at cybersecurity companies spent years moonlighting as criminal hackers, launching their own ransomware attacks in a plot to extort millions of dollars from victims around the country, US prosecutors alleged in court filings. Ryan Clifford Goldberg, the former director of incident response at Sygnia Consulting Ltd., and Kevin Tyler Martin, who was a ransomware negotiator for DigitalMint, were charged with working together to hack five businesses starting in May 2023. In one instance, they, along with a third person, received a ransom payment of nearly $1.3 million worth of cryptocurrency from a medical device company based in Tampa, Florida, according to prosecutors. The trio worked in a part of the cybersecurity industry that has sprung up to help companies negotiate with hackers to unfreeze their computer networks — sometimes by paying ransom. They are also accused of sharing their illicit profits with the developers of the type of ransomware they allegedly used on their victims. DigitalMint informed some customers about the charges last week, according to a document seen by Bloomberg News. The other person who was allegedly involved in the scheme was also a ransomware negotiator at the same firm as Martin but wasn't charged, according to court records. The person wasn't identified in court records, nor are the companies that the defendants' former employers. Sygnia confirmed Goldberg had worked there. Martin last year gave a talk at a law school, which listed him as an employee of DigitalMint. Goldberg is being held in a federal jail in Florida and his lawyer, federal public defender MaeAnn Renee Dunker, declined to comment. Court records don't indicate whether Goldberg has entered a plea. Martin, who was released on bond, has pleaded not guilty. His lawyer, Tor Ekeland, declined to comment.

Reported similarly:
Reuters [11/3/2025 7:45 PM, Raphael Satter, 36480K]

NPR: Researchers uncover security gap while studying satellite communications
NPR [11/4/2025 4:41 AM, Jenna McLaughlin, 34837K] reports a team of academics studying satellites accidentally intercepted phone calls, texts and other sensitive communications. They were able to intercept the data with just a satellite dish on the roof. [Editorial note: consult audio at source link]

Terrorism Investigations

Reuters/New York Times/CNN/Washington Examiner: [MI] Suspects charged in alleged terror plot cited ISIS and may have tried to replicate Paris terror attack on US soil, FBI says
Reuters [11/3/2025 12:32 PM, Andrew Goudsward, 36480K] reports federal prosecutors have charged two men tied to what they allege was an ISIS-inspired plot based out of Michigan to carry out an attack in the U.S., according to a court document made public on Monday. Mohmed Ali and Majed Mahmoud each purchased firearms, including AR-15-style rifles, in recent months and participated in online conversations indicating they had knowledge of an attack plot, according to an FBI affidavit. Ali and Mahmoud were each

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charged under a federal law that bars attempting or conspiring to transfer firearms and ammunition that the person believes would be used in a crime of terrorism, in this case providing material support to ISIS. The pair have not yet entered pleas. A lawyer for Ali did not immediately respond to a request for comment and attorney information for Mahmoud was not immediately available. Prosecutors allege that five people, including at least one juvenile, were involved in the plot though only two are so far facing federal charges. The group used encrypted messaging platforms and social media to share ISIS-related messages encouraging attacks, according to court documents. U.S. authorities allege both men practiced shooting firearms at gun ranges in recent weeks and appeared to set October 31, Halloween, as the date for the attack, according to the FBI affidavit. The document does not identify any specific targets for the alleged plot. The New York Times [11/3/2025 4:54 PM, Karoun Demirjian, 135475K] reports that the affidavit does not specify whether the accused individuals and their accused co-conspirators ever settled on a target for their attack, even as they chose to time it around Halloween — using the word “pumpkin” to refer to the date. But it surmises that Person 1, Mr. Ali and Mr. Mahmoud were “scouting possible L.G.B.T.Q.+-friendly attack locations in Ferndale,” a suburb of Detroit. CNN [11/3/2025 4:00 PM, Alaa Elassar, 18595K] reports that an FBI raid on Halloween morning stunned neighbors in Dearborn, the second-safest city in Michigan and home to the highest concentration of Arab Americans in the US. Mohmed Ali and Majed Mahmoud face charges of "Receiving and transferring, and attempting and conspiring to transfer, firearms and ammunition knowing and having reasonable cause to believe that the firearms and ammunition would be used to commit a Federal crime of terrorism," according to a criminal complaint. "Our newly unsealed complaint reveals a major ISIS-linked terror plot," US Attorney General Pam Bondi posted on X. "According to the complaint, subjects had multiple AR-15 rifles, tactical gear, and a detailed plan to carry out an attack on American soil," she said, thanking officials for averting an attack "before innocent lives were lost.” If convicted, Ali and Mahmoud could face up to 15 years in federal prison and a $250,000 fine, a spokesperson for the US Attorney’s Office for the Eastern District of Michigan said. Ali and an unidentified juvenile were "planning to conduct a terrorist attack in the United States on behalf of the designated foreign terrorist organization ISIS," an FBI agent wrote in the criminal complaint, citing communications on an encrypted app. Further investigation revealed Mahmoud and others were co-conspirators in the plot, the agent said. Ali purchased a shotgun, an AR-15-style rifle and multiple accessories, including "a forced reset trigger that allows a shooter to increase the rate of fire in a semiautomatic weapon," the complaint says. Mahmoud also bought an AR-15-style rifle and more than 1,600 rounds of ammunition that could be used in AR-15 style rifles he and Ali had purchased, the agent said. A suspect mentions doing the ‘same thing as France’ on Halloween. In addition to meeting in person, Ali, Mahmoud, the juvenile and co-conspirators chatted online, sharing "extremist and ISIS-related materials that encourage attacks similar to what they planned," the FBI agent wrote. Ali and the juvenile "discussed when to conduct their attack, which they appeared to set for Halloween," the complaint says. The Washington Examiner [11/3/2025 12:05 PM, David Zimmermann, 1394K] reports that on Friday, FBI Director Kash Patel announced multiple suspects who allegedly planned a "potential terrorist attack" were arrested. "The FBI stopped a potential terrorist attack in Michigan before it could unfold," Patel said in a subsequent post later that day. "Thanks to swift action and coordination with our partners, a violent plot tied to international terrorism was disrupted. This is what defending the homeland looks like — vigilance saves lives." Law enforcement initially detained at least five suspects, two of whom were released after being questioned. The other three remain in custody. The suspects were apprehended in Dearborn, a city with the highest concentration of Arab Americans in the United States, and nearby Inkster. The FBI has revealed few details of the foiled terror attack since Friday, but according to federal authorities, it was expected to take place over the holiday weekend.

Reported similarly:
AP [11/3/2025 5:45 PM, Ed White, 31753K]
NBC News [11/3/2025 12:25 PM, Chloe Atkins and Doha Madani, 34509K]
NewsMax [11/3/2025 11:43 AM, Jim Mishler, 4109K]
Detroit Free Press [11/3/2025 3:38 PM, Tresa Baldas and Darcie Moran, 4030K]

FOX News: [MI] Suspects in foiled Halloween terror plot pictured practicing at Michigan gun range: FBI

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FOX News [11/3/2025 2:37 PM, Michael Ruiz, 40621K] Video: HERE reports two Michigan men have been charged in a foiled ISIS-inspired terror attack that allegedly would have involved a massacre in a Detroit suburb on Halloween, according to an FBI affidavit. Mohmed Ali, of Dearborn, Michigan, and Majed Mahmoud are accused of plotting to launch a terror-inspired mass shooting codenamed "pumpkin," according to court documents. They've been charged with receiving, transferring and attempting to receive and transfer firearms knowing and having reasonable cause to believe that they would be used to commit terrorism. Ali practiced shooting at a local gun range multiple times, including with Mahmoud, a juvenile suspect referred to as "Person 1" and under the alias "Athari" — and once with an unnamed "Co-conspirator 4," according to the complaint. The charges come after Amir Makled, a lawyer for Ali, who was arrested Friday, claimed to The Associated Press that there was no plot and that he did not expect charges to be filed. Makled did not respond to a request for comment from Fox News Digital Monday. [Editorial note: consult video at source link]

The Hill: Halloween terror plot Patel described never existed: Lawyer
The Hill [11/3/2025 8:34 AM, Sarah Fortinsky, 12595K] reports a defense attorney in Michigan is pushing back on the FBI's allegations that his client and a group of young men arrested on Friday were planning to carry out a violent attack over the Halloween weekend. FBI Director Kash Patel announced the arrests of multiple individuals on Friday that he said were plotting a "potential terrorist attack." He said more details would be forthcoming. Amir Makled, the lawyer for a Dearborn, Mich., man who was still detained on Saturday, said he hasn't gotten many details about the case, but told The Associated Press that, after reviewing the matter, he doesn't expect any charges to be filed. He said he concluded no terror attack was being planned. "I don't know where this hysteria and this fearmongering came from," Makled said. "If these young men were on forums that they should not have been on or things of that nature, then we'll have to wait and see," Makled added. "But I don't believe that there's anything illegal about any of the activity they were doing."

Detroit Free Press: [MI] Dearborn leaders skeptical of government after alleged terrorism plot
Detroit Free Press [11/3/2025 5:03 PM, Andrea May Sahouri, 4030K] reports ever since FBI Director Kash Patel posted on Oct. 31 about the alleged thwarted Halloween terrorism plot, it's been a "here-we-go-again" moment for many in Dearborn who say they've grown too accustomed to racism and Islamophobia against their largely Arab and Muslim community. The FBI says that two men from Michigan − Mohmed Ali and Majed Mahmoud − were part of a larger group that shared ISIS-related extremist materials online and in encrypted chats. According to federal investigators: The group talked about and encouraged terrorist attacks and members bought AR-15 rifles along with large amounts of ammunition. They held multiple gun training sessions over a period of about three months. And they also scouted locations in LGBTQI+-friendly Ferndale as possible targets for an attack on Halloween. The FBI's investigation began about a year ago and involved an undercover informant who recorded the group's conversations. Authorities say the men had planned and trained for months to carry out a possible attack in Michigan over Halloween weekend.

Detroit Free Press: [MI] Ferndale police chief thanks FBI; terror attack could have 'come to our doorstep'
Detroit Free Press [11/3/2025 4:11 PM, Dave Boucher, 4030K] reports Ferndale's top law enforcement officer said the city may have bourne the brunt of brutal violence but for the swift actions of federal agents to thwart what prosecutors call a terrorism plot. The comments come hours after federal prosecutors revealed charges against two people accused of plotting a terrorism attack Halloween weekend in Ferndale. As of Monday, Nov. 3, prosecutors charged Mohmed Ali and Majed Mahmoud, both 20, with receiving and transferring, and attempting and conspiring to transfer, firearms and ammunition with the intent to commit terrorism. The two men are accused of scouting "possible LGBTQ+-friendly attack locations in Ferndale," according to the 73-page criminal complaint. Prosecutors say a group of men conspired to commit an atrocity in the name of the terrorist group ISIS, collecting AR-15-style firearms and more than 1,600 rounds of ammunition while scouting possible locations for an attack. Both men charged in this case are scheduled to appear in federal court again next week.

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FOX News: [NV] Questions grow about soldier's Tesla Cybertruck attack at Trump Las Vegas hotel
FOX News [11/3/2025 9:46 PM, Emma Bussey, 40621K] reports the mystery surrounding the motive for the Tesla Cybertruck attack outside the Trump International Hotel in Las Vegas on New Year's Day only deepened after the final investigative report from local police provided few new details. The 78-page "after-action" report released Monday by the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department (LVMPD), confirmed that Matthew Livelsberger, who died by suicide before the explosion, left a manifesto on his phone, which investigators recovered during forensic analysis. The Department of War declared the manifesto classified, and the investigation was turned over to the federal government, the report said. The report, seen by Fox News Digital, confirms that the Green Beret was on leave from his Special Forces unit and had rented a Tesla Cybertruck through the car-sharing platform Turo. He filled it with fireworks, gas cans and camping fuel, and drove it to the Trump International Hotel just after 8:40 a.m. on Jan. 1, 2025. There, the vehicle detonated, causing damage and injuring six people. LVMPD and federal investigators described the incident as a premeditated vehicle-borne improvised explosive device (VBIED) attack "with the potential to cause mass casualties and extensive structural damage" but did not call it terrorism. Investigators also reconstructed Livelsberger's final days using phone data, bank records and surveillance footage. Surveillance video showed Livelsberger pouring accelerant into the truck bed moments before detonation, an act LVMPD said reflected planning rather than impulse. Counterterrorism investigators concluded he sought to make "a very big, very public statement," suggesting the Las Vegas location was chosen for visibility and impact. He also left behind a note claiming the attack was not terror-related, but a way for the soldier to "cleanse" his mind but criticized the "feckless leadership" of a U.S. that is "near collapse," officials said. "This was not a terrorist attack, it was a wake-up call," Livelsberger wrote in the notes app on his phone. "Americans only pay attention to spectacles and violence. What better way to get my point across than a stunt with fireworks and explosives," Livelsberger wrote. One of his messages was said to have gone to Shawn Ryan, an ex-Navy SEAL and CIA contractor. Fox News Digital has reached out to Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department for comment.

National Security News

Daily Caller: 'Arctic Frost' Prosecutor Could Use Cushy Big Tech Job To Target Conservatives, Watchdog Warns
Daily Caller [11/3/2025 9:37 AM, Jason Hopkins, 835K] reports a conservative watchdog group is urging the Trump administration to take a closer look at its contracts with Microsoft as the Biden-era "Arctic Frost" probe continues to unravel. The Center to Advance Security in America (CASA) is demanding the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) review its contracts with Microsoft after the tech giant hired former Biden Justice Department official Lisa Monaco, according to a letter obtained by the Daily Caller News Foundation. The letter warns that Monaco's senior position poses a national security risk, as she is privy to sensitive information between Microsoft and the federal government. "The risk that Monaco could again use access to information contained in Department contracts to turn against her political opponents, or even those Microsoft users within the government with whom she disagrees, is great given her past outrageous behavior," CASA Director James Fitzpatrick stated to DHS. "Considering the various national security implications of Microsoft's government contracts being overseen by Monaco, we ask you to immediately initiate a review of Microsoft's contracts with the Department for potential termination." Appointed earlier this year as Microsoft's president of global affairs, Monaco previously served as deputy attorney general under President Joe Biden. As a top prosecutor within the Biden administration, Monaco played an integral role in "Arctic Frost," a wide-ranging investigation that Republicans contend used an election interference case as a pretense to essentially target the entire Republican Party.

The Hill: Trump tariffs face Supreme Court
The Hill [11/3/2025 6:48 PM, Sylvan Lane, 12595K] reports the main question looming over the case is whether Trump can use emergency powers to justify his worldwide levies as he seeks to transform global trade — an untested expansion of executive authority. Trump has justified the bulk of his sweeping tariff agenda by pointing to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA), which gives the president power to "regulate" imports in response to certain emergencies. Small businesses and

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Democratic-led states will make the case Wednesday that Congress never envisioned "regulate" to include tariffs when it passed IEEPA in 1977. No president before Trump invoked the law to impose tariffs, so the Supreme Court has never decided that question. The justices' answer may depend on how they view a 50-year-old appellate decision dating back to former President Nixon. An appeals court's 50-year-old decision could come into play regarding Trump's own statements about his banner policy.

ABC News: [Nigeria] US designates Nigeria 'Country of Particular Concern' after Trump threat over alleged attacks on Christians

ABC News [11/3/2025 6:06 PM, Mariam Khan, 30493K] reports the State Department on Monday officially updated its designation for Nigeria as a "Country of Particular Concern" for its alleged severe violations of religious freedom and persecution of Christians. The CPC label is given by the U.S. government to nations "engaged in severe violations of religious freedom" under the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998. The designation is largely symbolic, but U.S. law states that governments must "take targeted responses to violations of religious freedom." The move comes after President Donald Trump accused the Nigerian government of not doing enough to protect Christians from violence. He also instructed the Pentagon on Saturday to prepare for possible action in Nigeria and threatened to cut U.S. aid. The secretary of state is responsible for deeming a country a "Country of Particular Concern" (CPC). Other countries designated as CPCs include Burma, the People's Republic of China, Cuba, Eritrea, Iran, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan. Trump previously designated Nigeria as a CPC in December 2020 during his first term in office, but that designation was reversed the following year under the Biden administration. Biden Secretary of State Antony Blinken removed Nigeria from the CPC designation list in November 2021 after assessing it did not meet the criteria a formal designation of concern regarding "systematic, ongoing, and egregious" violations of religious freedom. The U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom blasted the move at the time and said the decision to remove Nigeria from the special designation was "unexplainable" and appalling. According to the State Department, the International Religious Freedom Act requires an annual review of the status of religious freedom worldwide and the designation of countries that have "engaged in or tolerated particularly severe violations of religious freedom" during the reporting period. The IRFA defines particularly severe violations of religious freedom as "systematic, ongoing, egregious violations of religious freedom, including violations such as torture, degrading treatment or punishment, prolonged detention without charges, abduction or clandestine detention, or other flagrant denial of the right to life, liberty, or the security of persons," according to the State Department.

Axios: [Nigeria] Trump threatens U.S. military intervention in Nigeria

Axios [11/3/2025 8:56 AM, Avery Lotz, 12972K] reports President Trump instructed the Pentagon over the weekend to prepare for possible military action in Nigeria, threatening to enter the West African nation "guns-a-blazing" over accusations of violence against Christians. Violence and instability in Nigeria has affected Muslims and Christians alike for more than a decade. It's highly unlikely that the U.S. would be able to solve the problem with a swift strike, as Trump suggested. Trump did not rule out U.S. boots on the ground in Nigeria while traveling aboard Air Force One Sunday. Asked if he could envisage boots on the ground or air strikes, he replied, "Could be." Trump wrote that if the Nigerian government "continues to allow the killing of Christians," the U.S. will cease all aid to the country. He added that the U.S. "may very well go into that now disgraced country, 'guns-a-blazing,' to completely wipe out the Islamic Terrorists who are committing these horrible atrocities." If there is a U.S. attack, he said, it "will be fast, vicious, and sweet, just like the terrorist thugs attack our CHERISHED Christians!" Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth responded to the president's post: "Yes sir," and added that his department was "preparing for action."

Breitbart: [Nigeria] Nigerian President Denies Jihadist Slaughter, Says via Adviser He Will Meet Trump

Breitbart [11/3/2025 8:46 AM, Frances Martel, 2416K] reports Nigerian President Bola Tinubu condemned President Donald Trump's statements acknowledging the ongoing genocide of Christians in his country in

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remarks on Saturday, claiming they did not reflect "reality," while a top adviser told local media Tinubu planned to meet Trump "in the coming days." "The characterisation of Nigeria as religiously intolerant does not reflect our national reality," Tinubu said in a statement on Saturday, "nor does it take into consideration the consistent and sincere efforts of the government to safeguard freedom of religion and beliefs for all Nigerians." The president claimed his administration "maintained an open and active engagement with Christian and Muslim leaders alike." His statement did not address the top jihadist threats in his country – ethnic Fulani jihadist militias and the terrorist organization Boko Haram – by name. On Sunday, Tinubu special adviser Daniel Bwala announced on social media that the Nigerian president expected to hold meetings with Trump in person in the near future. "Both President Bola Tinubu and President Donald Trump have shared interest in the fight against insurgency and all forms of terrorism against humanity," Bwala wrote, in a much more conciliatory message towards Trump than Tinubu's initial remarks. "President Trump has assisted Nigeria a lot by authorizing the sale of arms to Nigeria, and President Tinubu has adequately utilized the opportunity in the fight against terrorism, for which we have massive results to show for it," Bwala highlighted, adding that the disagreement over the existence of the ongoing Christian genocide "would be discussed and resolved" in the near future.

CNN: [Nigeria] The violence in Nigeria that Trump cites as a reason for military strikes is not limited to Christians

CNN [11/3/2025 11:45 AM, Nimi Princewill, 606K] reports US President Donald Trump caused alarm across Nigeria over the weekend when he said he was contemplating military action in Africa's most populous nation in response to what he claimed was a "mass slaughter" of Christians by Islamist insurgents. The reality on the ground, experts and analysts say, is a more complex and nuanced one. Both Christians and Muslims — the two main religious groups in the country of more than 230 million people — have been victims of attacks by radical Islamists, they say. The West African nation has grappled for years with deep-rooted security problems that are driven by various factors, including religiously motivated attacks. Observers say other violent conflicts arise from communal and ethnic tensions, as well as disputes between farmers and herders over limited access to land and water resources. The Nigerian government rejects claims that it is not doing enough to protect Christians from violence, saying it was bewildered by Trump's suggestion of a potential military intervention. "We are shocked that President Trump is mulling an invasion of our country," Nigerian presidential spokesperson Bayo Onanuga told CNN after the US president instructed the Pentagon to prepare for possible military action. Additionally, Trump threatened to stop all US aid to Nigeria if its government fails to take steps to stop the killings of Christians. He warned that the proposed intervention would be "fast and vicious," aimed at eliminating the "Islamic Terrorists" he said were responsible for these atrocities.

FOX News: [Tanzania] Urgent advisory for safari destination warns of 'terrorist violence' and risk of 'unrest'

FOX News [11/3/2025 12:33 PM, Ashley J., 40621K] reports the U.S. State Department has issued an increased travel advisory pertaining to Tanzania, adding an "unrest" risk indicator. The Level 2 advisory was increased to Level 3 on Oct. 31, following the presidential, Parliament and council elections there. "Reconsider travel to Tanzania due to unrest, crime, terrorism and targeting of gay and lesbian individuals," the advisory says. "Some areas [carry] increased risk." The State Department has warned that demonstrations can be unpredictable, and the Tanzanian government has increased security presence around protests. "Members of the gay and lesbian community have been arrested, targeted and harassed. People who identify as gay or lesbian may experience a higher likelihood of being targeted by police," the advisory says. The advisory adds, "People detained under suspicion of same-sex sexual conduct may face invasive physical exams." Violent crime is also listed as common; the advisory mentioned the risk of robberies, assault and sexual assault. The State Department also says there's a risk of "terrorist violence," stating that it is most common in the Mtwara Region.

Los Angeles Times: [Israel] Israel hands over bodies of 45 Palestinians after Hamas returns the remains of 3 soldiers

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Los Angeles Times [11/3/2025 12:01 PM, Wafaa Shurafa and Julia Frankel, 14862K] reports Israel handed over the bodies of 45 Palestinians on Monday, the Red Cross said, a day after militants returned the remains of three hostages. Israeli officials identified the three as soldiers who were killed in the Hamas-led attack on Oct. 7, 2023, that triggered the war in Gaza. The exchange marked another step forward for the tenuous, U.S.-brokered ceasefire intended to end the deadliest and most destructive war ever fought between Israel and Hamas. Since the truce took effect on Oct. 10, Palestinian militants have released the remains of 20 hostages, with eight now remaining in Gaza. For each hostage returned, Israel has been releasing the remains of 15 Palestinians. With Monday's return, the bodies of 270 Palestinians have been handed back since the start of the ceasefire.

New York Post: [Iraq] Iraqi PM: Let us join in America's peaceful prosperity — and help calm the Middle East

New York Post [11/3/2025 6:49 PM, Maria Lencki, 42219K] reports for decades, security concerns shaped relations between Iraq and the United States almost exclusively. Long wars, the fight against terrorism and heavy sacrifices on both sides left deep marks. Yet Iraq today is no longer the country it was 20 years ago. Our armed forces are stronger, our institutions more mature, and — thanks to cooperation with the United States and the international coalition — we are increasingly capable of defending our sovereignty. The gradual reduction of coalition troops is not a retreat but a reflection of Iraq's growing confidence and its willingness to shoulder responsibility. This transition marks the beginning of a new era — one focused on prosperity rather than mere survival. Iraq now seeks a partnership rooted in economic opportunity: We need investment, jobs and access to markets, while the United States brings leading expertise in technology, energy and agriculture, along with unmatched investment capacity. By combining Iraq's natural wealth with America's innovation, both nations stand to benefit. Recent agreements with companies like Chevron and General Electric are not just contracts on paper; they represent real jobs, stronger infrastructure and a more stable Middle East. Iraq is a young nation: 40% of our citizens are under age 15. This demographic reality can be either a powerful engine for growth — or a breeding ground for despair. If we provide education and employment, our youth will drive Iraq forward; if we fail, we risk exposing them to extremism. That is why Iraq does not seek aid but investment — partnerships that generate sustainable opportunity.

CNN: [China] China backs off chip export ban that could have shut down global auto plants

CNN [11/3/2025 10:19 AM, Chris Isidore, 606K] reports China has agreed to allow the export of chips critical to auto production, averting widespread shutdowns that had been predicted by the industry. The chips are provided by Nexperia, a Chinese-owned chipmaker based in the Netherlands. It's a critical supplier for the global auto industry, providing 40% of the automotive chips in the market segment that includes transistors and diodes, according to research firm TechInsights. After the Dutch government took control of Nexperia several weeks ago and removed its Chinese CEO, citing national security concerns, Beijing suspended shipments from China. Auto industry trade groups in the United States and Europe both feared the trade dispute would lead them to run out of the chips they needed. That could drive up car prices, as happened in the years following the pandemic. China's Ministry of Commerce said in a statement that "The Dutch government's inappropriate interference in the company's internal affairs has led to the current chaos in the global supply chain." But after US President Donald Trump and Chinese leader Xi Jinping met last week, Beijing said it would allow customers to apply for exemptions from a recently imposed export control and get the chips they need.

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DHS MORNING BRIEFING

Prepared for the Office of Public Affairs (OPA)
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

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Editorial Note: The DHS Daily Briefing is a collection of news articles related to Department's mission. The inclusion of particular stories is not intended to reflect their importance, nor is it intended to endorse the political viewpoints or affiliations included in news coverage.

TO: Homeland Security Secretary & Staff

DATE: Tuesday, November 4, 2025 6:00 AM ET

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Top News

Blaze: Deportations top 2 million under Trump — and most aren't by force

Blaze [11/3/2025 4:00 PM, Cooper Williamson, 1442K] reports deportations and border security have been a crucial part of the second Trump administration, and nine months in, the government has started to release some results. Despite seemingly constant obstruction from Democrats, the administration has begun to deliver on its promises of mass deportations. "The president is all about results, ... and what President Trump, Secretary Noem, and our law enforcement have been able to do in the past 270 days, despite the injunctions, despite the obstruction from sanctuary city politicians and these activist judges, is really nothing short of extraordinary," Department of Homeland Security Assistant Secretary Tricia McLaughlin said in a Fox News interview on Monday. She went on to report that over 2 million illegal aliens have left the country since the beginning of

Trump's term, citing an October 27 press release. McLaughlin claimed in the press release that the majority of the deportations have been voluntary: "More than 2 million illegal aliens have left the U.S. including 1.6 million who have voluntarily self-deported and over 527,000 deportations."

NewsMax: Trump Orders Expanded Hill Briefings on Anti-Narcotics Operations in Caribbean

NewsMax [11/3/2025 5:04 PM, Staff, 4109K] reports President Donald Trump has ordered his national security and defense teams to expand classified briefings for Congress on his administration's anti-narcotics operations in the Caribbean and Pacific, Axios reported Monday. The move comes as lawmakers in both parties demand more transparency after a wave of deadly maritime interdictions and increased U.S. military activity near Venezuela. Axios reports U.S. forces have sunk at least 15 vessels and killed more than 60 suspected smugglers since the spring. Pentagon officials say the operations are meant to "disrupt and dismantle" criminal networks, though they warn cartels are increasingly armed and confrontational.

NewsMax/NBC News: Trump Admin Trains Troops for Possible Targeting of Mexico Cartels

NewsMax [11/3/2025 10:30 AM, Charlie McCarthy, 4109K] reports the Trump administration reportedly has begun training U.S. troops for a potential mission to target drug cartels inside Mexico. Two current and two former U.S. officials told NBC News that the early stage training involves Joint Special Operations Command units and intelligence officers under Title 50 authority, which allows covert operations led by the CIA. The effort could represent a major escalation in President Donald Trump's campaign against cartels, expanding from recent strikes in Venezuela and maritime operations in the Caribbean to potential ground missions in Mexico. Newsmax has reached out to the White House for comment. The CIA declined comment, while the Pentagon referred inquiries to the White House. According to NBC News, U.S. forces would focus primarily on drone strikes against cartel drug labs and leadership targets, with some drones requiring on-the-ground operators for precision and safety. Although no final decision has been made, officials described ongoing debates over the mission's scale and whether it should proceed with or without coordination from the Mexican government. "The Trump administration is committed to utilizing an all-of-government approach to address the threats cartels pose to American citizens," a senior administration official told NBC. The reported planning comes as the administration intensifies efforts to dismantle human smuggling and narcotics networks linked to cartels operating across Mexico, Venezuela, and beyond. NBC News [11/3/2025 5:00 AM, Courtney Kube, Dan De Luce, and Gordon Lubold, 34509K] reports that the early stages of training for the potential mission, which would include ground operations inside Mexico, has already begun, the two current U.S. officials said. But a deployment to Mexico is not imminent, the two U.S. officials and one of the former U.S. officials said. Discussions about the scope of the mission are ongoing, and a final decision has not been made, the two current U.S. officials said. The U.S. troops, many of whom would be from Joint Special Operations Command, would operate under the authority of the U.S. intelligence community, known as Title 50 status, the two current officials said. They said officers from the Central Intelligence Agency also would participate. A U.S. mission using American forces to hit drug cartel targets inside Mexico would open a new front in President Donald Trump's military campaign against drug cartels in the Western Hemisphere. So far, the

administration has focused on Venezuela and conducting strikes on alleged drug-carrying boats.

FOX News: Trump backs ICE raid tactics, says they 'haven't gone far enough'
FOX News [11/3/2025 8:29 AM, Ashley Carnahan, 40621K] Video: HERE reports President Donald Trump said he believes U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) raids "haven't gone far enough" when asked about the federal agency's tactics that have sparked protests and lawsuits. Trump sat down for a "60 Minutes" interview that aired Sunday with CBS News' Norah O'Donnell, who asked the president about videos of an ICE agent shoving a woman to the floor at an immigration courthouse, federal agents deploying tear gas in Chicago's Irving Park neighborhood and smashing car windows. "Have some of these raids gone too far?" O'Donnell asked. "No. I think they haven't gone far enough because we've been held back by the – by the judges, by the liberal judges that were put in by Biden and by Obama," Trump replied. [Editorial note: consult video at source link]

Reported similarly:
USA Today [11/3/2025 11:40 AM, Kathryn Palmer, 67103K]

FOX News: Trump reveals immigration raids 'haven't gone far enough' on '60 Minutes'
FOX News [11/3/2025 11:25 AM, Staff, 40621K] reports DHS Assistant Secretary Tricia McLaughlin joins 'America's Newsroom' after the president's interview, revealing that ICE will be 'surging resources' in the coming days for immigration raids. [Editorial note: consult video at source link]

NewsMax: DHS' McLaughlin to Newsmax: Pritzker 'Dehumanizes, Vilifies' ICE Agents
NewsMax [11/3/2025 11:55 AM, Staff, 4109K] reports Tricia McLaughlin, Department of Homeland Security assistant secretary for public affairs, sharply criticized Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker during a Monday morning appearance on Newsmax, accusing the Democrat governor of "dehumanizing and vilifying" Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents and other federal law enforcement officers. McLaughlin said Pritzker's rhetoric misrepresents the actions of federal officers and distorts the reality of violent confrontations that law enforcement faces. "The way he's been framing this is completely to whitewash and manipulate the American people," she said on "Wake Up America." "He's acting as if there's tear gassing of the public going on. That's absolutely not true," McLauglin added. McLauglin also described increasingly hostile encounters between federal officers and organized agitators. "What the facts on the ground are, we are routinely seeing highly organized agitators and rioters not only stalk our law enforcement but then surround them, begin throwing rocks at them, and otherwise assaulting them," McLaughlin said. "They will deploy tear gas to control that crowd as a method to make sure that the public is safe." McLaughlin charged that Pritzker's characterization of law enforcement actions emboldens criminal elements and undermines public safety in cities like Chicago.

CBS News: Violent threats, once concentrated in Washington, are increasing against local public servants, new data shows
CBS News [11/3/2025 7:50 PM, Nicole Sganga, Laura Geller, 39474K] reports Matt McCaffery was a relatively unknown GOP chair in suburban Pennsylvania when police showed up at his door last year after an anonymous tip accused the Marine veteran of holding his family hostage — a swatting incident meant to terrorize him and his family just

hours after he endorsed Kamala Harris for president. "If it could happen to me, small-town Matt McCaffery, it can happen to you," said the former chairman of the Upper Merion Republican Committee. The hoax call was just one of nearly 2,000 records of threats to local officials identified over the past decade in new data from the Impact Project and the Public Service Alliance. CBS News received exclusive access to the dataset, dubbed the "Security Map," ahead of its public release. It compiles more than a decade of cases from court filings, news reports and academic databases. The findings show that violent threats targeting public officials have surged across all levels of government and political parties. At the same time, the threat landscape has "fundamentally changed," according to researchers. "We're seeing not only an increase in volume, but also an expansion in who's being targeted," Abby André, executive director and cofounder of the Impact Project, said in a statement. "A decade ago, threats were concentrated at the federal level. Today, school board members, county clerks, and even mail carriers face similar dangers." While federal officials remain the most frequent targets, threats against local officials are growing and now make up roughly one-third of all documented threats, researchers found. "That's what we see in the map. The threats facing public servants — they span the entire country," said Isa Ulloa, founder of the Public Service Alliance. Threats were recorded in every state, with roughly a quarter of incidents concentrated in the seven battleground states, including Pennsylvania, Georgia and Michigan. And for every physical threat, researchers found nine verbal or online threats — fueling what they call a dangerous chilling effect. Both Democrats and Republicans were targeted at almost equal rates, with 58% of reviewed threats affecting Democrats. Ulloa isn't just measuring the problem — her organization also offers security and privacy tools for the nation's roughly 40 million current and former public officials, including McCaffery, who is considering another run for office. "Who wants to run for public office if your family's being put in threat, even at the local level where most of the decisions in your life are being made? If they're too scared to do it, we're not gonna have anybody run," McCaffery said.

New York Times: The Battle in Virginia Over an Activist Who Protested Stephen Miller
New York Times [11/3/2025 6:44 PM, Devlin Barrett, 135475K] reports federal and state criminal investigations into a Virginia woman who distributed leaflets disclosing the home address of a White House official, Stephen Miller, have prompted a secret court fight over the balance between personal safety and free speech at a time of rising political violence, recently unsealed court documents show. The records, which were reviewed by The New York Times, reveal that a local court approved the search of a cellphone belonging to the woman as part of an investigation that included multiple local law enforcement agencies as well as the F.B.I. and Secret Service. The activist, Barbara Wien, has not been charged with any crime, though the Virginia State Police still have her phone. The investigation remains active, leaving it unclear whether law enforcement has since gathered additional evidence. The dispute captures the fierce tensions over political activism that have become a defining feature of the second Trump presidency, pitting the Miller family's concerns for their security against the First Amendment claims of a critic of the administration. In an atmosphere in which political violence against Republicans and Democrats has become more common, administration officials have increasingly voiced worries about their security, citing in particular the assassination of the right-wing activist Charlie Kirk and two attempts in 2024 to kill Donald J. Trump. But liberal groups and activists say the White House is seeking to demonize its political opponents and use the levers of government to stamp out opposing views in the name of public safety. At the heart of the clash is whether the involvement of federal authorities in investigating a local act of protest, and the tactics used by state and federal investigators, amount to overkill, or whether Ms. Wien posed a true threat to Mr.

Miller and his family. A lawyer for Ms. Wien and a county prosecutor have raised concerns over the conduct of the investigation, including the involvement of multiple federal and state agencies. They have also raised questions about the issuance of the search warrant for Ms. Wien's phone by state authorities based on evidence that she might have committed a misdemeanor. Ms. Wien's lawyer, Bradley R. Haywood, said law enforcement agencies were misusing their authority to pursue a political critic. The county prosecutor, a Democrat, has accused the state attorney general's office, led by a Republican, of overstepping its authority in trying to intervene in the case. A White House spokeswoman, Abigail Jackson, said that the law enforcement response was warranted, noting that Mr. Trump and others in his administration had been targets of members of the public. "Doxxing and any other actions that directly threaten the safety of officials and their families should be resoundingly denounced and thoroughly investigated to ensure attacks against members of the administration are not realized," she said.

Breitbart: Chicago Lawfare Activists Use Bovino Court Case to Spy on Stephen Miller
Breitbart [11/3/2025 5:58 PM, Warner Todd Huston, 2416K] reports pro-migrant lawyers proved to be far more interested in uncovering intel on Donald Trump adviser Stephen Miller than they were in Chicago ICE actions during a legal deposition by Border Patrol Chief Gregory Bovino. Bovino was dragged into court by activists who claim that his immigration agents are indiscriminately using violence against anti-Trump and pro-illegal migrant protesters in Chicago. Obama-appointed District Judge Sara Ellis ordered Bovino to give a deposition last week, but it seemed to quickly grind to a halt, as the Chicago Tribune reported. The activist lawyers and Judge Ellis seemed far more interested in uncovering communications between ICE and Border Patrol and Stephen Miller than they were in local Chicago ICE actions. Justice Department attorney Sarmad Khojasteh protested all the questions about Miller and said she was "sandbagged" after concentrating her preparation on what was going on in Chicago. Khojasteh said she worked to prep Bovino on the local issues, only to have plaintiffs' attorneys throw a "grab bag of anything" at him that had nothing to do with what was going on in Chicago.

Breitbart: Gov. JB Pritzker Called Out After Illegal Alien Allegedly Kills GOP Official, His Wife: 'How Many More Have to Die?'
Breitbart [11/3/2025 3:39 PM, John Binder, 2416K] reports Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker (D), a fierce defender of sanctuary policies, is getting called out as an illegal alien is accused of killing a local elected Republican official and his wife last week. As Breitbart News reported, 34-year-old illegal alien Edwin Pacheco-Meza of Honduras was driving a van on Oct. 24 when he crossed the center lane and struck 71-year-old Michael Clayton and his wife, 66-year-old Gail Clayton — killing them instantly. Pacheco-Meza, who crossed the southern border as an unknown got-away, was in his vehicle with 18-year-old illegal alien Juan Morales-Martinez of Guatemala, who crossed the border in December 2023 and was released into the United States interior by the Biden administration.

Chicago Tribune: Deposition of Border Patrol Cmdr. Gregory Bovino nearly ground to halt last week, records show
Chicago Tribune [11/3/2025 1:03 PM, Jason Meisner, 4829K] reports the deposition of Border Patrol Cmdr. Greg Bovino nearly ground to a halt last week as government lawyers repeatedly objected to questions by plaintiffs' attorneys, including some about communications between Bovino and White House advisor Stephen Miller, court records obtained by the Tribune show. The impasse prompted attorneys for both sides to go before

U.S. District Judge Sara Ellis in the middle of Bovino's sworn testimony on Thursday, where lawyers for the Justice Department complained that Bovino was being asked questions that were overbroad, poorly constructed and were not directly tied to the claims in the underlying lawsuit about the use of force by immigration agents during "Operation Midway Blitz." During the hearing, Justice Department attorney Sarmad Khojasteh piqued the frustration of the judge by repeatedly interrupting her and fumbling over the facts of the case. Kosjasteh, who filed his first appearance in the case the day before Bovino's deposition, repeatedly referred to the Chicago immigration push as "Operation Midway Drift" and had to apologize for being new to the table. "This is the problem when people come in, right, and we've got a revolving door of attorneys and they haven't been here for the entire thing," Ellis told Khojasteh, according to a transcript of the proceedings. "…They haven't sat through people's testimony, they haven't sat through these hearings, and so now I'm having to explain myself multiple times. And I find it at this point extremely frustrating and a waste of time."

Chicago Tribune: Operation Midway Blitz linked to dip in 911 calls, especially in Little Village

Chicago Tribune [11/3/2025 7:30 AM, Sam Charles, Laura Rodríguez Presa, and Rebecca Johnson 4829K] reports the rate of 911 calls made in Chicago has dropped precipitously in the two months since the start of Operation Midway Blitz, a Tribune review of city data found. And nowhere is the decrease more pronounced than in Little Village, home to Chicago's largest Mexican American population, where calls to 911 have fallen by more than 21% since the surge of federal immigration officers began, city data show. Neighborhood leaders acknowledge a sharp year-over-year decline in crime, but note that the wave of immigration enforcement has left many residents in fear of calling 911 for help during that stretch. The decline reflects more than just safer streets in Little Village, said Matt DeMateo, executive director of New Life Centers, a nonprofit serving youths and families in Little Village. It's residents' fear, fueled by federal immigration enforcement, that may be driving the decline. "It's less about trust in police, it's more about fear," DeMateo said. "ICE is creating chaos, and people are making decisions for their own safety."

Chicago Tribune: Location of man hospitalized after federal immigration arrest in Melrose Park unknown, family says

Chicago Tribune [11/3/2025 7:33 PM, Adriana Pérez and Laura Turbay, 4829K] reports family members of a man hospitalized after being arrested by federal immigration agents in Melrose Park on Sunday morning said they were not allowed to see Ricardo Aguayo Rodriguez during his stay in the hospital and no longer know where he is. According to a statement from the Department of Homeland Security: "He will remain in custody under medical supervision pending removal proceedings." Stephanie Suane, 33, Aguayo Rodriguez's niece, said her uncle was released Monday afternoon from Loyola Medicine's Gottlieb Memorial Hospital, but the doctor did not tell them where he was sent. The family believes he may have been moved to the Broadview detention facility. Dora Suane, Aguayo Rodriguez's older sister, said earlier Monday that she was denied a visit by the Melrose Park hospital for a second day in a row. Videos shared on social media show Aguayo Rodriguez struggling on the ground, lying next to a white truck, while a federal agent kept him in a headlock. "Por favor, amigo," he can be heard pleading as he groans and yells in pain. "Please, friend." According to the DHS statement, Aguayo Rodriguez fled from U.S. Border Patrol agents and resisted arrest. "He actively resisted and assaulted law enforcement," the statement said. "The agent deployed pepper spray to deescalate the

situation and stop the assaults. After Rodriguez continued to violently resist and put law enforcement in danger, the agent delivered strikes as a last resort. As a precaution, Border Patrol took the suspect to a hospital for medical treatment. He will remain in custody under medical supervision pending removal proceedings." Aguayo Rodriguez has a criminal record that includes convictions for assault and battery as well as possession of a controlled substance, according to the statement. A hospital spokesperson said in an emailed statement: "Loyola Medicine treats federal agencies like U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) the same way we treat all law enforcement personnel. If they need to enter our facilities, they coordinate with our Security team. This morning, ICE personnel came to Gottlieb Memorial Hospital to accompany a patient in their custody who required medical care. Visitation is restricted for any patient in custody and is at the discretion of the law enforcement agency. Hospital staff have been in contact with the family to update them on the patient's condition."

Wall Street Journal: How Elite Agents Use High-Risk Military Tactics on Civilians in Chicago

Wall Street Journal [11/3/2025 4:10 PM, Staff, 646K] reports federal officers from various agencies have been reassigned to assist with immigration enforcement operations. WSJ analyzes the use of force, high-risk maneuvers and military-style tactics agents from elite units have deployed in Chicago. [Editorial note: consult video at source link]

USA Today: 'Terrified': Video of masked agents hauling woman from car renews outrage in Chicago

USA Today [11/4/2025 12:07 AM, Michael Loria, 67103K] reports a woman on her way to work got into a traffic accident that turned into an ordeal where masked federal agents holding weapons dragged her out of her car and detained her without telling her why, the woman's family says. The video of masked men detaining Dayanne Figueroa, a U.S. citizen and paralegal, after a traffic accident in Chicago is the latest to make the rounds in the city where federal agents have faced scrutiny over aggressive tactics. Figueroa's account of the incident comes as the Supreme Court weighs whether to allow President Donald Trump to deploy the National Guard to the city. The White House says a rebellion is potentially underway in the Prairie State and troops are needed to help carry out Trump's immigration enforcement crackdown known as Operation Midway Blitz. Local Democratic leaders view the Republican president's efforts to deploy the military as a power grab. Many Chicagoans and residents of the surrounding areas view federal agents already deployed to the city as an occupying force. Reached on the phone by USA TODAY, the Figueroa family declined to immediately speak, citing potential upcoming litigation. Dayanne Figueroa released a statement online. "I was in shock and terrified," she said of the moment when she was dragged from her car and pinned to the asphalt. "Agents crashed into me. I was not involved in any protest or related activity and I intend to seek justice for how I was treated." Figueroa's encounter with agents came on Oct. 10 and was covered by the Chicago Tribune on Nov. 3. The woman's account of her detainment comes just days after Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem told reporters at a news conference in Gary, Indiana, that no U.S. citizens had been detained in connection with the blitz crackdown. Homeland Security officials did not immediately respond to requests for comment on the incident or on Noem's comment. The Figueroa family is raising funds for legal and medical fees associated with the incident. The woman says the encounter came after a recent kidney surgery and that afterwards she went to the hospital "because of the excessive force used during her detention." Video published on YouTube by the Figueroa family shows

immigration agents detaining a man on a city street while a handful of passersby protest the arrest.

Axios: Chicago Sun-Times demands DHS stop using its photos of immigration enforcement

Axios [11/3/2025 12:54 PM, Carrie Shepherd, 12972K] reports that the Chicago Sun-Times has told the Department of Homeland Security to stop using the newspaper's photos and videos in the federal agency's videos of immigration enforcement. Why it matters: In a letter to the department, the Sun-Times accuses DHS of using three of the paper's photos in its social media posts, which the paper's attorney says is intellectual property rights infringement, but also implies that the paper "endorses" DHS' enforcement tactics. What they're saying: "It is imperative that, as a news organization, CSTM [Chicago Sun-Times Media] maintains its independence in order to fairly report on government agencies," attorney Steven Mandell wrote in the letter. DHS' "false implication that CSTM gave permission for its intellectual property to be used in connection with the Department's publicity campaign damages CSTM's credibility and interferes with its ability to report on these issues." Zoom in: One of the examples Mandell cites is a photo of U.S. Customs and Border Patrol agents walking in front of Trump Tower, taken by Sun-Times photo editor Ashlee Rezin in September. Two other examples cited include photos in a montage posted last week by DHS of Border Patrol Cmdr. Gregory Bovino in a video superimposed with the text: "We Will Not be Stopped." Zoom out: This is not the first time DHS has been called out by artists and photographers for using their work in the department's media, including a Thomas Kincaide painting that the late artist's foundation asked DHS to remove, according to ABC News. When asked if DHS has responded to the letter, Mandell told Axios: "Crickets."

AP: Judge again bars Trump administration from deploying troops to Portland

AP [11/3/2025 11:35 PM, Claire Rush and Gene Johnson, 31753K] reports a federal judge in Oregon on Sunday barred President Donald Trump's administration from deploying the National Guard to Portland, Oregon until at least Friday, saying she "found no credible evidence" that protests in the city grew out of control before the president federalized the troops earlier this fall. The city and state sued in September to block the deployment. It is the latest development in weeks of legal back-and-forth in Portland, Chicago and other U.S. cities as the Trump administration has moved to federalize and deploy the National Guard in city streets to quell protests. The ruling from U.S. District Court Judge Karin Immergut, a Trump appointee, followed a three-day trial in which both sides argued over whether protests at the city's U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement building met the conditions for using the military domestically under federal law. In a 16-page filing late Sunday, Immergut said she would issue a final order on Friday due to the voluminous evidence presented at trial, including more than 750 exhibits. The purpose of the deployment, according to the Trump administration, is to protect federal personnel and property where protests are occurring or likely to occur. Legal experts said that a higher appellate court order that remains in effect would have barred troops from being deployed anyway. Immergut wrote that most violence appeared to be between protesters and counter-protesters and found no evidence of "significant damage" to the immigration facility at the center of the protests.

Reported similarly:
The Hill [11/3/2025 8:58 AM, Zach Schonfeld, 12595K]

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USA Today [11/3/2025 8:53 AM, Bart Jansen, 67103K] r
Daily Caller [11/3/2025 11:29 AM, Hailey Gomez, 835K]

NPR: Trump's National Guard deployments aren't random. They were planned years ago

NPR [11/3/2025 5:00 AM, Kat Lonsdorf, 28013K] reports President Trump's deployments of National Guard troops to U.S. cities have outraged his political rivals, tested legal precedents and led to nationwide protests. The courts are weighing in on their legality. But — if successful — they could also fulfill a long-running administration goal of employing America's military to aid in the mass deportation of immigrants without legal status, according to an NPR review of past comments from Trump and his allies. It's a move that would stray significantly from past federal use of the Guard, challenging laws that dictate how the U.S. military can be used domestically. And with the 2026 midterms looming, some experts worry Guard troops could even be used as a tool of systemic voter suppression and intimidation. Trump has sent troops into four Democratic-led cities and threatened to send them to several more, claiming they are needed to crack down on crime and protect federal immigration facilities and officers. Those deployments, and the White House's rhetoric around them, have regularly conflated violent crime and illegal immigration into a single crisis, blurring the lines around the role of the Guard and federal agents. Taken one at a time, the deployments can seem random or fickle — Trump will often muse about sending troops into a city, only to back track his comments and focus on a different city days later. But the president and several others in his inner circle — most notably Stephen Miller, a senior aide to Trump in his first term, and now Trump's right hand man on immigration — have long talked about using the National Guard to help with mass deportations and immigration raids, despite U.S. laws broadly preventing the military from being used for domestic policing. To get around those laws, both Trump and Miller have talked about invoking the Insurrection Act, which allows the president to deploy the military within the U.S. in certain situations. Legal experts, activists and watchdog groups worry the Trump administration could fundamentally change the way the military is used on U.S. soil, specifically raising concerns about the upcoming 2026 midterm elections and what armed troops on the streets could mean as voters cast ballots.

New York Times: How to Make Sense of the Federal Forces on the Streets

New York Times [11/4/2025 2:47 AM, Bora Erden, 330K] reports that, with the Border Patrol marching through Chicago and the National Guard patrolling Memphis, the variety of federal forces deployed to support President Trump's mass deportation campaign and anticrime efforts continues to expand. Often, it can be difficult for the public to tell them apart, or to understand what powers each agency has. Here is a guide to how these forces are operating, including alongside local law enforcement. Immigration and Customs Enforcement is the primary immigration law enforcement agency in the country, and its officers wear a variety of uniforms and identifiers. ICE is made up of two main branches. The officers of Enforcement and Removal Operations typically handle arrests and deportations. In the past, Homeland Security Investigations focused on transnational crimes, but Mr. Trump has called on its officers to make other arrests in the field. Confusion over immigration officers' relationship to other law enforcement is not new. In 2020, community organizations in California sued ICE, claiming officers misrepresented themselves as the police during immigration operations. The lawsuit was settled in August and mandated that officers clearly identify themselves as ICE on their clothing. Elsewhere, ICE officers may operate in plain clothes with no or minimal identification but are supposed

to identify themselves during arrests. One case involving a Turkish doctoral student sparked outrage when footage surfaced of plainclothes agents confronting her on the street outside Boston in March. Still other ICE officers may appear in full military-style fatigues, like the agency's Special Response Teams, who are trained for high-risk operations. Since the anti-ICE summer protests in Los Angeles, they have also been guarding ICE facilities and making some street arrests. Customs and Border Protection is charged with law enforcement at the border, but Mr. Trump has deployed its agents nationwide to arrest immigrants. Within 100 miles of the border, they have greater authority than local law enforcement to conduct certain searches. Like ICE officers, their uniforms vary. After protests mounted over his immigration crackdown, Mr. Trump sent National Guard troops to Chicago, Los Angeles and Portland, Ore., citing a need to protect immigration agents and federal property. He also has called upon the National Guard to work alongside the local police in Memphis and Washington, D.C. Local officials in most of these cities, which are led by Democrats, have strongly objected to the deployments, saying Mr. Trump is misusing the Guard, a part-time military force that most often is called upon during natural disasters, wars or civil unrest. Where the president's deportation and crime-prevention campaigns intersect, the lines have blurred, and all types of law enforcement share overlapping roles. While immigration enforcement is the purview of ICE and Border Patrol, other agencies within the Department of Homeland Security and in the Justice Department have increasingly taken on this work. ICE often conducts raids on residences, and the agency has revived workplace raids, a practice largely suspended under the previous administration. Officers more often now stop people on the street, sometimes detaining U.S. citizens. ICE and Border Patrol agents also make arrests at courthouse immigration hearings, a practice legal groups say violates due process protections. In many places, the local police work directly with Homeland Security to arrest immigrants, or to detain them until immigration officers arrive. In Washington, at least eight federal agencies were part of Mr. Trump's efforts to take control of law enforcement. The local police helped immigration officers identify targets during stops for minor infractions, and immigration officers helped with arrests for nonimmigration crimes.

Wall Street Journal: Homeland Security Biometric Policy for Foreign Travelers Poses Data-Theft Risks

Wall Street Journal [11/3/2025 3:09 PM, Angus Loten, 646K] reports the Department of Homeland Security is directing border-patrol agents to screen all foreign travelers with facial recognition tools as they enter and leave the U.S., seeking to identify immigrants who entered the country illegally or overstayed visas, the agency said. Expanding the use of facial recognition at border checkpoints will "make the process for verifying the identity of aliens more efficient, accurate and secure," DHS said. The move, set to take effect in late December, would also create a massive biometric database—what DHS is calling a "gallery"—on countless non-U. S. citizens that risks becoming a rich source for deepfakes and other cybercrimes, security experts said. Biometric data can include fingerprints or voice patterns to identify individuals. Initially, the new directive will apply only to photos and at commercial airports. The agency plans to eventually extend the screening to all air, sea and land ports of entry. "Anytime you collect and build a large, centralized database of biometrics, especially one which can span decades and include data from millions of individuals, it creates the opportunity for long-term risk," said Patrick Joyce, global resident chief information security officer at cybersecurity firm Proofpoint. "As we've seen in other attacks, such systems are incredibly valuable targets," Joyce said. Beyond secure storage, passing biometric data along to other government agencies or third-party contractors can create additional vulnerabilities, said Mark McCreary, co-chair of the privacy and data

security practice at law firm Fox Rothschild. McCreary said there is an “ongoing concern about the potential for data breaches, mission creep and the lack of transparency around how data is shared across agencies and with commercial partners.” Extending biometric data-gathering to include foreign travelers leaving the U.S. also comes with added risks, McCreary said. Because exit-screening is relatively new and untested, the initial program will likely rely on a mix of government and airline-provided cameras, along with mobile devices used by U.S. Customs and Border Protection agents, he said: “This hybrid approach increases the number of entities handling sensitive biometric data, amplifying the risk of unauthorized access or misuse.”

NBC News: Jury selection begins in the trial of D.C.’s ‘sandwich guy’
NBC News [11/3/2025 12:38 PM, Megan Lebowitz and Ryan J. Reilly, 34509K] reports jury selection started Monday in the trial of former Justice Department employee Sean Dunn, also known as the "sandwich guy," months after he went viral for throwing a salami sub at a Customs and Border Protection agent in Washington, D.C., at close range. In return, prosecutors hit Dunn with a misdemeanor assault charge in August. That came a day after U.S. Attorney Jeanine Pirro’s office failed to persuade a grand jury to indict Dunn on felony charges — a sub-optimal result for prosecutors. Dunn pleaded not guilty to the misdemeanor charge in September. The case is proceeding after a judge rejected the government’s motion to delay the trial because of a disagreement over jury instructions. Jury selection is being done in open court, but U.S. District Judge Carl Nichols is using technology, including a white noise machine, to block members of the public and the media from hearing what the potential jurors are being asked and what they’re answering. In the past, such broad restrictions on jury selection have been found to be unconstitutional. Dunn’s lawyers have claimed the case is "selective and vindictive prosecution," arguing he was singled out for prosecution "not because of the nature of his alleged conduct — throwing a soft object that caused no injury — but because his outspoken, viral critique of the current administration’s policing and immigration policies made him a political target.” Federal prosecutors opposed Dunn’s lawyers’ motion to dismiss the charge, writing that Dunn was "recorded throwing a sandwich at a federal officer at point-blank range."

Reported similarly:
NewsMax [11/3/2025 11:57 AM, Solange Reyner, 4109K]

CNN: DC jurors dismissed in the trial of man charged with throwing sandwich at federal agent are deeply skeptical of the case
CNN [11/3/2025 5:47 PM, Holmes Lybrand] reports potential jurors who were not selected to serve in the trial of a DC man accused of throwing a sub sandwich at a Customs and Border Protection officer expressed deep skepticism of the federal case. A group of eight dismissed jurors spoke to CNN Monday, questioning whether any jury in DC would convict the accused sandwich-thrower, Sean Dunn. Dunn has pleaded not guilty to a misdemeanor assault charge. A jury was selected in the trial Monday afternoon. A grand jury declined to hand up a more severe assault charge against Dunn over the summer, which carried a maximum sentence of nearly a decade in prison. Prosecutors then filed a complaint against Dunn that carries a far lower maximum sentence of 1 year. Dunn, who worked at the Justice Department at the time of the alleged sandwich throwing, was quickly fired after the incident, which Attorney General Pam Bondi publicly announced. Prosecutors say Dunn, in early August, yelled offensive things at a group of officers before throwing the sandwich and running away.

CBS Mornings: Truck Driver Not Under Influence During Crash

(B) CBS Mornings [11/3/2025 10:56 AM, Staff] reports that a semi-truck driver who allegedly hit and killed three people in a crash in southern California will no longer be charged with a felony DUI. Prosecutors now say he was not under the influence during the wreck. The San Bernadino County district attorney said toxicology reports confirm Jashanpreet Singh was not under the influence of drugs, alcohol, or any tested substances. He remains in jail and still facing vehicular manslaughter charges. The Department of Homeland Security said Singh is in the country illegally.

The Hill: Congressional approval for alleged drug boat strikes not needed, White House says

The Hill [11/3/2025 9:12 PM, Filip Timotija, 12595K] reports the White House argued lethal military strikes against alleged drug-trafficking boats in the Caribbean and Eastern Pacific do not rise to the level of "hostilities" that would warrant authorization from Congress under the War Powers Resolution (WPR). The administration said the WPR, which Congress passed in 1973, would only apply when putting the U.S. in harm's way and that the strikes on alleged drug-smuggling boats, which so far have killed at least 64 people, are not endangering military personnel since they are "largely" conducted by unmanned aerial vehicles that take off from Navy vessels. "Here, the operation comprises precise strikes conducted largely by unmanned aerial vehicles launched from naval vessels in international waters at distances too far away for the crews of the targeted vessels to endanger American personnel," a senior administration official, speaking on condition of anonymity, told The Hill on Monday. Monday marked the 60-day deadline since the White House first notified Congress of its initial strike against an alleged drug-trafficking vessel. The WPR says the president needs to discontinue military operations after 60 days if an authorization from Congress is not obtained or the commander-in-chief can request a 30-day extension. The administration official said the escalating strikes do not meet the threshold of "hostilities" and that the Trump administration's Office of Legal Counsel's (OLC) position on the matter is "consistent with its traditional approach," pointing to legal opinions authored by assistant attorneys general during the Clinton and Reagan presidencies. In a 1996 opinion, Walter Dellinger, the assistant attorney general in the OLC, did not discuss the 60-day limit when addressing former President Clinton's deployment of peacekeeping forces to Haiti, but added the decision would "not involve the risk of major or prolonged hostilities or serious casualties to either the United States or Haiti." "The Executive Branch has taken the position from the very beginning" that the WPR "does not constitute a legally binding definition of Presidential authority to deploy our armed forces," former Assistant Attorney General Theodore Olson wrote in the 1984 legal opinion, referenced by the White House. Other administrations have made similar arguments. In 2011, the Obama administration said the WPR was not applicable since there were no U.S. troops on the ground and continued fighting with opposing forces during the air campaign against Libya. The strikes targeting alleged drug-smuggling boats have continued, with Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth announcing late Saturday that the U.S. military took out a "narco-trafficking" vessel operated by a designated terrorist organization in the Caribbean, killing three. "On the campaign trail, President Trump promised to take on the cartels — and he has taken unprecedented action to stop the scourge of narcoterrorism that has resulted in the needless deaths of innocent Americans," the administration official said Monday. Lawmakers on both sides of the aisle have asked the administration for more information about the legal rationale the White House is relying on for the strikes. Democrats on the House Armed Services Committee were not satisfied with last week's briefing on the boat strikes, expressing frustration with the answers they have gotten on the legality of the

operations and the White House's "end game." The administration official pushed back, saying by "regularly notifying and briefing the House and the Senate on this important matter, the Administration continues to demonstrate great transparency in its communications" with Congress.

Washington Examiner: Trump cagey about looming Venezuela strikes, but says Maduro's days are numbered

Washington Examiner [11/3/2025 7:11 AM, Jamie McIntyre, 1394K] reports if President Donald Trump's strategy is to keep everybody guessing whether he is considering airstrikes on Venezuela, he doesn't seem to be fooling anyone, but he's doing his best not to say what is looking more and more likely — that military action is coming. Asked on Friday by a reporter on Air Force One, whether reports were true that he was "considering strikes within Venezuela," Trump said flatly, "No, it's not true." The same day, he sat for a lengthy interview with 60 Minutes, which aired last night, and gave contradictory answers to CBS correspondent Norah O'Donnell. "Are we going to war against Venezuela?" O'Donnell asked. "I doubt it. I don't think so." Trump said, only to indicate just a few minutes later that Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro may soon be deposed. "Are Maduro's days as president numbered?" asked O'Donnell. "I would say yeah. I think so, yeah," Trump replied. "And this issue of potential land strikes in Venezuela, is that true?" she pressed. "I don't tell you that. I mean, I'm not saying it's true or untrue, but you know, I wouldn't be inclined to say that I would do that." Later on Air Force One, Trump berated a reporter for even asking the question. "How can I answer a question like that? Are there plans for a strike on Venezuela? Who would say that? Supposing there were, would I say that to you? Listen, we have very secret plans."

Opinion – Editorials

Houston Chronicle: [TX] Houston police called ICE on a missing teen. Then they blamed his mom.

Houston Chronicle [11/3/2025 6:00 AM, Staff, 2983K] reports she is poised and impossibly polite. Through a blur of calls with a case worker, a social worker, another case worker, the 42-year-old mother doesn't snap. Even as she's told her video calls with her son will be limited to weekly 15-minute phone calls. Even as her questions are met with scripted non-answers. Still, every indignant word the mother speaks is carefully calibrated. But the moment Maria García hears her son's voice over the phone, her own voice breaks. When he asks how she's doing, she doesn't tell him about the sleepless nights, about the tears, about the hours clutching her rosary – praying for an end to this nightmare. She steadies her voice and asks what any mom would: "Are they taking good care of you?" she says into a speaker phone, as a member of the editorial board listens nearby. The 15-year-old gives one-word answers. Trapped inside a federal children's detention center in Houston, Emmanuel Gonzalez García says he's bored. He's desperate. On Oct. 4, Emmanuel wandered from his mother's side on the corner of Clay and Hempstead Road, disappearing on a Metro bus in the time it took her to finish preparing a spicy-sweet mango snack for a customer from her makeshift roadside stall. For nearly a week, Maria had no idea where her son was. She had no way to know whether her baby was dead or alive – even as the Houston Police Department, the very people she turned to for help, knew exactly where he was. Even as they knew they'd handed her child over to immigration authorities and put him at risk of deportation. The disappearance of Emmanuel is a story that has ricocheted in our

city and beyond in recent weeks – breathlessly covered by TV news outlets, dissected on Facebook and debated at City Hall.

Opinion – Op-Eds

NewsMax: Time for SCOTUS to End Birthright Citizenship
NewsMax [11/3/2025 12:06 PM, Michael Dorstewitz, 4109K] reports one of the first things President Trump did at the start of his second term was to sign an executive order ending birthright citizenship — the notion that a woman could cross the border into the United States and deliver a child for one purpose: To grant the child U.S. citizenship. Birthright citizenship is based on the Citizenship Clause of the 14th Amendment to the Constitution. It states, "All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside." On the surface that would appear to end all debate. Birthright citizenship is the law of the land and therefor so called "anchor babies" are legitimate American citizens — until you consider the purpose of the amendment. It was among the three post-Civil War amendments known as the Reconstruction Amendments. The 13th Amendment abolished slavery, the 14th granted citizenship and guaranteed equal protection under the law, and the 15th prohibited states from denying the right to vote based on race. Getting to specifics, the Citizenship Clause was included to reverse a portion of the Dred Scott decision. It held that African Americans were not and could not become United States citizens or enjoy any of the privileges and immunities of citizenship. So the Citizenship Clause was included in the Reconstruction Amendments to clearly make former slaves, and children of those former slavers, American citizens. It was meant to correct a past wrong, and never intended to create "anchor babies."

FOX News: Their plan was a flood of illegal immigration. Our answer is an immigration moratorium
FOX News [11/3/2025 5:00 AM, Nate Morris, 40621K] reports President Joe Biden's decision to allow the free flow of illegal immigration into our country has resulted in 20 million illegal immigrants living in the United States. We knew nothing about these people. We didn't know where they came from or why they were here. Now Americans are forced to compete even more with illegal immigrants for jobs and housing, to have their children share our classrooms, to wait longer at the hospital, and to even have their lawfully earned, government-funded benefits depleted because of them. Why? All because career politicians either turned a blind eye to it, or, as I suspect, more insidiously cheered it on. But illegal immigration is frankly a symptom of the broader disease that, if we choose to ignore, will cost us our country. This very minute, New York City is on the precipice of electing a Ugandan immigrant who is hell-bent on the destruction of a once great city. There's a member of Congress from Mogadishu whose entire existence is predicated on turning America into Somalia. These are not isolated incidents, either — they're a sign of things to come. This is what happens when career politicians have contempt for a secure border.

Wall Street Journal: Trump's New World Order
Wall Street Journal [11/3/2025 4:59 PM, Walter Russell Mead, 646K] reports "On Venezuela in particular," CBS News's Norah O'Donnell asked President Trump on "60 Minutes" Sunday, "are Maduro's days as president numbered?" "I would say yeah. I think so, yeah," he replied. "And this issue of potential land strikes in Venezuela, is that true?" "I

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don't tell you that. . . . You know, you're a wonderful reporter, you're very talented, but I'm not gonna tell you what I'm gonna do with Venezuela, if I was gonna do it or if I wasn't going to do it." And that's where matters stand. With a carrier strike group joining eight warships already in the region, a squadron of F-35s in Puerto Rico, and assorted elite military units in the area, the Trump administration has ramped up its standoff with Venezuela. Regime change is clearly the goal; the timetable and means are unspecified. In normal times, a crisis of this magnitude would dominate world news, but in our era it struggles to stay on the front page. The Venezuela crisis escalated to the brink of war the same week Mr. Trump's lightning Asia tour concluded with a summit with Xi Jinping. While senators such as Kentucky's Rand Paul denounced what they called illegal American strikes against alleged drug-running boats in the Caribbean and Eastern Pacific, lawyers on both sides were prepping oral arguments for the historic Supreme Court showdown over the legality of Mr. Trump's tariffs, which have upended world trade. Russian troops ground out more gains in Ukraine even as the air war between Kyiv and its nuclear-armed neighbor raged. Scenes of horror unfolded in Darfur as Sudan descended deeper into civil war. The fragile cease-fire in Gaza hung by a thread. Meanwhile, on Truth Social, Mr. Trump threatened to attack Nigeria if that country doesn't do a better job of protecting Christians. Not since Franklin D. Roosevelt has an American president been this powerful or this busy.

The Hill: [Venezuela] Please don't invade Venezuela
The Hill [11/3/2025 1:00 PM, Harlan Ullman, 12595K] reports that the U.S. Navy nuclear carrier USS Gerald Ford and its battle group, which includes some 80 strike and other aircraft and Tomahawk equipped surface combatants, is about to join a dozen other warships including a force of about 2,000 Marines, in the Caribbean. Part of this force includes the U.S. Military Sealift Command's Ocean Trader, a 22,000-ton mystery ship over two football fields in length with a crew of about 40 and up to 200 special forces and their equipment embarked. All are off the Venezuelan coast as B-52's and B-2's pass overhead like wolves circling prey. A word of advice: Do not invade Venezuela. This is not Operation Just Cause of December 1989, in which George H.W. Bush ordered 27,000 U.S. troops to capture Panamanian President Manuel Noriega. The U.S. had a base in Panama facilitating that operation. No such base exists in or near Venezuela. And Venezuela is 12 times larger than Panama with about six times the population. As far as regime change, the White House needs to be reminded of a bit of history. We tried that in Vietnam, Afghanistan and Iraq as well as a number of attempts in Central America. Further, Venezuela is viewed as the center of gravity for these operations. But U.S. intelligence and law enforcement reports show that Colombia and especially Mexico are the villains in the drug and fentanyl trade. Venezuela is a sideshow. The White House has already disclosed that CIA units have been authorized to operate in Venezuela in what are now non-covert ways.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement

FOX News: Acting ICE director pledges to fulfill Trump's largest deportation effort: 'No one's off the table'
FOX News [11/3/2025 5:25 PM, Maria Lencki, 40621K] reports acting U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Director Todd Lyons is pledging to keep President Donald Trump's promise to have one of the largest deportation efforts the country has seen. The president was pressed on his immigration policy on Sunday's "60 Minutes" interview on CBS, where he was asked if some of the raids have gone "too far." "No, I think they haven't gone far enough, because we've been held back by the judges, by the liberal judges that were put in

by Biden and by Obama," Trump said. "You have to get the people out, you know? You have, look at the people. Many of them are murderers. Many of them are people that were thrown out of their countries because they were, you know, criminals." Lyons told "America Reports" ICE will work with state and local partners as they identify as many illegal immigrants as they can and "take action on them." "No one's off the table," he warned. "We're going to use all the tools in the toolbox. We have great federal partners. Department of Justice has been outstanding with us, and we are going to team up with everyone that wants to work with us, and we're to go out there and keep the president's promise to sure that we have one of the largest deportation efforts ever." The acting ICE director, who says many agents have been targeted due to the rhetoric against them, explained that officials are being swarmed by protesters before even making arrests.

FOX News: ICE reveals stunning statistic after exposing Halloween weekend's 'worst of the worst' arrests

FOX News [11/3/2025 8:02 PM, Peter Pinedo, 40621K] reports U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) continued its crackdown on the "worst of the worst" dangerous illegal immigrants over Halloween weekend, arresting criminals convicted of intercourse with minor, sexual abuse, kidnapping, homicide and other serious crimes. The Department of Homeland Security highlighted that 70 percent of ICE arrests are of criminal illegal aliens charged or convicted of a crime in the U.S., according to a statement to Fox News Digital. One criminal illegal, Sisawang Khambounheuang, from Laos, was arrested by ICE after being convicted of unlawful sexual intercourse with a minor in San Diego. Just to the north, another criminal illegal alien, Milton Rene Mendez-Arevalo, from Guatemala, was arrested after a conviction for kidnapping in Los Angeles. In Houston, where ICE arrested over 120 illegal immigrants over the weekend, the agency nabbed Honduran criminal illegal Hector Eugenio Ramirez-Martinez, who was convicted for indecency with child sexual contact in Harris County. Another, Francisco Nava-Garcia, from Mexico, was arrested in Houston after being convicted of assault on a family/household member. Elsewhere in Texas, ICE arrested Kunal Chhetri, an illegal alien from India, who was convicted for alien smuggling in the United States District Court, Western District of Texas. ICE also continued its crackdown in Florida, arresting Lazaro Mateo Ruiz, from Cuba, who was convicted for homicide, weapon offense and robbery in Miami-Dade County. Over in Florida's gulf coast, ICE arrested Juan Gomez-Gutierrez, from Colombia, who was convicted for conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute five kilograms of cocaine while aboard a vessel in Tampa. Another drug distributor, Juan Brito-Rios, from Mexico, was arrested by ICE following his conviction for possession with the intent to distribute one kilogram or more of heroin, five kilograms or more of cocaine and money laundering in the U.S. Middle District Court of Tennessee. In Illinois, a sanctuary state that has been resisting the Trump administration's crackdown, ICE arrested Brigidio Ovido Gomez Garcia, from Guatemala, who was convicted of aggravated domestic battery/strangle, domestic battery, and driving under the influence in Wheaton, a Chicago suburb. Commenting on the arrests, DHS Assistant Secretary Tricia McLaughlin pointed out that amidst pushback from pro-sanctuary politicians, 70 percent of all ICE arrests are of illegal aliens charged or convicted of a crime in the U.S. "President Trump and Secretary Noem unleashed ICE to remove the worst of the worst criminal illegal aliens from American communities," McLaughlin told Fox News Digital. "Despite the Democrats' government shutdown, ICE is continuing to arrest criminal illegal aliens across the country," she continued. "While Americans enjoyed their weekends, ICE was hard at work getting the worst of the worst off our streets—including pedophiles, murderers, and kidnappers."

NPR: ICE seizing migrants from county jails, raising due process concerns
NPR [11/3/2025 4:59 AM, Mose Buchele, 28013K] Audio: HERE reports in some parts of the U.S., ICE agents are seizing people directly from county jails to take into immigration custody. The tactic has raised concerns over due process. [Editorial note: consult audio at source link]

AP: [PA] Courts Order ICE Not to Deport Man Who Spent 43 Years in Prison Before Murder Case Overturned
AP [11/3/2025 5:48 PM, Maryclaire Dale, 19051K] reports two separate courts have ordered immigration officials not to deport a Pennsylvania man who spent four decades in prison before his murder conviction was overturned. Subramanyam Vedam, 64, is currently detained at a short-term holding center in Alexandria, Louisiana, that's equipped with an airstrip for deportations. Vedam, a legal permanent resident known as "Subu," was transferred there from central Pennsylvania last week, relatives said. An immigration judge stayed his deportation on Thursday until the Bureau of Immigration Appeals decides whether to review his case. That could take several months. Vedam's lawyers also got a stay the same day in U.S. District Court in Pennsylvania, but said that case may be on hold given the immigration court ruling. Vedam came to the U.S. legally from India as an infant and grew up in State College, where his father taught at Penn State. He was serving a life sentence in a friend's 1980 death before his conviction was overturned this year. He was released from state prison on Oct. 3, only to be taken straight into immigration custody. The Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement is seeking to deport Vedam over his no contest plea to charges of LSD delivery, filed when he was about 20. His lawyers argue that the four decades he wrongly spent in prison, where he earned degrees and tutored fellow inmates, should outweigh the drug case. A Department of Homeland Security spokesperson said Monday that the reversal in the murder case does not negate the drug conviction. "Having a single conviction vacated will not stop ICE's enforcement of the federal immigration law," Tricia McLaughlin," Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs, said in an email.

Reported similarly:
Univision [11/3/2025 6:11 PM, Staff, 5004K]

Chicago Tribune: [IL] Chicago woman dragged out of her car after colliding with ICE demands accountability
Chicago Tribune [11/3/2025 12:55 PM, Laura Rodríguez Presa and Jonathan Bullington, 4829K] reports Dayanne Figueroa was on her way to get coffee before heading to work when she encountered a chaotic scene in West Town: heavily armed, masked federal agents making arrests on a residential street. People yelled as vehicles honked their horn - a sign now used to alert neighbors that immigration federal agents are in the area - and witnesses said federal agents had arrested several landscaper workers presumed to be in the country without authorization. As Figuero tried to drive through the 1600 block of West Hubbard Street on Friday, Oct. 10, an unmarked vehicle driven by federal agents collided with Figueroa's as it tried to speed away from a hostile crowd, multiple videos reviewed by the Tribune show. Seconds after the crash, agents abruptly stopped their vehicle and exited with weapons in hand pointing at Figueroa, a U.S citizen. Agents then forcibly opened her door and pulled her out of the vehicle by her legs without identifying themselves, presenting a warrant or informing her that she was under arrest. As bystanders yelled, "You hit her! We have it on video!" agents ignored the crowd and forced Figueroa into a red minivan and drove away. The Department of Homeland Security later released a statement claiming that

Figueroa was at fault, saying "she crashed into an unmarked government vehicle and violently resisted arrest, injuring two officers." Figueroa was released the same day a few hours later without charges. Figueroa's arrest highlights growing concerns about the use of force against U.S. citizens and due process. Federal enforcement actions in Chicago have increasingly drawn scrutiny amid reports of aggressive tactics and blurred lines between immigration enforcement and public safety, including incidents involving deploying tear gas in residential areas and arrests of bystanders filming agents or for following the unmarked vehicles. While DHS says its operations are being impeded and that there will be consequences for interfering with federal agents, many individuals who are detained are released without charges. DHS, however, maintains that Figueroa was taken into custody because she "violently resisted" arrest. In a statement to the Tribune, Assistant Secretary Tricia McLaughlin alleged that Figueroa "used her vehicle to block in agents, honking her horn," and that she "stuck an unmarked government vehicle" as agents were departing. "In fear of public safety and of law enforcement, officers attempted to remove her from the vehicle. She violently resisted, kicking two agents and causing injuries. This agitator was arrested for assault on a federal agent," McLaughlin said.

Chicago Tribune: [IL] ICE pushes Chicago restaurants in immigrant neighborhoods into survival mode: 'We are dying a slow death'

Chicago Tribune [11/3/2025 6:00 AM, Zareen Syed, 4829K] reports most days as of late, a heaviness envelops 26th Street in Chicago's Little Village. Some restaurants are closing earlier than usual, street vendors are fewer and farther away, and more and more customers are using food delivery services instead of dining in. On a recent Wednesday, only a handful of people were nervously standing at the bus stop on Hamlin Avenue across from Carnitas Uruapan. Inside the popular Mexican restaurant, tables sat empty during what would typically be a busy weekday lunch hour. Staff were screening customers at the door before letting them in. It had been a chaotic morning marked by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents on the city's Southwest Side. Federal immigration agents, accompanied by Border Patrol Cmdr. Gregory Bovino, had swarmed one of Chicago's oldest and largest immigrant communities - known as "Mexico of the Midwest" - and neighboring Cicero, arresting at least seven people, including U.S. citizens, and clashing with residents who filmed them. The security camera at Carnitas Uruapan had caught what appeared to be an ICE agent trying to enter - but the door was locked. "We're being selective about who we let in today, I guarantee most places out here right now have their doors locked," Marcos Carbajal, owner of Carnitas Uruapan, told the Tribune on Oct. 22. "Lately, we have to keep an eye on the door just to make sure we're only letting people in who look like they're a regular diner."

Chicago Tribune: [IL] Lake Bluff officials weighing whether to object to ICE's practices during raids in Chicago area

Chicago Tribune [11/3/2025 7:12 PM, Daniel I. Dorfman, 4829K] reports amid growing concern about recent actions by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents, Lake Bluff officials are weighing possible steps to formally object to the agency's practices. The Trump administration in September launched "Operation Midway Blitz," an initiative it said was aimed at detaining "criminal illegal aliens." The effort has prompted anxiety in several Chicago-area communities, including Lake Bluff. During his report at the Oct. 27 Village Board meeting, Village President Regis Charlot said the village had received multiple letters and phone calls from residents about the impact of ICE raids in the greater Chicago region. "This is a very sad conversation," Charlot said. Charlot's comments came

before reports surfaced of Border Patrol agents appearing in Evanston and other nearby communities, encounters that in some cases led to confrontations with residents. Trustee Shana Fried said she has heard from residents with family members who were detained in the area. "It is an issue that is already affecting our community and is having real practical and financial consequences," Fried said.

ABC News: [IL] Faith leaders blocked by ICE from delivering Communion to immigrants speak out

ABC News [11/3/2025 8:14 PM, Gaby Vinick, 30493K] reports faith leaders denounced Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security for rejecting access to give Communion to immigrants being held at an Illinois facility over the weekend. The Coalition for Spiritual and Public Leadership (CSPL), a Catholic and Christian-rooted nonprofit, organized a Mass by the immigration processing center on All Saints Day and Día de los Muertos, or the Day of the Dead. Organizers estimate some 2,000 people attended on Saturday, as many prayed, sang and held signs protesting ICE. "Operation Midway Blitz has caused chaos and mayhem in our city," Michael Okińczyc-Cruz, the executive director of CSPL, told ABC News, referring to the immigration crackdown in Chicago. "It's creating such fear and trauma for so many of the families that we work with and that are members of our coalition," he said. Okińczyc-Cruz said that CSPL formally submitted a letter requesting access more than a week in advance and took numerous steps for ministers to give Communion to migrants in the Broadview facility. This is the second time they were denied entry since their first attempt on Oct. 11, he told ABC News. "These days are so symbolically important for us in the Catholic Church to honor the saints who've come before us," Okińczyc-Cruz said. Katrina Thompson, the mayor of Broadview, also submitted a letter on their behalf to DHS and ICE requesting permission on Oct. 22. It went unanswered, according to Okińczyc-Cruz. ABC News reached out but did not immediately hear back from DHS. Sister JoAnn Persch is the president of Catherine's Caring Cause, an organization that supports asylum seekers with housing, legal and medical needs. She and Chicago Auxiliary Bishop José María Garcia-Maldonado led the delegation on Saturday. For nearly two decades, Persch and the late Sister Pat Murphy prayed for immigrants outside of the center, she said. A starkly different scene on Saturday emerged: leaders were not permitted to walk all the way down to the building, she told ABC News. "We never saw an ICE officer -- except when they kept riding up and down the street during the Mass," Persch said. Some members interpreted this to be an intimidation tactic, according to Okińczyc-Cruz.

New York Times: [IL] Trump, Chicago and the logistics of hosting a global sports match

New York Times [11/3/2025 5:06 PM, Adam Crafton, 153395K] reports on Thursday evening, at the official welcome reception for New Zealand's rugby union test match against Ireland, Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson took to the stage. "Holding this game at Soldier Field is a testament to Chicago's vibrant spirit," Johnson, a Democrat, began. "It is also about our ability to bring people from all around the world together. That is so critical at this time, because as a global city, we have a deep sense of local pride. We understand the combination of the ideal world, where we can bring all people together to understand the importance of not just the game, but also of our collective strength to uphold our humanity." For Chicago, it has been a fraught period in which the city, and the broader state of Illinois, has found itself at odds with President Donald Trump's administration. The federal government says there is a crime crisis in Chicago. In September, the administration

launched Operation Midway Blitz, led by United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents, with the stated objective to target “criminal illegal aliens who flocked to Chicago and Illinois.” Department of Homeland Security (DHS) assistant secretary Tricia McLaughlin accused Illinois Governor JB Pritzker, also a Democrat, of “making Chicago a magnet for criminals” — a claim he denies — and said the operation would target “the worst of the worst.”

Breitbart: [MN] Minneapolis Mayoral Candidate Plans to Alert Illegal Aliens Ahead of ICE Raids

Breitbart [11/3/2025 9:15 PM, Jasmyn Jordan, 2416K] reports Minneapolis mayoral candidate Omar Fateh discussed a plan during a podcast interview involving coordination between city leadership and community-based organizations to ensure elected officials and neighborhood groups are informed before potential immigration enforcement activity. Fateh, a Minnesota state senator and self-described democratic socialist now running for mayor of Minneapolis, said during a podcast interview: “We need to strengthen our separation ordinance. We need to have better communication between the mayor and the chief, and also the city council members, so that whenever we know something is coming down the pike, the city council is alerted immediately because they’re the connection point to the community, and they can articulate that and disseminate that information to folks. We really have to work really hard to better work with some of those boots-on-the-ground organizations that I just spoke about right now that are already providing the ‘Know Your Rights’ training, legal counseling, multilingual services. They’re the ones that are finding out a lot of times what’s happening on the ground. Because the city cannot do it alone, and we need to lock arms not just cross-jurisdictionally but with these organizations as well, because things are scary, and it’s going to get scarier as well.” According to a mayor’s update from Jacob Frey, the separation ordinance is described as: "City employees — including police officers and firefighters — are prohibited from participating in civil immigration enforcement.” Fateh is running on a platform that includes limiting police power, increasing non-police emergency response services, opposing cooperation between the Minneapolis Police Department and ICE, expanding funding for immigrant rights initiatives, and implementing carbon fees approved by the City Council. He previously supported legislation to provide taxpayer-funded college tuition to households earning under $80,000 per year, regardless of immigration status. He accused Rep. Lauren Boebert (R-CO) of "white supremacy" for opposing taxpayer-funded tuition for illegal aliens, and labeled the U.S. policing system "systemically white supremacist.” Breitbart News has also reported that Fateh opened his campaign office as a support hub during the 2020 George Floyd riots, returned thousands in campaign donations tied to the Feeding Our Future fraud scheme after donors were identified in FBI warrants, pushed Amazon on mandatory prayer breaks for Muslim workers, supported banning tear gas and rubber bullets, cast an "uncommitted" vote in Minnesota’s 2024 Super Tuesday primary over the Biden administration’s Israel policy, and advocated raising the Minneapolis minimum wage to $20 per hour by 2028. Fateh received the Minnesota Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party’s endorsement for mayor in July 2025, but the endorsement was later revoked by the DFL’s Constitution, Bylaws & Rules Committee following verification of voting errors at the convention. Fateh criticized that decision and urged supporters to continue engaging in his campaign. He has drawn support from Rep. Ilhan Omar (D-MN) and former Rep. Jamaal Bowman (D-NY) in recent months.

AP: [TX] Data shows 1 in 4 immigration arrests happen in Texas, where about 1.6M immigrants illegally live

AP [11/3/2025 2:45 PM, Uriel J. Garcia, Colleen Duguzman, Alex Nguyen, and Carla Astudillo, 31753K] reports that on the evening of July 1, Luis Medrano called Houston police for help after his wife had gotten violent and punched him twice in the face during a schizophrenic episode in which she was hearing tormenting voices, according to a police report. Medrano, 50, a Mexican immigrant who met his wife when they crossed the Rio Grande with a group of about a dozen other migrants more than three decades ago, had tried to take his 47-year-old wife to the hospital, but she refused to go. So he did what he'd done three times before: called the police so they would take her to a hospital. But this time, the officer arrested her on suspicion of assault and booked her into jail. And after a prosecutor dismissed the case, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, also known as ICE, picked her up from jail and eventually deported her to Mexico. In Texas, which has the second-largest population of immigrants living illegally in the country — with more than 1.6 million of the estimated 13.7 million nationally — the local criminal justice system has become the main funnel sending immigrants into ICE custody, according to a Texas Tribune analysis of federal government data. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security, which oversees ICE, responded to questions from the Tribune by citing an Oct. 30 social media post by DHS Assistant Secretary Tricia McLaughlin that said "70% of illegal aliens ICE has arrested have criminal convictions or pending criminal charges. "And that doesn't even account for those wanted for violent crimes in their country of origin or another country, INTERPOL notices, human rights abusers, gang members, terrorists," the post says. "The list goes on. The media continues to act as a PR firm for criminals."

Breitbart: [TX] 120 Illegal Aliens Arrested on Houston Streets in One Day

Breitbart [11/3/2025 3:23 PM, Randy Clark, 2416K] reports more than 120 illegal aliens were arrested on Texas roadways in the greater Houston area in a single day. The operation that stretched into the late hours of October 29 cleared the roads of often unlicensed and uninsured illegal aliens, according to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). A social media post on Sunday shows a video of ICE Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO) officers carrying out the arrests in a parking lot near a Houston-area business and during several vehicle stops. The video described the activities with a statement saying, "We made over 120 arrests in Houston Oct.29-clearing our roads of dangerous, often uninsured, illegal aliens who should NOT be behind the wheel." As reported by Breitbart Texas, ERO officers and other federal agents in the greater Houston area have ramped up day and nighttime operations in targeted operations that have resulted in multiple arrests of illegal aliens around local businesses and on Houston roadways. During one nighttime sweep just days before the latest operation, Breitbart Texas's Bob Price rode with a team of 40 federal officers and agents as the group arrested approximately 25 illegal aliens, many with criminal records. Moving through Houston's high-crime corridors, Breitbart Texas observed the officers and agents, now armed with a new data-driven targeting system that seemed to send a clear message: ICE is now a 24/7 presence in Texas.

Houston Chronicle: [TX] A Texas priest is in ICE custody even though he can legally work in the U.S., diocese says

Houston Chronicle [11/3/2025 6:04 PM, Julián Aguilar, Haajrah Gilani, 2983K] reports an Episcopal priest and immigrant who was legally employed by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice is in the custody of Immigration and Customs Enforcement in Conroe after

being detained last month, the Episcopal Diocese of Texas said. The diocese said it's unclear why the Kenyan man, the Rev. James Eliud Ngahu Mwangi, was detained while returning from his job Oct. 25. Doyle told Religion News Service, who first reported the story, that it's unclear why the priest was taken into custody, adding that the immigrant had a valid work permit.

New York Times: [CO] An Altercation With ICE Prompts a Police Chief to Push Back
New York Times [11/3/2025 6:59 PM, Jack Healy, 135475K] reports Brice Current, the police chief in Durango, Colo., knew there was a problem the moment he saw the video of an immigration agent putting a protester into what the chief saw as a chokehold and throwing her down an embankment. Immigration agents had arrested a Colombian man and his two children on their way to school last week, provoking a furious response from this liberal college town of 20,000 in the mountains of southwest Colorado. Dozens of residents — many with their arms linked — descended on the small Immigration and Customs Enforcement building where the family was being held, set up camp outside the razor-wire gates and tried to block authorities from removing the family from Durango. What set the protest apart from similar clashes between residents and immigration agents in Chicago, Los Angeles and other cities was Chief Current's determination that the masked federal agent involved in the scuffle had crossed a line and his request for an investigation. He said he even considered filing criminal charges himself against the agent. "It appeared to be an out-of-policy and possibly illegal use of force," he said in an interview at police headquarters. The scene from Durango, captured by fellow protesters and put on social media, was violent and jarring, but no more so than many others across the country. Several protesters, including elected officials and a Democratic congressional candidate, have been arrested or charged with federal crimes at immigration detention centers. American citizens have been whisked into unmarked vehicles and charged with resisting arrest or attacking officers, though the people arrested have maintained they did no such thing. Protesters, journalists and clergy have sued over federal agents' use of tear gas and crowd-control munitions against protesters. A U.S. citizen who was violently thrown to ground in Chicago has vowed to "pursue all legal avenues" against the agents involved. But so far, no local prosecutors are known to have filed criminal charges against immigration agents. That might change. At Chief Current's request, the Colorado Bureau of Investigation has opened an investigation into the incident in Durango, putting Democratic-led Colorado on a potential collision course with the Trump administration, which has threatened to prosecute any local officials if they charge federal agents carrying out President Trump's immigration crackdown.

Washington Examiner: [OR] 'Latinx' leader who served as Oregon policy advisor was illegal immigrant convicted of sex crimes
Washington Examiner [11/3/2025 6:30 PM, Mia Cathell, 1394K] reports an illegal immigrant convicted of sex crimes in Oregon, a sanctuary state for unlawful immigration, held various advisory positions on state policymaking committees as a so-called "Latinx" community leader. Juan Pablo Villalobos Garcia, a criminally convicted Venezuelan national who had overstayed his visa, according to U.S. immigration authorities, served in several committee roles advising the state of Oregon on policy areas such as behavioral health, "health equity," and healthcare for all, regardless of immigration status. Before the U.S. Department of Homeland Security nabbed Garcia, a Portland-area activist and "educator," he was on Oregon's Community Engagement and Communications Committee to the Universal Health Plan Governance Board, which is tasked with creating a comprehensive plan for financing

and administering a single-payer healthcare system that covers all Oregonians, no matter their immigration status. Garcia's committee is responsible for developing community outreach recommendations and informational material, as part of the universal health plan that the board will present to Gov. Tina Kotek (D-OR) and the Oregon legislature. The board looks to committee members for "expertise and lived experience." Committee members are recruited by the governor-appointed board and are supposed to embody "equitable representation from every region and population around the state." On the Oregon government website, the board's community engagement committee describes Garcia as the executive director of LatinX Recovery Center, who is "currently in recovery from substance abuse with a criminal justice history." Over video conference, Garcia attended the committee's monthly meetings as recently as Sept. 24 and would offer insight in Spanish. Garcia, whose record reportedly includes sexual abuse and bestiality, was also an active member of the Behavioral Health Crisis System Advisory Committee, which advises the Oregon Health Authority, the state's health department, on overseeing the statewide crisis response system. While on the committee, Garcia served as a certified peer support specialist. Committee members were eligible for a $166 stipend each day of work on the advisory council. As of September 23, Garcia regularly appeared at committee meetings via video call and participated in discussions ranging from funding deliberations to legislative proposals. "It is SICKENING this monster was hiding in Oregon thanks to the state's sanctuary policies," the Department of Homeland Security said in an X post announcing that Garcia was in the United States on an overstayed B2 tourist visa. "Under President Trump and Secretary Noem, if you break the law, you will face the consequences," DHS wrote. "Criminal illegal aliens are not welcome in the U.S.

New York Times: [CA] Man Shot by ICE Was Not Trying to Run Over Agent, Lawyers Say

New York Times [11/3/2025 7:46 PM, Soumya Karlamangla, 135475K] reports lawyers for a man shot last week by an immigration agent in Southern California are disputing the account given by federal officials who charged him with assault. The lawyers for Carlos Jimenez, 25, said on Monday that he was a bystander asking federal agents to move away from a bus stop where schoolchildren would soon be gathering. At the time, the immigration officers had stopped a vehicle near the bus stop in Ontario, Calif., about 40 miles east of downtown Los Angeles. Lawyers for Mr. Jimenez, a U.S. citizen, said he was later shot in the shoulder as he drove away from federal agents, but said that he did not try to use his vehicle to harm anyone. Federal prosecutors, however, said last week in a criminal complaint that an Immigrations and Customs Enforcement officer shot Mr. Jimenez because he pulled forward, turned his wheels and "rapidly accelerated" toward an officer during the vehicle stop on Thursday. Tricia McLaughlin, a spokeswoman for the Department of Homeland Security, said on Monday that at about 6:30 a.m. on Thursday morning, Mr. Jimenez drove up to a team of immigration officers overseeing a vehicle stop. He then "engaged in a verbal altercation with the officers," according to the criminal complaint filed against him, and officers ordered him to leave. Mr. Jimenez reversed his car toward them and "an ICE officer, fearing for his life, fired defensive shots at the vehicle," she said. He was charged on Friday with assault of a federal officer following the incident. He was released on bond. The altercation was the latest high-profile incident in which federal agents fired shots at drivers whom they accused of endangering them during immigration enforcement operations. Last month, a Mexican man targeted by immigration authorities was injured by gunfire during an operation in Los Angeles. In September, during a traffic stop in Chicago, an ICE agent shot and killed a man who authorities said had hit an officer with his car. A New York Times examination of video from the scene called into question

elements of the official D.H.S. account of the encounter. Ms. McLaughlin called the most recent incident an example of increasing threats that ICE officers face “as they risk their lives to enforce the law and arrest criminals.” She said that anyone who gets in the way of federal officers’ duties or threatens them will be arrested and prosecuted. Mr. Jimenez’s lawyers told a very different story. They described him, in an interview on Monday, as a father of three young children who lives in a mobile home park near where the officers were conducting their stop. He was headed to his job at a food bank, where he prepares and delivers donation boxes, when he noticed the officers blocking traffic, said Cynthia Santiago, one of his lawyers.

AP: [CA] Courts order ICE not to deport man who spent 43 years in prison before murder case overturned

AP [11/3/2025 5:48 PM, Maryclaire Dale] reports two separate courts have ordered immigration officials not to deport a Pennsylvania man who spent four decades in prison before his murder conviction was overturned. Subramanyam Vedam, 64, is currently detained at a short-term holding center in Alexandria, Louisiana, that’s equipped with an airstrip for deportations. Vedam, known as "Subu," was transferred there from central Pennsylvania last week, relatives said. An immigration judge stayed his deportation on Thursday until the Bureau of Immigration Appeals decides whether to review his case. That could take several months. Vedam’s lawyers also got a stay the same day in U.S. District Court in Pennsylvania, but said that case may be on hold given the immigration court ruling. Vedam came to the U.S. legally from India as an infant and grew up in State College, where his father taught at Penn State. He was serving a life sentence in a friend’s 1980 death before his conviction was overturned this year. He was released from state prison on Oct. 3, only to be taken straight into immigration custody. The Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement is seeking to deport Vedam over his no contest plea to charges of LSD delivery, filed when he was about 20. His lawyers argue that the four decades he wrongly spent in prison, where he earned degrees and tutored fellow inmates, should outweigh the drug case. A Department of Homeland Security spokesperson said Monday that the reversal in the murder case does not negate the drug conviction.

Los Angeles Times: [CA] She helped get her violent husband deported. Then ICE deported her — straight into his arms.

Los Angeles Times [11/3/2025 6:00 AM, Rachel Uranga, 14862K] reports Carmen’s abusive husband came home drunk one night last summer. He pounded and kicked the door. He threatened to kill her as her young son watched in horror. She called police, eventually obtaining a restraining order. Months later he returned and beat her again. Police came again and he was eventually deported. Thinking she finally escaped his cruelty, Carmen applied for what is known as a U-Visa. The visa provides crime victims a way to stay in the United States legally, but the Trump administration has routinely ignored pending applications. During a regular immigration check-in in June, Carmen was detained. Two months later, she was put on a plane with her 8-year-old son, who just completed second grade. She was headed to her home country, terrified her husband would find her. Lawyers for Carmen along with several immigrant victims of human trafficking, domestic violence and other crimes last month sued the Trump administration in the Central District of California for detaining and deporting survivors with pending visa applications, some of whom have been granted status to stay and sometimes work. Tricia McLaughlin, a spokeswoman for the Department of Homeland Security, defended the practice of deporting those stuck in limbo, saying every unauthorized immigrant ICE removes "has had due

process and has a final order of removal — meaning they have no legal right to be in the country." The lawsuit argues the administration violated procedural rules in referencing the executive order "Protecting the American People Against Invasion" as the main justification for the policy. The invasion, it states, is "fictional" but the rhetoric has allowed Department of Homeland Security Sec. Kristi Noem and the immigration agencies to wage an "arbitrary, xenophobic and militarized mass deportation campaign that has terrorized immigrant communities and further victimized survivors of domestic violence, human trafficking and other serious crimes who Congress sought to protect."

San Francisco Chronicle: [CA] Bay Area advocates urge city leaders to provide stronger immigrant protections

San Francisco Chronicle [11/3/2025 12:00 PM, St. John Barned-Smith, 4722K] reports Bay Area immigration advocates called on San Francisco city leaders Monday to strengthen protections for the city's undocumented community. The move comes just weeks after President Donald Trump vowed to dispatch scores of federal immigration agents to San Francisco, only to about-face the following day after a conversation with Mayor Daniel Lurie. San Francisco Rising Executive Director Celi Tamayo-Lee said the threatened surge was "a drill," that Bay Area leaders should take note of in the face of future raids or immigration enforcement. "The crisis we're in presents an opportunity to work with the community. Last week, we realized we have a city of people dedicated to helping our immigrant neighbors in material ways. … This is a good time for an agenda to pose proactive measures to support our immigrant community." The 10-page letter from SF Rising, an alliance of grassroots organizations, provides guidance on reforms or other actions that Tamayo-Lee and others say are critical to protecting San Francisco's undocumented community. It asks to create a community safety plan that clarifies what residents can expect in case of a National Guard deployment, where to access resources, and how the city would protect people's safety and rights. The measures are meant to help the city's immigrant community be more prepared to fight potential deportation raids, strengthen the city's legal defense programs for its immigrants, and provide other resources to support San Francisco's immigrant community. In its letter, SF Rising called on city leaders to improve communication with organizations that provide immigration services and rapid response networks that track sightings of ICE raids or agents.

Chicago Tribune: [Mexico] 'They destroyed us': East Chicago woman with schizophrenia who opted for deportation now missing in Mexico

Chicago Tribune [11/3/2025 5:34 PM, Meredith Colias-Pete and Kate Perez, 4829K] reports when federal immigration agents raided Martha Porcallo Martinez's East Chicago, Indiana home on June 12, they also arrested her 26-year-old daughter who has schizophrenia. They were separated even before she got to Porter County Jail. For a week or two, she had no idea where her daughter was taken. When her lawyer intervened to ask, they found out she was at a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement detention facility in Kentucky. For Porcallo Martinez's family, the one anonymous phone call to a U.S. Homeland Security tip line in November that led to the arrest has had far-reaching consequences. Now, her daughter went missing a week ago in Mexico, her lawyer Adam Tavitas said in court Monday.

Citizenship and Immigration Services

Breitbart: Trump Streamlines Voter Verification, Ensuring Only U.S. Citizens are Voting

Breitbart [11/3/2025 6:35 PM, John Binder, 2416K] reports President Donald Trump's United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is streamlining the government's Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) program in the hopes of eliminating non-citizen voting from elections. On Monday, USCIS Director Joseph Edlow announced upgrades to the SAVE program, which allows states to verify that only American citizens are voting in federal elections. Previously, when verifying voter eligibility, states would have to input all nine digits of a voter registrant's Social Security Number. Now, thanks to the agency's reforms, states will only be required to use the last four digits of a registrant's Social Security Number. "USCIS remains dedicated to eliminating barriers to securing the nation's electoral process," agency spokesman Matthew Tragesser said in a statement: By allowing states to efficiently verify voter eligibility, we are reinforcing the principle that America's elections are reserved exclusively for American citizens. We encourage all federal, state, and local agencies to use the SAVE program. [Emphasis added].

Federalist: A Judge Just Blocked Trump's Voter Citizenship Order. Congress Should Pass The SAVE Act

Federalist [11/3/2025 12:58 PM, Brianna Lyman, 785K] reports that a federal judge on Friday ruled President Donald Trump's executive order requiring documentary proof of U.S. citizenship to register to vote is unconstitutional, making it even more necessary that Republicans in Congress take advantage of Trump's momentum and pass the SAVE Act. Trump signed the executive order in March, directing that within 30 days, "the Election Assistance Commission shall take appropriate action to require, in its national mail voter registration form issued under 52 U.S.C. 20508 … documentary proof of United States citizenship." The order also required state and local officials to record the type of documentation used and the date such documentation was issued. Some examples of documentary proof of citizenship include a United States passport, a REAL ID that indicates citizenship, a military identification card, and a valid federal or state government-issued identification. But District Judge Colleen Kollar-Kotelly ruled the order is unconstitutional, arguing Trump "lacks the authority to direct such changes." "Because our Constitution assigns responsibility for election regulation to the states and to Congress, this Court holds that the President lacks the authority to direct such changes."

Telemundo51: Venezuelans with TPS face uncertainty as immigration benefit ends

Telemundo51 [11/3/2025 4:47 PM, Alejandro Isturiz, 182K] reports Temporary Protected Status (TPS) expires at midnight on November 7 for thousands of Venezuelans in the United States. For many, returning to their country is not an option, and they say the most painful part is the possibility of losing what they have built over the years on American soil. It is estimated that some 250,000 Venezuelans will face deportation or will have to leave the country on their own. To prevent the cancellation of TPS, various Venezuelan organizations in the United States had filed injunctions and legal appeals seeking judicial approval. William Díaz, director of Casa Venezuela, says that "a DED, a deferred deportation, means that no one can be expelled or deported." Thus began a long journey through different courts until, on October 3, the Supreme Court confirmed a May decision, and Venezuelans with TPS will be left without work permits and will technically become undocumented. With

its decision, the Supreme Court left 600,000 Venezuelans residing in the country without legal protection under that immigration benefit. The Trump administration has appealed the ruling, and the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals must now rule on the case.

Customs and Border Protection

The Hill/NewsMax: Federal memo says cartels offering $10K for shooting at Border Patrol agents

The Hill [11/3/2025 3:06 PM, Ali Bradley, 12595K] reports criminal cartels are offering payments of $10,000 to shooters who fire at U.S. Border Patrol agents on the southern border, federal authorities said in an internal communication. It says the Border Patrol's Rio Grande Valley Sector had received information about "a coordinated attack" in which cartels may be offering the $10,000 payments "to individuals who engage in shooting at" agents. The threat is believed to have originated from northern Sonora, Mexico, according to the communication. Sources said Border Patrol stations in Brownsville and Kingsville were the initial targets. NewsMax [11/3/2025 4:31 PM, Nicole Weatherholtz, 4109K] reports that the alert, which was obtained by NewsNation correspondent Ali Bradley, said that "additional reporting suggests that assailants may wear Mexican military uniforms to avoid raising suspicion while carrying long arms or machine guns." The threat is reportedly thought to have originated in northern Sonora, Mexico. Sources told The Hill that the Brownsville and Kingsville Border Patrol stations were the initial targets.

Telemundo: Trump will place Border Patrol chiefs in charge of ICE in US cities

Telemundo [11/3/2025 11:57 PM, Shelby Bremer, 57K] reports that, according to multiple sources, the Trump administration is planning a major restructuring of immigration enforcement, with the goal of putting Border Patrol leaders in charge of ICE operations in cities across the United States. This move comes after senior officials expressed frustration with the pace of deportations, as nationwide arrests average around 1,100 per day, well below the target of 3,000. "The mindset is that CBP does what it's told, and the administration believes ICE is not doing its job well," a Department of Homeland Security official told NBC News. "So CBP will take charge." Both the Border Patrol and ICE in San Diego said they could not comment because the matter is being handled by DHS in Washington, D.C. Previously limited to operations at or near the border, the Border Patrol has seen its powers expanded since Trump took office. It was the Border Patrol that was deployed to step up enforcement in Los Angeles and then in Chicago, where El Centro Sector Chief Greg Bovino was caught on video firing tear gas into a crowd. "This administration has reinstated mobile patrols like we've never seen before," said San Diego activist Benjamin Prado, who leads community patrols in response to police operations with his organization Unión del Barrio. "Everything indicates that this will be a much more aggressive and hostile entity than we have seen so far." DHS Deputy Secretary Tricia McLaughlin said the agency does not plan to announce any personnel changes at this time, but stated in a release: "This is one team, one fight. President Trump has a brilliant and tenacious team, led by Secretary Noem, to fulfill the American people's mandate to remove illegal immigrants with criminal records from the country." On the program 60 Minutes, President Donald Trump himself said he believed law enforcement had not gone far enough. "I think they haven't gone far enough because we've been held back by the judges, the liberal judges that Biden and Obama appointed," Trump said. When asked if he agreed with those tactics, Trump replied, "Yes, because you have to get people out." "It's very

concerning," Prado said. "All of this indicates that we will see many more citizens and migrant workers being assaulted and attacked." [Editorial note: consult video at source link]

Washington Examiner: Border Patrol in rare position to prepare for future amid illegal immigration recession

Washington Examiner [11/3/2025 8:00 AM, Anna Giaritelli, 1394K] reports the Border Patrol is in a rare position to get its back-of-house in tip-top shape while illegal immigration at the southern border is at a historic low. Current and former senior Border Patrol agents, as well as a U.S. congressman who represents the largest district on the U.S.-Mexico border, shared their top recommendations for how the federal law enforcement organization should be preparing during this lull for when President Donald Trump leaves office in 2029. Arrests of illegal border crossers have come crashing down from as much as 250,000 per month during former President Joe Biden's tenure to less than 10,000 per month under President Donald Trump. The drop in illegal border crossers means agents are not busy inside processing facilities, interviewing migrants, transporting them, and the gamut of tasks associated with temporary detention. It has freed up Border Patrol to be able to assist ICE by deploying its own agents across the country to assist their partners at the Department of Homeland Security, tracking down illegal immigrants who have criminal histories or who a judge has ordered be deported. Last week, ICE and Border Patrol officials disclosed to the Washington Examiner that tensions are running high between agencies as border agents have moved in to help ICE, and senior border officials are being installed at ICE's top ranks. Both feel the other is to blame for the millions of illegal immigrants who were released into the United States during the Biden administration and have struggled recently to work together and emerge as one united front. Despite its work with ICE, Border Patrol still has plenty of time to focus on drug smuggling and other threats, as well as take a step back and consider what needs to be addressed internally to be more effective in the future.

Transportation Security Administration

Reuters: US travel group warns Congress of Thanksgiving chaos amid government shutdown

Reuters [11/3/2025 7:19 PM, Anshuman Tripathy, 36480K] reports a travel association has urged the U.S. Congress in a letter on Monday to reopen the federal government ahead of the Thanksgiving travel rush, as the shutdown stretches into its 34th day. The prolonged shutdown has led to a spike in airline delays, affecting airports and 3.2 million passengers due to a high number of absences in air traffic controllers, with many of them taking up second jobs to cope. The shutdown is estimated to cost the U.S. economy between $7 billion and $14 billion, according to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office. "Air travel's number one priority is safety and while safety will be maintained, travelers will pay a heavy and completely unnecessary price in terms of delays, cancellations and lost confidence in the air travel experience," said U.S. Travel Association President and CEO Geoff Freeman. In a letter that was signed by 500 organizations, including Hilton (HLT.N) and MGM Resorts (MGM.N), Freeman urged the Congress that the fastest way to restore confidence and restart travel was to reopen the government by passing a clean continuing resolution. "The damage from this shutdown is growing by the hour with 60% of Americans reconsidering their travel plans". The shutdown has forced 13,000 air traffic controllers and 50,000 Transportation Security Administration officers to work without pay and snarled tens of thousands of flights.

San Diego Union Tribune: [CA] After widespread delays, operations back to normal at San Diego International Airport

San Diego Union Tribune [11/3/2025 6:30 PM, Alex Riggins, 1538K] reports operations were back to normal Monday at San Diego International Airport, a day after tower staffing issues linked to the federal government shutdown caused widespread delays, airport officials said. The Federal Aviation Administration issued a ground delay Sunday afternoon, and an FAA website indicated the delays were caused by staffing issues in the control tower. By Sunday night, the flight-tracking website FlightAware reported that all inbound and departing flights out of the downtown San Diego airport were delayed by about an hour. An airport spokesperson said there was no lingering impact Monday from the delays. In a statement nearly identical to one issued Sunday, the spokesperson advised passengers traveling out of San Diego International to check their flight status before leaving for the airport, and to arrive two hours early for flights. Los Angeles International Airport and other large airports around the country also experienced delays due to staffing shortages Sunday. While most appeared to be back to normal operations Monday, the FAA reported that three airports in Texas — Dallas Love Field, Dallas/Fort Worth International and Austin-Bergstrom International — were all experiencing widespread delays Monday due to staffing issues.

Federal Emergency Management Agency

Miami Herald: [FL] Movie cash circulating in the Florida Keys, Monroe County Sheriff's office warns

Miami Herald [11/3/2025 5:39 PM, David Goodhue] reports the $100 bills look real at first glance, but they are marked as fake and say they are only meant for use in making motion pictures, according to sheriff's office spokesman Adam Lindhard. Most of the counterfeit cash is turning up in the Lower Keys and Key West, Linhardt said. The Key West Police Department recently issued a similar warning about fake $20 bills finding their way to the Southernmost City. Linhardt said the bogus bills are likely left over from a previous film production in the Keys. Authorities are warning people and businesses to double-check all cash they receive. The Sheriff's Office has received reports of fake/counterfeit money that's used in films/movies circulating in Monroe County, notably the Lower Keys and Key West.

Secret Service

FOX News: [IL] Illinois man allegedly threatens Trump execution in profanity-laced videos, faces federal charges

FOX News [11/3/2025 9:17 PM, Greg Wehner, 40621K] reports federal agents say an Illinois man allegedly called for President Donald Trump's execution in a string of profanity-laced Instagram videos, prompting a Secret Service investigation that led to a federal charge of making interstate threats to kill public officials. In a criminal complaint filed Oct. 31 in the Northern District of Illinois and unsealed Monday morning, Trent Schneider, 57, of Winthrop Harbor, Illinois, was charged with allegedly making a true threat to injure another person in interstate commerce. According to the allegations, Schneider posted violent videos and memes on social media calling for Trump's execution as his home neared foreclosure. In one video posted Oct. 16, he allegedly looked directly into the camera and railed against judges, doctors, lawyers and police, saying, "People like me have suffered real f---ing crimes from f---ing judges, doctors, lawyers, police. They all should be killed. All of them should be executed for what they've done." "They need to be killed. They need to

be executed, ok? They are frauds, ok? I think it's time. I've waited long enough," he allegedly continued. "I'm going to get some guns. I know where I can get a lot of f---ing guns and I am going to take care of business myself. I'm tired of all you f---ing frauds. People need to f---ing die and people are going to die. F--- all of you, especially you, Trump. You should be executed." Prosecutors allege Schneider reposted the same video nearly 20 times over several days, often tagging Trump Tower Chicago. Each post carried the same caption: "THIS IS NOT A THREAT!!! … AFTER LOSING EVERYTHING and My House Auction date is 11.04.2025 @realDonaldTrump SHOULD BE EXECUTED!!!". A viewer in Florida allegedly saw one of the videos and reported it to authorities, according to court documents. That tip led the U.S. Secret Service to begin investigating Schneider and identify his Instagram account, which agents say he used to post threats viewable nationwide. Agents went to Schneider's home in Winthrop Harbor on Oct. 22 to question him, according to the affidavit. When they arrived, they allegedly saw cameras set up on tripods in the driveway. Schneider came outside, yelled at the officers to get off his property and later posted a video of them walking away – with the same caption calling for Trump's execution. Law enforcement had previously encountered Schneider, according to the complaint. In 2022, agents interviewed him over violent social media posts targeting public officials, and later that year he was arrested after allegedly threatening to "shoot up" a T-Mobile store. A court found him unfit to stand trial in 2023, according to the complaint.

Reported similarly:
Chicago Tribune [11/3/2025 5:43 PM, Jason Meisner, 4829K]
Telemundo52 [11/3/2025 5:57 PM, James Neveau, 76K]

CBS Chicago: [IL] Man arrested, home searched by Secret Service and SWAT in Winthrop Harbor
CBS Chicago [11/3/2025 5:06 PM, Staff, 39474K] Video: HERE reports a Winthrop Harbor man under investigation by the U.S. Secret Service was arrested Monday morning at his home in Lake County, Illinois.

GMA3: [IL] Secret Service Investigating at Lake County, IL Home
(B) GMA3 [11/3/2025 1:26 PM, Staff] reports Secret Service is investigating a home in Winthrop Harbor in Lake County, Illinois. Sources say a man is under investigation for allegedly making threats against President Trump and other online. The Secret Service will only say that they are working with local law enforcement on a protective intelligence investigation.

Coast Guard

NBC News Daily: [FL] Crews Battle Boat Fire
(B) NBC News Daily [11/3/2025 3:23 PM, Staff] reports that according to Broward Sheriff's officials, a fire erupted on a 35-foot vessel in the waters near Dania Beach and Hollywood. Two people were onboard when the fire started. The boat appears to be completely destroyed. The two passengers were taken aboard at US Coast Guard vessel. There were no injuries to report.

CBS Miami: [FL] Good Samaritan, U.S. Coast Guard help rescue 2 men after boat catches fire near Hollywood Beach

CBS Miami [11/3/2025 6:12 PM, Staff, 39474K] Video: HERE reports CBS News Chopper 4 captured the moment crews put out the blaze as the boat sank. Investigators are working to determine the cause of the fire.

CISA/Cybersecurity

Bloomberg: US Elections Face Security Test as DHS Cuts Local Support
Bloomberg [11/3/2025 6:21 PM, Patrick Howell O'Neill, 1538K] reports that, as voters across the U.S. from New York City to New Jersey and Virginia to California prepare to cast ballots Tuesday, election officials are operating with sharply reduced support from a federal government agency that had previously helped states and localities counter bomb threats and cyberattacks. The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency has abandoned an Election Day situation room it had operated for years to share vital intelligence on physical and cyber threats with state and local authorities, said Paul Lux, chair of the Elections Infrastructure Information Sharing and Analysis Center, a national coalition of election officials. CISA's decision to end the information-sharing arrangement follows the dismantling of the agency's election security team earlier this year. Remaining election personnel with CISA, a unit of the Department of Homeland Security, have since been prohibited from working with or contacting state election officials, according to a person familiar with the matter. The cuts have sent state and local officials responsible for running elections searching for ways to shore up potential gaps in cybersecurity, threat monitoring and physical protection of polling places. Changes at Homeland Security are sinking in as the nation confronts a bitterly divided political climate marked by violent outbursts including the assassination of conservative commentator Charlie Kirk. Americans will head to the polls on Tuesday to decide the winners of gubernatorial, mayoral and legislative races, as well as judicial seats and ballot initiatives. Election Day marks the first real test of the political landscape since Donald Trump's return to the White House, offering an early glimpse of how his administration will oversee elections whose integrity he and his allies have repeatedly challenged. The New York City mayoral race, in particular, has drawn national attention as a proxy battle over urban governance, progressive politics and the future of the Democratic party. Homeland Security officials continue to communicate and provide guidance to state and local personnel on other matters, according to an agency spokesperson. "Under the leadership of President Trump and Secretary Noem, CISA has refocused on its core mission and leads the nation's effort to secure critical infrastructure, and that includes election infrastructure from cyber and physical threats," said DHS spokesperson Scott McConnell. "Every day, DHS and CISA are providing our partners the most capable and timely threat intelligence, expertise and resources they need to defend against risks." DHS officials forcibly reassigned or put on leave members of CISA's election security and resilience team in the months after Trump returned to power in January, according to people familiar with the matter. The CISA team was charged with coordinating election security efforts among the more than 10,000 election jurisdictions throughout the U.S. The federal government has historically taken a lead in uniting, informing, and enabling state and local election officials to secure elections. In February, CISA froze all election security activities and the department initiated a review of CISA's role in helping state and local officials, Politico reported. Nine months later, the result has not been made public.

Bloomberg: Ex-Cybersecurity Staffers Charged With Moonlighting as Hackers
Bloomberg [11/3/2025 4:16 PM, Jake Bleiberg, 18207K] reports three employees at cybersecurity companies spent years moonlighting as criminal hackers, launching their own

ransomware attacks in a plot to extort millions of dollars from victims around the country, US prosecutors alleged in court filings. Ryan Clifford Goldberg, the former director of incident response at Sygnia Consulting Ltd., and Kevin Tyler Martin, who was a ransomware negotiator for DigitalMint, were charged with working together to hack five businesses starting in May 2023. In one instance, they, along with a third person, received a ransom payment of nearly $1.3 million worth of cryptocurrency from a medical device company based in Tampa, Florida, according to prosecutors. The trio worked in a part of the cybersecurity industry that has sprung up to help companies negotiate with hackers to unfreeze their computer networks — sometimes by paying ransom. They are also accused of sharing their illicit profits with the developers of the type of ransomware they allegedly used on their victims. DigitalMint informed some customers about the charges last week, according to a document seen by Bloomberg News. The other person who was allegedly involved in the scheme was also a ransomware negotiator at the same firm as Martin but wasn't charged, according to court records. The person wasn't identified in court records, nor are the companies that the defendants' former employers. Sygnia confirmed Goldberg had worked there. Martin last year gave a talk at a law school, which listed him as an employee of DigitalMint. Goldberg is being held in a federal jail in Florida and his lawyer, federal public defender MaeAnn Renee Dunker, declined to comment. Court records don't indicate whether Goldberg has entered a plea. Martin, who was released on bond, has pleaded not guilty. His lawyer, Tor Ekeland, declined to comment.

Reported similarly:
Reuters [11/3/2025 7:45 PM, Raphael Satter, 36480K]

NPR: Researchers uncover security gap while studying satellite communications
NPR [11/4/2025 4:41 AM, Jenna McLaughlin, 34837K] reports a team of academics studying satellites accidentally intercepted phone calls, texts and other sensitive communications. They were able to intercept the data with just a satellite dish on the roof. [Editorial note: consult audio at source link]

Terrorism Investigations

Reuters/New York Times/CNN/Washington Examiner: [MI] Suspects charged in alleged terror plot cited ISIS and may have tried to replicate Paris terror attack on US soil, FBI says
Reuters [11/3/2025 12:32 PM, Andrew Goudsward, 36480K] reports federal prosecutors have charged two men tied to what they allege was an ISIS-inspired plot based out of Michigan to carry out an attack in the U.S., according to a court document made public on Monday. Mohmed Ali and Majed Mahmoud each purchased firearms, including AR-15-style rifles, in recent months and participated in online conversations indicating they had knowledge of an attack plot, according to an FBI affidavit. Ali and Mahmoud were each charged under a federal law that bars attempting or conspiring to transfer firearms and ammunition that the person believes would be used in a crime of terrorism, in this case providing material support to ISIS. The pair have not yet entered pleas. A lawyer for Ali did not immediately respond to a request for comment and attorney information for Mahmoud was not immediately available. Prosecutors allege that five people, including at least one juvenile, were involved in the plot though only two are so far facing federal charges. The group used encrypted messaging platforms and social media to share ISIS-related messages encouraging attacks, according to court documents. U.S. authorities allege both

men practiced shooting firearms at gun ranges in recent weeks and appeared to set October 31, Halloween, as the date for the attack, according to the FBI affidavit. The document does not identify any specific targets for the alleged plot. The New York Times [11/3/2025 4:54 PM, Karoun Demirjian, 135475K] reports that the affidavit does not specify whether the accused individuals and their accused co-conspirators ever settled on a target for their attack, even as they chose to time it around Halloween — using the word “pumpkin” to refer to the date. But it surmises that Person 1, Mr. Ali and Mr. Mahmoud were “scouting possible L.G.B.T.Q.+-friendly attack locations in Ferndale,” a suburb of Detroit. CNN [11/3/2025 4:00 PM, Alaa Elassar, 18595K] reports that an FBI raid on Halloween morning stunned neighbors in Dearborn, the second-safest city in Michigan and home to the highest concentration of Arab Americans in the US. Mohmed Ali and Majed Mahmoud face charges of "Receiving and transferring, and attempting and conspiring to transfer, firearms and ammunition knowing and having reasonable cause to believe that the firearms and ammunition would be used to commit a Federal crime of terrorism," according to a criminal complaint. "Our newly unsealed complaint reveals a major ISIS-linked terror plot," US Attorney General Pam Bondi posted on X. "According to the complaint, subjects had multiple AR-15 rifles, tactical gear, and a detailed plan to carry out an attack on American soil," she said, thanking officials for averting an attack "before innocent lives were lost.” If convicted, Ali and Mahmoud could face up to 15 years in federal prison and a $250,000 fine, a spokesperson for the US Attorney’s Office for the Eastern District of Michigan said. Ali and an unidentified juvenile were "planning to conduct a terrorist attack in the United States on behalf of the designated foreign terrorist organization ISIS," an FBI agent wrote in the criminal complaint, citing communications on an encrypted app. Further investigation revealed Mahmoud and others were co-conspirators in the plot, the agent said. Ali purchased a shotgun, an AR-15-style rifle and multiple accessories, including "a forced reset trigger that allows a shooter to increase the rate of fire in a semiautomatic weapon," the complaint says. Mahmoud also bought an AR-15-style rifle and more than 1,600 rounds of ammunition that could be used in AR-15 style rifles he and Ali had purchased, the agent said. A suspect mentions doing the ‘same thing as France’ on Halloween. In addition to meeting in person, Ali, Mahmoud, the juvenile and co-conspirators chatted online, sharing "extremist and ISIS-related materials that encourage attacks similar to what they planned," the FBI agent wrote. Ali and the juvenile "discussed when to conduct their attack, which they appeared to set for Halloween," the complaint says. The Washington Examiner [11/3/2025 12:05 PM, David Zimmermann, 1394K] reports that on Friday, FBI Director Kash Patel announced multiple suspects who allegedly planned a "potential terrorist attack" were arrested. "The FBI stopped a potential terrorist attack in Michigan before it could unfold," Patel said in a subsequent post later that day. "Thanks to swift action and coordination with our partners, a violent plot tied to international terrorism was disrupted. This is what defending the homeland looks like — vigilance saves lives." Law enforcement initially detained at least five suspects, two of whom were released after being questioned. The other three remain in custody. The suspects were apprehended in Dearborn, a city with the highest concentration of Arab Americans in the United States, and nearby Inkster. The FBI has revealed few details of the foiled terror attack since Friday, but according to federal authorities, it was expected to take place over the holiday weekend.

Reported similarly:
AP [11/3/2025 5:45 PM, Ed White, 31753K]
NBC News [11/3/2025 12:25 PM, Chloe Atkins and Doha Madani, 34509K]
NewsMax [11/3/2025 11:43 AM, Jim Mishler, 4109K]
Detroit Free Press [11/3/2025 3:38 PM, Tresa Baldas and Darcie Moran, 4030K]

FOX News: [MI] Suspects in foiled Halloween terror plot pictured practicing at Michigan gun range: FBI

FOX News [11/3/2025 2:37 PM, Michael Ruiz, 40621K] Video: HERE reports two Michigan men have been charged in a foiled ISIS-inspired terror attack that allegedly would have involved a massacre in a Detroit suburb on Halloween, according to an FBI affidavit. Mohmed Ali, of Dearborn, Michigan, and Majed Mahmoud are accused of plotting to launch a terror-inspired mass shooting codenamed "pumpkin," according to court documents. They've been charged with receiving, transferring and attempting to receive and transfer firearms knowing and having reasonable cause to believe that they would be used to commit terrorism. Ali practiced shooting at a local gun range multiple times, including with Mahmoud, a juvenile suspect referred to as "Person 1" and under the alias "Athari" — and once with an unnamed "Co-conspirator 4," according to the complaint. The charges come after Amir Makled, a lawyer for Ali, who was arrested Friday, claimed to The Associated Press that there was no plot and that he did not expect charges to be filed. Makled did not respond to a request for comment from Fox News Digital Monday. [Editorial note: consult video at source link]

The Hill: Halloween terror plot Patel described never existed: Lawyer

The Hill [11/3/2025 8:34 AM, Sarah Fortinsky, 12595K] reports a defense attorney in Michigan is pushing back on the FBI's allegations that his client and a group of young men arrested on Friday were planning to carry out a violent attack over the Halloween weekend. FBI Director Kash Patel announced the arrests of multiple individuals on Friday that he said were plotting a "potential terrorist attack." He said more details would be forthcoming. Amir Makled, the lawyer for a Dearborn, Mich., man who was still detained on Saturday, said he hasn't gotten many details about the case, but told The Associated Press that, after reviewing the matter, he doesn't expect any charges to be filed. He said he concluded no terror attack was being planned. "I don't know where this hysteria and this fearmongering came from," Makled said. "If these young men were on forums that they should not have been on or things of that nature, then we'll have to wait and see," Makled added. "But I don't believe that there's anything illegal about any of the activity they were doing."

Detroit Free Press: [MI] Dearborn leaders skeptical of government after alleged terrorism plot

Detroit Free Press [11/3/2025 5:03 PM, Andrea May Sahouri, 4030K] reports ever since FBI Director Kash Patel posted on Oct. 31 about the alleged thwarted Halloween terrorism plot, it's been a "here-we-go-again" moment for many in Dearborn who say they've grown too accustomed to racism and Islamophobia against their largely Arab and Muslim community. The FBI says that two men from Michigan − Mohmed Ali and Majed Mahmoud − were part of a larger group that shared ISIS-related extremist materials online and in encrypted chats. According to federal investigators: The group talked about and encouraged terrorist attacks and members bought AR-15 rifles along with large amounts of ammunition. They held multiple gun training sessions over a period of about three months. And they also scouted locations in LGBTQI+-friendly Ferndale as possible targets for an attack on Halloween. The FBI's investigation began about a year ago and involved an undercover informant who recorded the group's conversations. Authorities say the men had planned and trained for months to carry out a possible attack in Michigan over Halloween weekend.

Detroit Free Press: [MI] Ferndale police chief thanks FBI; terror attack could have 'come to our doorstep'

Detroit Free Press [11/3/2025 4:11 PM, Dave Boucher, 4030K] reports Ferndale's top law enforcement officer said the city may have bourne the brunt of brutal violence but for the swift actions of federal agents to thwart what prosecutors call a terrorism plot. The comments come hours after federal prosecutors revealed charges against two people accused of plotting a terrorism attack Halloween weekend in Ferndale. As of Monday, Nov. 3, prosecutors charged Mohmed Ali and Majed Mahmoud, both 20, with receiving and transferring, and attempting and conspiring to transfer, firearms and ammunition with the intent to commit terrorism. The two men are accused of scouting "possible LGBTQ+-friendly attack locations in Ferndale," according to the 73-page criminal complaint. Prosecutors say a group of men conspired to commit an atrocity in the name of the terrorist group ISIS, collecting AR-15-style firearms and more than 1,600 rounds of ammunition while scouting possible locations for an attack. Both men charged in this case are scheduled to appear in federal court again next week.

FOX News: [NV] Questions grow about soldier's Tesla Cybertruck attack at Trump Las Vegas hotel

FOX News [11/3/2025 9:46 PM, Emma Bussey, 40621K] reports the mystery surrounding the motive for the Tesla Cybertruck attack outside the Trump International Hotel in Las Vegas on New Year's Day only deepened after the final investigative report from local police provided few new details. The 78-page "after-action" report released Monday by the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department (LVMPD), confirmed that Matthew Livelsberger, who died by suicide before the explosion, left a manifesto on his phone, which investigators recovered during forensic analysis. The Department of War declared the manifesto classified, and the investigation was turned over to the federal government, the report said. The report, seen by Fox News Digital, confirms that the Green Beret was on leave from his Special Forces unit and had rented a Tesla Cybertruck through the car-sharing platform Turo. He filled it with fireworks, gas cans and camping fuel, and drove it to the Trump International Hotel just after 8:40 a.m. on Jan. 1, 2025. There, the vehicle detonated, causing damage and injuring six people. LVMPD and federal investigators described the incident as a premeditated vehicle-borne improvised explosive device (VBIED) attack "with the potential to cause mass casualties and extensive structural damage" but did not call it terrorism. Investigators also reconstructed Livelsberger's final days using phone data, bank records and surveillance footage. Surveillance video showed Livelsberger pouring accelerant into the truck bed moments before detonation, an act LVMPD said reflected planning rather than impulse. Counterterrorism investigators concluded he sought to make "a very big, very public statement," suggesting the Las Vegas location was chosen for visibility and impact. He also left behind a note claiming the attack was not terror-related, but a way for the soldier to "cleanse" his mind but criticized the "feckless leadership" of a U.S. that is "near collapse," officials said. "This was not a terrorist attack, it was a wake-up call," Livelsberger wrote in the notes app on his phone. "Americans only pay attention to spectacles and violence. What better way to get my point across than a stunt with fireworks and explosives," Livelsberger wrote. One of his messages was said to have gone to Shawn Ryan, an ex-Navy SEAL and CIA contractor. Fox News Digital has reached out to Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department for comment.

National Security News

Daily Caller: 'Arctic Frost' Prosecutor Could Use Cushy Big Tech Job To Target Conservatives, Watchdog Warns

Daily Caller [11/3/2025 9:37 AM, Jason Hopkins, 835K] reports a conservative watchdog group is urging the Trump administration to take a closer look at its contracts with Microsoft as the Biden-era "Arctic Frost" probe continues to unravel. The Center to Advance Security in America (CASA) is demanding the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) review its contracts with Microsoft after the tech giant hired former Biden Justice Department official Lisa Monaco, according to a letter obtained by the Daily Caller News Foundation. The letter warns that Monaco's senior position poses a national security risk, as she is privy to sensitive information between Microsoft and the federal government. "The risk that Monaco could again use access to information contained in Department contracts to turn against her political opponents, or even those Microsoft users within the government with whom she disagrees, is great given her past outrageous behavior," CASA Director James Fitzpatrick stated to DHS. "Considering the various national security implications of Microsoft's government contracts being overseen by Monaco, we ask you to immediately initiate a review of Microsoft's contracts with the Department for potential termination." Appointed earlier this year as Microsoft's president of global affairs, Monaco previously served as deputy attorney general under President Joe Biden. As a top prosecutor within the Biden administration, Monaco played an integral role in "Arctic Frost," a wide-ranging investigation that Republicans contend used an election interference case as a pretense to essentially target the entire Republican Party.

The Hill: Trump tariffs face Supreme Court

The Hill [11/3/2025 6:48 PM, Sylvan Lane, 12595K] reports the main question looming over the case is whether Trump can use emergency powers to justify his worldwide levies as he seeks to transform global trade — an untested expansion of executive authority. Trump has justified the bulk of his sweeping tariff agenda by pointing to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA), which gives the president power to "regulate" imports in response to certain emergencies. Small businesses and Democratic-led states will make the case Wednesday that Congress never envisioned "regulate" to include tariffs when it passed IEEPA in 1977. No president before Trump invoked the law to impose tariffs, so the Supreme Court has never decided that question. The justices' answer may depend on how they view a 50-year-old appellate decision dating back to former President Nixon. An appeals court's 50-year-old decision could come into play regarding Trump's own statements about his banner policy.

ABC News: [Nigeria] US designates Nigeria 'Country of Particular Concern' after Trump threat over alleged attacks on Christians

ABC News [11/3/2025 6:06 PM, Mariam Khan, 30493K] reports the State Department on Monday officially updated its designation for Nigeria as a "Country of Particular Concern" for its alleged severe violations of religious freedom and persecution of Christians. The CPC label is given by the U.S. government to nations "engaged in severe violations of religious freedom" under the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998. The designation is largely symbolic, but U.S. law states that governments must "take targeted responses to violations of religious freedom." The move comes after President Donald Trump accused the Nigerian government of not doing enough to protect Christians from violence. He also instructed the Pentagon on Saturday to prepare for possible action in Nigeria and threatened to cut U.S. aid. The secretary of state is responsible for deeming a country a "Country of Particular Concern" (CPC). Other countries designated as CPCs include Burma, the People's Republic of China, Cuba, Eritrea, Iran, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan. Trump previously

designated Nigeria as a CPC in December 2020 during his first term in office, but that designation was reversed the following year under the Biden administration. Biden Secretary of State Antony Blinken removed Nigeria from the CPC designation list in November 2021 after assessing it did not meet the criteria a formal designation of concern regarding "systematic, ongoing, and egregious" violations of religious freedom. The U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom blasted the move at the time and said the decision to remove Nigeria from the special designation was "unexplainable" and appalling. According to the State Department, the International Religious Freedom Act requires an annual review of the status of religious freedom worldwide and the designation of countries that have "engaged in or tolerated particularly severe violations of religious freedom" during the reporting period. The IRFA defines particularly severe violations of religious freedom as "systematic, ongoing, egregious violations of religious freedom, including violations such as torture, degrading treatment or punishment, prolonged detention without charges, abduction or clandestine detention, or other flagrant denial of the right to life, liberty, or the security of persons," according to the State Department.

Axios: [Nigeria] Trump threatens U.S. military intervention in Nigeria

Axios [11/3/2025 8:56 AM, Avery Lotz, 12972K] reports President Trump instructed the Pentagon over the weekend to prepare for possible military action in Nigeria, threatening to enter the West African nation "guns-a-blazing" over accusations of violence against Christians. Violence and instability in Nigeria has affected Muslims and Christians alike for more than a decade. It's highly unlikely that the U.S. would be able to solve the problem with a swift strike, as Trump suggested. Trump did not rule out U.S. boots on the ground in Nigeria while traveling aboard Air Force One Sunday. Asked if he could envisage boots on the ground or air strikes, he replied, "Could be." Trump wrote that if the Nigerian government "continues to allow the killing of Christians," the U.S. will cease all aid to the country. He added that the U.S. "may very well go into that now disgraced country, 'guns-a-blazing,' to completely wipe out the Islamic Terrorists who are committing these horrible atrocities." If there is a U.S. attack, he said, it "will be fast, vicious, and sweet, just like the terrorist thugs attack our CHERISHED Christians!" Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth responded to the president's post: "Yes sir," and added that his department was "preparing for action."

Breitbart: [Nigeria] Nigerian President Denies Jihadist Slaughter, Says via Adviser He Will Meet Trump

Breitbart [11/3/2025 8:46 AM, Frances Martel, 2416K] reports Nigerian President Bola Tinubu condemned President Donald Trump's statements acknowledging the ongoing genocide of Christians in his country in remarks on Saturday, claiming they did not reflect "reality," while a top adviser told local media Tinubu planned to meet Trump "in the coming days." "The characterisation of Nigeria as religiously intolerant does not reflect our national reality," Tinubu said in a statement on Saturday, "nor does it take into consideration the consistent and sincere efforts of the government to safeguard freedom of religion and beliefs for all Nigerians." The president claimed his administration "maintained an open and active engagement with Christian and Muslim leaders alike." His statement did not address the top jihadist threats in his country – ethnic Fulani jihadist militias and the terrorist organization Boko Haram – by name. On Sunday, Tinubu special adviser Daniel Bwala announced on social media that the Nigerian president expected to hold meetings with Trump in person in the near future. "Both President Bola Tinubu and President Donald Trump have shared interest in the fight against insurgency and all forms of terrorism against

humanity," Bwala wrote, in a much more conciliatory message towards Trump than Tinubu's initial remarks. "President Trump has assisted Nigeria a lot by authorizing the sale of arms to Nigeria, and President Tinubu has adequately utilized the opportunity in the fight against terrorism, for which we have massive results to show for it," Bwala highlighted, adding that the disagreement over the existence of the ongoing Christian genocide "would be discussed and resolved" in the near future.

CNN: [Nigeria] The violence in Nigeria that Trump cites as a reason for military strikes is not limited to Christians

CNN [11/3/2025 11:45 AM, Nimi Princewill, 606K] reports US President Donald Trump caused alarm across Nigeria over the weekend when he said he was contemplating military action in Africa's most populous nation in response to what he claimed was a "mass slaughter" of Christians by Islamist insurgents. The reality on the ground, experts and analysts say, is a more complex and nuanced one. Both Christians and Muslims — the two main religious groups in the country of more than 230 million people — have been victims of attacks by radical Islamists, they say. The West African nation has grappled for years with deep-rooted security problems that are driven by various factors, including religiously motivated attacks. Observers say other violent conflicts arise from communal and ethnic tensions, as well as disputes between farmers and herders over limited access to land and water resources. The Nigerian government rejects claims that it is not doing enough to protect Christians from violence, saying it was bewildered by Trump's suggestion of a potential military intervention. "We are shocked that President Trump is mulling an invasion of our country," Nigerian presidential spokesperson Bayo Onanuga told CNN after the US president instructed the Pentagon to prepare for possible military action. Additionally, Trump threatened to stop all US aid to Nigeria if its government fails to take steps to stop the killings of Christians. He warned that the proposed intervention would be "fast and vicious," aimed at eliminating the "Islamic Terrorists" he said were responsible for these atrocities.

FOX News: [Tanzania] Urgent advisory for safari destination warns of 'terrorist violence' and risk of 'unrest'

FOX News [11/3/2025 12:33 PM, Ashley J., 40621K] reports the U.S. State Department has issued an increased travel advisory pertaining to Tanzania, adding an "unrest" risk indicator. The Level 2 advisory was increased to Level 3 on Oct. 31, following the presidential, Parliament and council elections there. "Reconsider travel to Tanzania due to unrest, crime, terrorism and targeting of gay and lesbian individuals," the advisory says. "Some areas [carry] increased risk." The State Department has warned that demonstrations can be unpredictable, and the Tanzanian government has increased security presence around protests. "Members of the gay and lesbian community have been arrested, targeted and harassed. People who identify as gay or lesbian may experience a higher likelihood of being targeted by police," the advisory says. The advisory adds, "People detained under suspicion of same-sex sexual conduct may face invasive physical exams." Violent crime is also listed as common; the advisory mentioned the risk of robberies, assault and sexual assault. The State Department also says there's a risk of "terrorist violence," stating that it is most common in the Mtwara Region.

Los Angeles Times: [Israel] Israel hands over bodies of 45 Palestinians after Hamas returns the remains of 3 soldiers

Los Angeles Times [11/3/2025 12:01 PM, Wafaa Shurafa and Julia Frankel, 14862K] reports Israel handed over the bodies of 45 Palestinians on Monday, the Red Cross said, a

day after militants returned the remains of three hostages. Israeli officials identified the three as soldiers who were killed in the Hamas-led attack on Oct. 7, 2023, that triggered the war in Gaza. The exchange marked another step forward for the tenuous, U.S.-brokered ceasefire intended to end the deadliest and most destructive war ever fought between Israel and Hamas. Since the truce took effect on Oct. 10, Palestinian militants have released the remains of 20 hostages, with eight now remaining in Gaza. For each hostage returned, Israel has been releasing the remains of 15 Palestinians. With Monday's return, the bodies of 270 Palestinians have been handed back since the start of the ceasefire.

New York Post: [Iraq] Iraqi PM: Let us join in America's peaceful prosperity — and help calm the Middle East

New York Post [11/3/2025 6:49 PM, Maria Lencki, 42219K] reports for decades, security concerns shaped relations between Iraq and the United States almost exclusively. Long wars, the fight against terrorism and heavy sacrifices on both sides left deep marks. Yet Iraq today is no longer the country it was 20 years ago. Our armed forces are stronger, our institutions more mature, and — thanks to cooperation with the United States and the international coalition — we are increasingly capable of defending our sovereignty. The gradual reduction of coalition troops is not a retreat but a reflection of Iraq's growing confidence and its willingness to shoulder responsibility. This transition marks the beginning of a new era — one focused on prosperity rather than mere survival. Iraq now seeks a partnership rooted in economic opportunity: We need investment, jobs and access to markets, while the United States brings leading expertise in technology, energy and agriculture, along with unmatched investment capacity. By combining Iraq's natural wealth with America's innovation, both nations stand to benefit. Recent agreements with companies like Chevron and General Electric are not just contracts on paper; they represent real jobs, stronger infrastructure and a more stable Middle East. Iraq is a young nation: 40% of our citizens are under age 15. This demographic reality can be either a powerful engine for growth — or a breeding ground for despair. If we provide education and employment, our youth will drive Iraq forward; if we fail, we risk exposing them to extremism. That is why Iraq does not seek aid but investment — partnerships that generate sustainable opportunity.

CNN: [China] China backs off chip export ban that could have shut down global auto plants

CNN [11/3/2025 10:19 AM, Chris Isidore, 606K] reports China has agreed to allow the export of chips critical to auto production, averting widespread shutdowns that had been predicted by the industry. The chips are provided by Nexperia, a Chinese-owned chipmaker based in the Netherlands. It's a critical supplier for the global auto industry, providing 40% of the automotive chips in the market segment that includes transistors and diodes, according to research firm TechInsights. After the Dutch government took control of Nexperia several weeks ago and removed its Chinese CEO, citing national security concerns, Beijing suspended shipments from China. Auto industry trade groups in the United States and Europe both feared the trade dispute would lead them to run out of the chips they needed. That could drive up car prices, as happened in the years following the pandemic. China's Ministry of Commerce said in a statement that "The Dutch government's inappropriate interference in the company's internal affairs has led to the current chaos in the global supply chain." But after US President Donald Trump and Chinese leader Xi Jinping met last week, Beijing said it would allow customers to apply for exemptions from a recently imposed export control and get the chips they need.

{End of Report} RETURN TO TOP

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Sent: 11/24/2025 10:49:47 AM
To: (b)(7)(E) @techmis.com
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DHS MORNING BRIEFING

Prepared for the Office of Public Affairs (OPA)
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

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Editorial Note: The DHS Daily Briefing is a collection of news articles related to Department's mission. The inclusion of particular stories is not intended to reflect their importance, nor is it intended to endorse the political viewpoints or affiliations included in news coverage.

TO: **Homeland Security Secretary & Staff**
DATE: **Monday, November 24, 2025 6:00 AM ET**

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CNN: In New Orleans, immigrants are staying home and hiding out as city braces for Border Patrol operation

NPR: New Orleans prepares for possible federal immigration crackdown

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CBS News: Rep. Buddy Carter calls for more federal agents in metro Atlanta, citing immigration concerns

Breitbart: Abbott Orders Deployed Texas National Guard Troops Home from Illinois Ahead of Thanksgiving

NewsMax: Tabor, Cleveland to Newsmax: Charlotte Crackdown Exposes Criminal Threats

USA Today: Trump revives calls for Chicago crackdown after deadly shooting

Washington Times: Trump says Chicago residents begging for crime help after violent weekend

FOX News: Heavily redacted voting records for school superintendent nabbed by ICE spark outrage

Breitbart: 'Sedition Is a Major Crime': Trump Hammers Democrats Who Told Military to Defy 'Illegal Orders'

Breitbart: Rand Paul: Trump Calling Dems Traitors Deserving of Death 'Reckless, Inappropriate, Irresponsible'

NewsMax: Sen. Paul: Trump 'Pretending as if We Are at War' With Venezuela

FOX News: Top military leaders head to Puerto Rico to thank troops supporting Caribbean missions

Breitbart: DHS Targets Identity Theft Migrants

New York Times: Two Men. One Identity. They Both Paid the Price.

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Washington Examiner: Trump's painful but necessary mass deportations

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FOX News Sunday Morning Futures with Maria Bartiromo: Sen. Barrasso calls out Dems' 'politics of pain' after video to troops

CBS' Face The Nation: Jason Crow Says President Trump Rhetoric Is Dangerous

CBS' Face The Nation: Mark Kelly Says He Didn't Think Trump Would Call For The Execution Of Members Of Congress

NBC's Meet the Press. Amy Klobuchar: "What is dangerous is the president of the United States threatening these members of Congress with death."

ABC's This Week With George Stephanopoulos: Elissa Slotkin Says She Wont Let The Threats Stop Her Voice

ABC's This Week With George Stephanopoulos: Michael McCaul Reaction To The Video For Troops To Defy Illegal Orders

FOX News Sunday: [Ukraine] Democratic senator blasts Trump's plan to end war in Ukraine as 'historically bad deal'

Immigration and Customs Enforcement

Washington Times: ICE holds record 65,000 migrants; arrests, deportations reach record pace

Washington Post: In cities targeted by ICE, empty desks and school disruptions follow

Telemundo Amarillo: Home Depot speaks out after protests over ICE raids outside its stores

Univision: [NY] ICE Operation on Canal Street Leaves Street Vendor Detained and Tensions with NYPD

Post Millennial: [FL] Dozens of anti-ICE agitators arrested after blocking Miami detention facility

Telemundo: [FL] 31 arrests made during protest at Krome detention center

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Law Enforcement Today: [ID] Idaho Hit-and-Run Leaves 8-Year-Old Dead After Illegal Alien Driver Flees Scene

Telemundo: [CA] This migrant has been missing for weeks after being arrested by ICE and suffering a medical crisis when he was to be deported

Breitbart: [CA] California lawmakers question Noem over ICE detention center deaths

Citizenship and Immigration Services

NPR: Nobody wants to come': What if the U.S. can no longer attract immigrant physicians?

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Washington Post: [NC] Border Patrol's Charlotte sting reaches into country clubs, upscale shops

Univision: [NC] Details of arrest of man accused of attacking Border Patrol

AP: [IL] Aftermath of Chicago's intense immigration crackdown leaves lawsuits, investigations and anxiety

CNN: [IL] Woman shot by border patrol five times speaks out

Politico: [Canada] Trump quietly holds off on Canada tariff increase

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FOX News: FAA scrambles to hire 8,900 air traffic controllers by 2028 as shortage reaches crisis levels

USA Today: Thanksgiving weather forecast shows snow, travel delays possible for parts of US

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New York Post: [PA] FBI missed multiple opportunities to stop Thomas Crooks before he tried to assassinate Trump, ex-assistant director fumes

Breitbart: [PA] Report: FBI Concludes Trump's Would-Be Assassin in Butler Acted Alone

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San Francisco Chronicle: [CA] Big Sur search to resume Monday for man swept into ocean where 2 died last weekend

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AP: Big Changes to the Agency Charged With Securing Elections Lead to Midterm Worries

Bloomberg Law: Banks, FBI Assessing Hack of Real Estate Finance Tech Vendor

NewsMax: Major Internet Outages Growing, May Get Worse

Terrorism Investigations

FOX News: Trump, Kirk shootings expose online hate breeding lone-wolf assassins, experts warn

Blaze: Despite terrorist designation, Antifa still runs wild — and conservatives want real action

CNN: [IN] 'Fortunate' Indiana high school reflects on thwarted school attack

National Security News

FOX News: Trump admin slams South Africa for 'weaponized' G20 presidency as summit ignores Christian persecution

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FOX News: [Ukraine] Rubio claims 'tremendous amount of progress' in Ukraine peace talks following Geneva meeting

Bloomberg: [Ukraine] Rubio Sees Ukraine Deadline Easing After 'Productive' Talks

USA Today: [Ukraine] Zelenskyy wants 'guaranteed security' for Ukraine as world leaders gather

NBC News: [Ukraine] Trump says Ukraine has expressed 'zero gratitude' for U.S. help amid peace plan talks

NewsMax: [Israel] Israeli Military Hits Hezbollah Terrorist in Beirut's Southern Suburbs

Top News

New York Post/Breitbart/NewsMax: Trump vows to designate Muslim Brotherhood a terrorist organization

The New York Post [11/23/2025 3:21 PM, Ryan King, 42219K] reports President Trump on Sunday revealed his plans to designate the Muslim Brotherhood as a foreign terrorist organization amid recent revelations about the Islamist group's radicalism and growing influence in the West. "It will be done in the strongest and most powerful terms," Trump told Just the News. "Final documents are being drawn." The move comes on the heels of advocacy from think tanks and lawmakers in Congress. Last week, Republican Texas Gov. Greg Abbott designated both the Muslim Brotherhood and the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) as foreign terrorist organizations in the state. The designation by the federal government seeks to cut off financing and any other means of support to the targeted group, among other things. The Muslim Brotherhood, which was founded in Egypt in 1928, has been cited as having ties to numerous terrorist groups. Hamas, for example, billed itself as "one of the wings of the Muslim Brotherhood in Palestine" in its founding charter. Just the News reported that there had been growing momentum within the Trump administration to designate the Muslim Brotherhood as a foreign terrorist organization, before the president revealed his plan to do. A chilling analysis from the Institute for the Study of Global Antisemitism and Policy last week found that the Muslim Brotherhood is halfway through its plan to "transform Western society from within." "We are now 50 years into the Brotherhood's 100-year plan to entrench themselves into key institutions in the United States and other Western societies to undermine and destroy our democracy," ISGAP's director, Dr. Charles Asher Small, said. "This is not simply a political movement but a transnational ideological project that adapts itself to Western systems while working to undermine them." Breitbart [11/23/2025 3:28 PM, Amy Furr, 2416K] reports that the U.S. Department of State lists Foreign Terrorist Organizations (FTOs) on its website. "Foreign Terrorist Organizations (FTOs) are foreign organizations that are designated by the Secretary of State in accordance with section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA), as amended. FTO designations play a critical role in our fight against terrorism and are an effective means of curtailing support for terrorist activities and pressuring groups to get out of the terrorism business," the agency said. Among those groups are Antifa, Tren de Aragua, ISIS, Boko Haram, and Hamas. The News article said the president has been considering designating the Muslim Brotherhood as an FTO since his first administration. "The Muslim Brotherhood is an Islamist group founded nearly a century ago in Egypt but with chapters, parties, and affiliated movements around the world," the article said. The Muslim Brotherhood has historically been linked to radical Islamist movements, with affiliates fueling terrorism and undermining key U.S. allies, the congresswoman highlighted. More recently, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) confirmed that a British journalist suspected of being a member of the Muslim Brotherhood was in ICE custody and facing deportation, Breitbart News reported in October. NewsMax [11/23/2025 5:31 PM, Brian Freeman, 4109K] reports Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu thanked Trump for his plans to designate the Muslim Brotherhood as a terror group, The Jerusalem Post reported. "I commend President Trump for outlawing the Muslim Brotherhood," he said. "This is an organization that endangers stability in the Middle East and beyond. That is why the State of Israel has outlawed parts of the organization and will continue to do so." Last week, Texas Gov. Greg Abbott designated both the Muslim Brotherhood and the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) as "foreign terrorist organizations and transnational criminal organizations," according to Just The News. Republicans in the House and the Senate, as well as some

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Democrats, have urged the State Department to designate the Muslim Brotherhood as a foreign terrorist organization. Secretary of State Marco Rubio signaled in August that the designation was "in the works," but emphasized that the process is lengthy because the Muslim Brotherhood has numerous branches and affiliates that must be examined individually.

CNN/Bloomberg: Trump administration formally designates Venezuela's Maduro as member of a foreign terrorist organization

CNN [11/24/2025 5:02 AM, Betsy Klein, Natasha Bertrand, Kevin Liptak, and Kylie Atwood, 18595K] reports the Trump administration could have expanded authority to take action in Venezuela starting Monday, as the US designates Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro and his government allies as members of a foreign terrorist organization. The designation of "Cartel de los Soles," a phrase that experts say is more a description of allegedly corrupt government officials than an organized crime group, as a foreign terrorist organization will authorize President Donald Trump to impose fresh sanctions targeting Maduro's assets and infrastructure. It doesn't, however, explicitly authorize the use of lethal force, according to legal experts. Still, administration officials have been making the case that the designation — one of the State Department's most serious counterterrorism tools — will give the US expanded military options for striking inside Venezuela. Cartel de los Soles is used to describe a decentralized network of Venezuelan groups within the armed forces linked to drug trafficking, experts say. The Venezuelan president has always denied any personal involvement in drug trafficking, and his government has repeatedly denied the existence of the alleged cartel, which some experts suggest technically doesn't exist in a conventional sense. The designation, announced November 16, comes as the US military has amassed more than a dozen warships and 15,000 troops into the region as part of what the Pentagon has branded "Operation Southern Spear." The US military has killed dozens of people in boat strikes as part of the anti-drug-trafficking campaign. Trump has been briefed by top officials on a range of options for action inside Venezuela, including strikes on military or government facilities and special operations raids. The option of doing nothing also still exists. There is some public opposition to US involvement in the region. According to a CBS News/YouGov poll released Sunday, 70% of Americans oppose the US taking military action in Venezuela, compared with 30% who favor action. Seventy-six percent of respondents say the Trump administration has not clearly explained the US position on military action. Officially, the Trump administration says it is working to cut down on illegal flows of migrants and drugs — but regime change is a possible side effect of those efforts. Trump is hoping that the pressure is enough to force Maduro to step down without taking direct military action, according to a US official. Bloomberg [11/23/2025 8:18 PM, Oscar Medina, 18207K] reports that the decision was published Sunday evening in a federal registry notice dated Nov. 24. The USS Gerald R. Ford, the world's largest aircraft carrier, arrived in the region in November, sparking fears within the Maduro administration that the US may be preparing to strike targets inside Venezuela. In recent weeks, Washington has already taken direct actions, destroying vessels near Venezuela's coast suspected of drug trafficking. As the standoff intensified, repercussions followed during the weekend, as several airlines canceled all flights to and from Venezuela in response to a US Federal Aviation Administration advisory urging operators to "exercise caution" due to the spiraling crisis. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth said that the FTO designation grants the US government "a whole bunch of new options" to confront narco-terrorist groups. Cartel de los Soles now joins a list of designated foreign terrorist organizations that includes Islamist groups, as well as powerful drug syndicates like Mexican, Ecuadorian, and Colombian cartels, and Venezuela's notorious Tren de Aragua.

AP: US set to label Maduro-tied Cartel de los Soles as a terror organization. It's not a cartel per se

AP [11/24/2025 12:02 AM, Regina Garcia Cano, 28013K] reports President Donald Trump's administration is set to ramp up pressure on Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro on Monday by designating the Cartel de los Soles as a foreign terrorist organization. But the entity that the U.S. government alleges is led by Maduro is not a cartel per se. The designation is the latest measure in the Trump administration's escalating campaign to combat drug trafficking into the U.S. In previewing the step about a week ago, U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio accused Cartel de los Soles, or Cartel of the Suns, of being "responsible for terrorist violence" in the Western Hemisphere. The move planned Monday

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comes as Trump evaluates whether to take military action against Venezuela, which Trump has not ruled out despite bringing up the possibility of talks with Maduro. Land strikes or other actions would be a major expansion of the monthslong operation that has included a massive military buildup in the Caribbean Sea and striking boats accused of trafficking drugs, killing more than 80 people. Venezuelans began using the term Cartel de los Soles in the 1990s to refer to high-ranking military officers who had grown rich from drug-running. As corruption later expanded nationwide, first under the late President Hugo Chávez and then under Maduro, its use loosely expanded to police and government officials as well as activities like illegal mining and fuel trafficking. The “suns” in the name refer to the epaulettes affixed to the uniforms of high-ranking military officers. The umbrella term was elevated to a Maduro-led drug-trafficking organization in 2020, when the U.S. Justice Department in Trump’s first term announced the indictment of Venezuela’s leader and his inner circle on narcoterrorism and other charges. “It is not a group,” said Adam Isaacson, director for defense oversight at the Washington Office on Latin America organization. “It’s not like a group that people would ever identify themselves as members. They don’t have regular meetings. They don’t have a hierarchy.” Up until this year, the label of foreign terrorist organization had been reserved for groups like the Islamic State or al-Qaida that use violence for political ends. The Trump administration applied it in February to eight Latin American criminal organizations involved in drug trafficking, migrant smuggling and other activities. The administration blames such designated groups for operating the boats it is striking but rarely identifies the organizations and has not provided any evidence. It says the attacks , which began off the coast of Venezuela and later expanded to the eastern Pacific Ocean, are meant to stop narcotics from flowing to American cities. But many — including Maduro himself — see the military moves as an effort to end the ruling party’s 26-year hold on power. Since the arrival of U.S. military vessels and troops to the Caribbean months ago, Venezuela’s U.S.-backed political opposition also has reignited its perennial promise of removing Maduro from office, fueling speculation over the purpose of what the Trump administration has called a counterdrug operation.

NewsMax: What Does US ‘Terrorist’ Designation for Venezuela Mean?

NewsMax [11/23/2025 11:26 PM, Staff, 4109K] reports Washington’s designation of an alleged Venezuelan cartel as a foreign terrorist organization (FTO) takes effect on Monday, opening the door to new forms of US pressure on President Nicolas Maduro. The FTO list, which includes Islamist groups, separatists, guerrillas, and more recently, gangs and drug organizations from Mexico and Colombia, is overseen by the State Department. From Monday, the list will include "Cartel de los Soles" ("Cartel of the Suns"), which Washington claims is run by Maduro. The shadowy group is responsible for "terrorist violence throughout our hemisphere," Secretary of State Marco Rubio said. The move is part of the Trump administration’s campaign against drugs and illegal immigration from Latin America. No evidence has been made public to support the accusation of Maduro’s involvement in the group. However, with a major military presence now deployed in the Caribbean, including an aircraft carrier, the FTO designation will give legal cover for more pressure on the Venezuelan authorities. Already, US forces have killed at least 83 people in air strikes on boats accused of ferrying drugs in international waters since September, according to an AFP tally of publicly released figures. Again, no evidence has been made public that drugs were in the boats. Trump earlier this month stated that Maduro’s days are "numbered" and US media outlets claim the Republican leader has authorized covert CIA operations in Venezuela. The State Department’s FTO list definition does not mention military actions, but in an interview Friday Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth suggested that the new classification would bring "a whole bunch of new options.”

New York Times: Trump Moves to End Temporary Protected Status for Somalis

New York Times [11/24/2025 3:20 AM, Nicholas Bogel-Burroughs, 330K] reports President Trump intends to strip hundreds of Somalis living in the United States of the protected status they have had for decades under a program for immigrants from countries in crisis. Mr. Trump specifically targeted “Somalis in Minnesota” in a social media post on Friday, writing that he was terminating their eligibility for the Temporary Protected Status program. More Somalis live in Minnesota than in any other state. Kristi Noem, the homeland security secretary, said in Minneapolis on Sunday that her office would evaluate whether to end protection for Somalis under the program. Doing so would require giving 60 days’ notice.

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Ms. Noem suggested that, if the status was revoked, the change would apply to Somali immigrants across the country, and not just in Minnesota. Temporary Protected Status allows people from countries in turmoil because of a civil war, natural disaster or other crisis to live and work in the United States. Technically, the status is temporary, and meant to last about 18 months unless it is renewed — but it has often been renewed, and for several groups including the Somalis, it had become all but permanent. Protected status was first granted to Somalis in 1991, when the country was torn apart by civil war and its national government collapsed. The designation has been extended many times since, including under the prior Trump administration. The most recent renewal was to last until mid-March. Though there are an estimated 42,500 foreign-born Somalis living in Minnesota, only a small number of them are covered by the Temporary Protected Status program. As of March, there were 705 Somalis in the whole United States who were covered by the status, according to the Congressional Research Service. Counting people from other covered countries as well, Minnesota has about 8,460 people with the protected status. On his social media platform, Truth Social, Mr. Trump wrote on Friday that “Somali gangs are terrorizing the people” of Minnesota, and said that the state was a “hub of fraudulent money laundering activity.” Several Somali immigrants in Minnesota have been convicted in fraud schemes in recent years, including embezzlement of government funds from food-aid programs for hungry children. Gov. Tim Walz, a Democrat, said on social media that Mr. Trump had chosen to “broadly target an entire community." Mr. Walz suggested that the president’s move was an attempt to distract attention from other issues in the administration. About 73 percent of Somali immigrants in the United States are naturalized U.S. citizens, according to the Census Bureau. Mr. Trump has moved to end T.P.S. protection for hundreds of thousands of immigrants from other countries, including Venezuela, Honduras, Afghanistan and, earlier this month, South Sudan.

Telemundo: Kristi Noem says the government will review existing TPS designations

Telemundo [11/24/2025 12:13 AM, Staff, 2218K] reports the Secretary of Homeland Security pointed out that the measure aims to verify that the law has been properly enforced. She also noted that this program was always intended to be temporary and was never a means of obtaining asylum in the United States. [Editorial note: consult video at source link]

FOX News: Kristi Noem unveils $1B TSA modernization plan, awards $10K bonuses to workers who served during shutdown

FOX News [11/23/2025 8:38 PM, Sophia Compton, 40621K] reports Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Kristi Noem on Sunday announced a $1 billion nationwide upgrade to Transportation Security Administration (TSA) equipment and awarded $10,000 bonus payments to select employees. Speaking at Minneapolis–Saint Paul International Airport in Minnesota, Noem praised TSA workers for their dedication during the recent 43-day federal government shutdown, which ended earlier this month. "What we saw during that time period was remarkable," Noem said. "… We saw people who recognized that their purpose … was to serve people, was to go out and continue to show up for work — sometimes taking on extra shifts, taking care of other individuals, but still making sure that we were keeping people safe and keeping our security systems and standards high.” Noem said the $10,000 bonuses were intended to reward employees who went above and beyond during the shutdown. "We have $10,000 bonus payments that we will be paying to each of the individuals behind us — recognizing that they are examples," Noem said. "… We will continue to work to train every single individual under the department to do and to serve, such as they did during this last challenging and difficult time.” The secretary also announced a $1 billion TSA modernization initiative to strengthen airport safety and allow TSA workers to do their jobs "well, accurately, efficiently.” "We will be putting over $1 billion into new scanning equipment, new X-ray equipment, [Advanced Imaging Technology] equipment," she said. "… It’s been over a decade, maybe 15 years, since the department has put this kind of resources into new technologies to keep our transportation system secure, so that will be coming and being deployed over the next many months.” Noem first announced the TSA investment a day earlier during remarks at Harry Reid International Airport in Las Vegas, saying the funds would go toward "new technology and advancements in security systems," according to the Washington Examiner. On Thursday, Secretary of Transportation Sean Duffy and Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Administrator Bryan Bedford announced that

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hundreds of air traffic controllers and technicians who worked during the government shutdown would receive bonus checks. The Department of Transportation (DOT) said in a statement that 776 air traffic controllers and technicians would be awarded $10,000 for their "patriotic work." "These patriotic men and women never missed a beat and kept the flying public safe throughout the shutdown," Duffy said in a statement. "Democrats may not care about their financial well-being, but President Trump does." DHS did not immediately respond to Fox News Digital's request for comment. [Editorial note: consult video at source link]

Reported similarly:
FOX 9 Minneapolis [11/23/2025 6:54 PM, Soyoung Kim, 40621K]

Breitbart: DOJ Staffer in Texas Arrested on Terrorism Charges After Doxxing Federal Agent During Raid

Breitbart [11/23/2025 11:36 AM, Ildefonso Ortiz and Brandon Darby, 2416K] reports a U.S. Department of Justice employee has been hit with state terrorism charges after allegedly doxxing a federal agent during a border raid. This week, investigators with the Cameron County District Attorney's Office arrested Karen Olvera De Leon on charges stemming from a criminal indictment. Olvera De Leon is an employee with the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Texas in Brownsville and is charged with one count of terrorism and one count of tampering with physical evidence. According to information provided to Breitbart Texas by Cameron County District Attorney Luis Saenz, the case began on June 9, when federal agents conducted a raid in Brownsville. During the operation, bystanders began recording and livestreaming. Various social media users began commenting on one of the livestreams when one of the commenters made what authorities considered a death threat against the agent being shown in the video. Moments after, another commenter revealed the identity of the agent in the video. The doxxing triggered a federal investigation, where authorities were able to track down and identify the commenter as Olvera De Leon. According to Saenz, Cameron County investigators arrested Olvera De Leon after determining that she was the one who had doxed the federal agent. Jail records at the Carrizales Rucker Detention Center in Cameron County revealed that a local judge set a total bond for Olvera at $20,000 personal recognizance, meaning that she did not have to post a bond and was released with her signature, but if she fails to appear in future court dates, she would be responsible for paying the bond amount. The doxxing case in South Texas comes at a time when federal agents, particularly those with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and U.S. Border Patrol, have been the target of numerous attacks and threats over immigration enforcement actions.

CNN: In New Orleans, immigrants are staying home and hiding out as city braces for Border Patrol operation

CNN [11/24/2025 4:09 AM, Zoe Sottile, 18595K] reports in New Orleans, people are used to having their resilience tested. There was Hurricane Katrina, the BP oil spill, a major hotel collapse, a vicious early pandemic surge and a terror attack during the 2025 New Year's celebrations. Now immigrants and organizers say they're preparing for what feels like may be another disaster heading for their community: Top Border Patrol official Gregory Bovino and roughly 250 federal agents are expected to launch an immigration enforcement operation in the city starting the first week of December, according to two sources familiar with the planning. Advocates and residents told CNN they're preparing a bit like they would for one of the hurricanes that have ravaged the sinking city. "The immigrant community is feeling absolute panic and terrified," Rachel Taber, a volunteer with Unión Migrante, an immigrant-led advocacy group, said. "People are treating it like a hurricane as much as they can, buying groceries, staying in the house, planning not to be able to go to work." The 307-year-old city, a blue enclave in a Republican-led state, will be the latest target of the Department of Homeland Security's operations, according to those two sources, part of the president's pledge to enact mass deportations of undocumented immigrants. In response to questions from CNN about the operation, DHS sent a statement from Assistant Secretary Tricia McLaughlin: "For the safety and security of law enforcement, we're not going to telegraph potential operations."

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NPR: New Orleans prepares for possible federal immigration crackdown
NPR [11/24/2025 4:48 AM, Steve Inskeep and Michael McEwen, 34837K] reports New Orleans residents are preparing for a possible deployment of U.S. Customs and Border Patrol agents to the region, even though the agency won't say whether or not it is actually coming. [Editorial note: consult audio at source link]

Univision: Appeals court upholds block on expedited removal of immigrants detained far from the border
Univision [11/23/2025 6:19 PM, Staff, 5004K] reports an appeals court has so far upheld a block on the expedited removal of undocumented immigrants detained far from the border without due process. In a 2-1 decision, a panel of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals rejected a request from the Trump administration to lift a lower court's hold on such deportations while its appeal is being reviewed. The panel upheld the main part of the decision issued on August 29 by Judge Jia Cobb of the District Court of Columbia following a lawsuit filed by the organization Make the Road New York. "On January 21, 2025, the Acting Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security extended expedited removal to include all persons located anywhere in the United States who, at the time of their arrest, cannot demonstrate continuous presence in the United States for the preceding two years," the court document reads. "That order to expand (this process) extended the expedited removal scheme to a new and far-reaching geographic area that includes major population centers such as Atlanta, Chicago, Dallas, Los Angeles, New York City, and St. Louis. (...) The order to expand (the process), as well as the guidance issued by the acting secretary two days later, determined that department personnel should apply throughout the United States the same systems and procedures that the department had applied on the coasts and within the first 100 miles of the land border," he adds. The court document adds that the guidance calls for asking detainees if they fear harm from being removed from the United States, but not whether they have been present in the United States for two years or more. The guidance also does not stipulate that they be given the opportunity to contest expedited removal, according to the court document. "It is not likely that the department will be able to show that its systems and procedures are constitutionally adequate to provide detained individuals with the opportunity to demonstrate their ineligibility to be removed on the basis that they have resided continuously in the United States for two years or more," the appeals court stated. In August, Judge Cobb did not question the constitutionality of the law that allows for expedited removal in its application at the border. "I simply believe that, in applying the statute to a large group of people who live in the interior of the country and who have not previously been subject to expedited removal, the government must afford them due process," he wrote. "Prioritizing speed above all else will inevitably lead the government to wrongly expel people through this flawed process," he added.

CBS News: Rep. Buddy Carter calls for more federal agents in metro Atlanta, citing immigration concerns
CBS News [11/23/2025 1:11 PM, Staff, 39474K] Video: HERE Republican U.S. Rep. Buddy Carter is advocating for increased federal law enforcement presence in metro Atlanta, describing the situation as "alarming" and urging the Department of Homeland Security to intervene. Carter told CBS Atlanta on Friday that Atlanta needs additional federal agents because of crime and what he claims is a growing number of undocumented immigrants living in Georgia. "We found out that there are over half a million illegal immigrants in the state of Georgia, the sixth most in any state in the country," Carter said. "That's alarming, and this is something that should be addressed now." Carter's office referenced a 2023 report from the Migration Policy Institute estimating that about 479,000 people without legal status live in Georgia. While Carter's district covers southeast Georgia — not Atlanta — he said the city remains a focal point for his concerns. "Atlanta is the most populous area in our state… and that's where a lot of the illegals are at. So that's where we should focus," he said. Carter also echoed past comments from Gov. Brian Kemp, who has supported efforts under former President Donald Trump's administration to remove what he described as "dangerous criminals" from Georgia communities. "I don't know of any citizen who doesn't want to feel safe and who doesn't deserve to feel safe in their city and in their state," Carter said. "That's exactly what we're trying to do here." The request is already drawing pushback from Atlanta residents and immigrant advocates who worry increased federal presence could lead to immigration raids

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and disrupt families. One resident who spoke with CBS Atlanta said the proposal is causing fear in immigrant communities. "We don't want ICE to come to Atlanta," she said. "We are a community of workers and there is nothing wrong with us."

Breitbart: Abbott Orders Deployed Texas National Guard Troops Home from Illinois Ahead of Thanksgiving

Breitbart [11/23/2025 12:22 PM, Bob Price, 2416K] reports Governor Greg Abbott confirmed Saturday that Texas National Guard troops deployed to Illinois in October to support the federal Operation Midway Blitz immigration enforcement have been ordered to return to the Lone Star State before Thanksgiving. According to information released by Nexstar, Governor Abbott revealed that the troops who were deployed by President Donald Trump have received orders to return to Texas this week. The governor made the announcement during a campaign event in San Marcos on Saturday, KXAN reported. "They've already been ordered to return before Thanksgiving," the governor stated. Last weekend, the Department of War ordered the Texas and California National Guard soldiers to return to their home states, Breitbart Texas reported. The governor's statement put a timeline on their return to the Lone Star State. In Chicago, 200 Texas National Guard soldiers were deployed to the Chicago area in October in response to violent protests and actions against Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents and facilities. Texas Governor Greg Abbott authorized the federal government to deploy the National Guard, which has been patrolling the nation's southern border during the Biden-era border crisis, Breitbart Texas' Randy Clark reported. The Guardsmen were deployed under the president's Title 10 authority which was challenged by U.S. District Court Judge April Perry, CNN reported. The U.S. Supreme Court asked for an additional briefing on the case. Department of War officials reportedly said the soldiers in both deployments did not engage in "forward-facing" operations and instead, remained behind the scenes.

NewsMax: Tabor, Cleveland to Newsmax: Charlotte Crackdown Exposes Criminal Threats

NewsMax [11/23/2025 10:11 AM, Staff, 4109K] reports Operation Charlotte's Web, a sweeping enforcement initiative in North Carolina's largest city, highlights a rapidly growing threat that federal agents confront daily, whether on city streets or at the U.S.-Mexico border, former DEA country attaché Wesley Tabor and retired Border Patrol agent and former Terrell County sheriff Thaddeus Cleveland told Newsmax on Sunday. "These types of operations are something we've had and conducted for many decades, both under Republican and Democrat administrations," Cleveland said on Newsmax's "Wake Up America Weekend," adding that criminal suspects increasingly resort to extreme measures. "When we're trying to apprehend those that are either smuggling illegal aliens or when illegal aliens lead us in those high-speed pursuits, they'll do whatever it takes, putting the U.S. citizens and public in danger," Cleveland said. Operation Charlotte's Web has led to more than 350 arrests of alleged criminal illegal immigrants, drawing urgent warnings from former law enforcement officials about escalating threats to officers and the public. Cleveland said the most troubling development is what he views as political rhetoric encouraging hostility toward agents. "The most concerning thing we still see is the rhetoric coming from the left that emboldens these criminals as well as inflames the issue," he said. Cleveland emphasized that while large-scale enforcement actions are necessary, agents are repeatedly placed in harm's way as criminal networks grow more brazen. Tabor said Charlotte's Web demonstrates how deeply criminal activity tied to illegal immigration has taken root nationwide.

USA Today: Trump revives calls for Chicago crackdown after deadly shooting

USA Today [11/23/2025 5:25 PM, Karissa Waddick, 67103K] reports President Donald Trump revived calls to ramp up the federal government's military crackdown in Chicago after a 14-year-old was killed and eight other teenagers were wounded during weekend shootings in the city's bustling downtown corridor. In a Nov. 22 Truth Social post, Trump described "massive crime and rioting" in downtown Chicago and argued Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker and Mayor Brandon Johnson were "refusing Federal Government help for a situation that could be quickly remedied." "The people are chanting, BRING IN TRUMP!!!" he said. Gunfire erupted Nov. 21 around 10 p.m. local time just two blocks from Millennium Park, where the popular "Cloud Gate" sculpture sits. Hours earlier, thousands had gathered in the park to watch fireworks and listen to live music during the city's Christmas tree lighting ceremony. Johnson said the shots

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appeared to ring out during a "teen takeover" that brought large crowds of young people into the city. Officers nearby saw a "large group on the sidewalk" that began to scatter after the shots were fired, the Chicago Police Department said in an email to USA TODAY. They are still investigating the cause. When they arrived to the scene, authorities found seven teenagers, aged 13 to 17, wounded. Less than an hour later, officers found two other teenagers with gunshot wounds blocks away. One of them, 14-year-old Armani Floyd, died of his injuries, according to the Cook County Medical Examiner's Office. "Incidents like last night set us back as a city, and it evokes fear," Johnson said of the violence during a Nov. 22 news conference. He described the shooting as "emotional whiplash" from the cheerful mood downtown during the tree lighting. "Our young people have to understand that they should not attend these unauthorized events that have been advertised on social media," Johnson said of the teen takeover. The event was promoted on social media a week before the deadly incident, and police had been monitoring the conversation, Johnson told reporters. He said the city placed 700 extra police officers and violence intervention specialists in the streets around the expected gathering place, but admitted the precautions "did not do enough." "I'm the first person to recognize that we have more work to do in this city to provide safe spaces for our young people," Johnson said. "When we have a setback like this, it just reminds us of the long road we have to build the city we all want to live in."

Washington Times: Trump says Chicago residents begging for crime help after violent weekend

Washington Times [11/23/2025 8:29 PM, Matt Delaney, 852K] reports President Trump says Chicagoans are clamoring for federal law enforcement assistance with shouts of "Bring in Trump" after two weekend shootings left one teen dead and several others wounded downtown. Mr. Trump reiterated his desire to crack down on crime in Chicago and called out "massive crime and rioting" after seven teenagers were injured Friday in a shooting outside the Chicago Theatre. Less than an hour later, a 14-year-old boy was killed in a separate shooting, police said. "Multiple Police Officers attacked and badly injured. 300 people rioting, 6 victims shot, one critical and one dead," the president posted Saturday on Truth Social. "In the meantime, Governor [J.B.] Pritzker and the Low IQ Mayor of Chicago are refusing federal government help for a situation that could be quickly remedied. The people are chanting, BRING IN TRUMP!!!" Police have not confirmed if any officers were injured in either of the shootings. Mr. Trump appeared to be taking cues from Alderman Brian Hopkins, the 2nd Ward Democrat who posted about 300 juveniles rioting downtown and officers being assaulted with mace and stun guns. Mr. Hopkins said one officer had to be hospitalized. Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson said 18 people were arrested and five weapons recovered amid the violence. However, the Democratic mayor said none of the suspects was thought to be the triggermen in the two shootings. "It is, quite frankly, frustrating and quite upsetting when this type of violence takes place because it does engender and evoke fear," Mr. Johnson said. "So we will have a strong police presence. We'll have stronger control over how traffic flows."

FOX News: Heavily redacted voting records for school superintendent nabbed by ICE spark outrage

FOX News [11/23/2025 11:42 AM, Emma Colton Fox, 40621K] Video: HERE reports a legal fight is brewing over a Maryland county board of elections' heavy redactions to the voter registration records of an illegal immigrant who served as superintendent of Iowa's largest school system until he was arrested by federal authorities this year, Fox News Digital has learned. "This was shocking," Justin Riemer, CEO and president of the conservative legal group Restoring Integrity and Trust in Elections (RITE), told Fox News Digital in a Zoom interview on Friday. "When I saw the news reporting, and they showed screenshots of the registration applications with all this information redacted, I was just shocked." Riemer was reacting to Prince George's County's Board of Elections' recent release of voter registration documents belonging to illegal alien Ian Andre Roberts, which included blacking out Roberts' sex, whether he checked the citizenship box, his date of birth and other information. The election attorney is representing RITE and conservative research group the American Accountability Foundation (AAF) in their efforts to receive the voter registration documents with fewer redactions. Roberts, who is originally from Guyana and first entered the U.S. in 1994, was working as the superintendent of the Des Moines public school district when Immigration and Customs Enforcement arrested him in September. Roberts was not legally permitted to work in the country after an employment authorization card expired in 2020,

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Fox News Digital previously reported. The arrest of an illegal immigrant working in such a high-profile position shocked conservatives and others. Additional details surrounding his lengthy rap sheet surfaced as journalists and other investigators looked into his history. It was soon discovered that he was listed as a registered Democratic voter in Maryland, where he previously lived, and that he had a conviction for reckless driving in 2012, the Department of Homeland Security reported in October. The Maryland State Board of Elections previously said Roberts did not vote in elections.

Breitbart: 'Sedition Is a Major Crime': Trump Hammers Democrats Who Told Military to Defy 'Illegal Orders'

Breitbart [11/23/2025 11:26 AM, Amy Furr, 2416K] reports the group of Democrat lawmakers who told military members to disobey orders should be locked up, President Donald Trump proposed Saturday. Trump made his statements after those lawmakers, including Sen. Elissa Slotkin (D-MI), were featured in a video on Tuesday urging troops to ignore orders in the clip that said "Don't give up the ship," per Fox News. In his post on Truth Social, Trump said, "THE TRAITORS THAT TOLD THE MILITARY TO DISOBEY MY ORDERS SHOULD BE IN JAIL RIGHT NOW, NOT ROAMING THE FAKE NEWS NETWORKS TRYING TO EXPLAIN THAT WHAT THEY SAID WAS OK. IT WASN'T, AND NEVER WILL BE! IT WAS SEDITION AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL, AND SEDITION IS A MAJOR CRIME. THERE CAN BE NO OTHER INTERPRETATION OF WHAT THEY SAID!". In a subsequent post, the president wrote, "MANY GREAT LEGAL SCHOLARS AGREE THAT THE DEMOCRAT TRAITORS THAT TOLD THE MILITARY TO DISOBEY MY ORDERS, AS PRESIDENT, HAVE COMMITTED A CRIME OF SERIOUS PROPORTION!". During an interview after the video of the Democrats was posted online, a senior advisor to Trump, Stephen Miller, said it was insurrection. "It's a general call for rebellion from the CIA and the armed services of the United States, by Democrat lawmakers." Miller added, "We have seen the Democratic Party nurse the flames of violence and insurrection against the federal government for the last ten months. When you see this continuous campaign of violence against ICE officers and Border Patrol agents, when you see Democrat sanctuary politicians and Democrat sanctuary governors side with the rioters, side with the assaulters over federal law enforcement, and that spills even into juries and grand juries. When you see Democrat jurors engage in nullification to let off violent attackers who are engaging in physical violence, physical assault against federal officers, this is a dangerous moment."

Breitbart: Rand Paul: Trump Calling Dems Traitors Deserving of Death 'Reckless, Inappropriate, Irresponsible'

Breitbart [11/23/2025 2:15 PM, Pam Key, 2416K] Video: HERE reports Sunday on CBS's "Face the Nation," Sen. Rand Paul (R-KY) said President Donald Trump calling Democratic lawmakers traders whose comments warrant the death penalty was "reckless, inappropriate, irresponsible."

NewsMax: Sen. Paul: Trump 'Pretending as if We Are at War' With Venezuela

NewsMax [11/23/2025 1:46 PM, Staff, 4109K] reports Sen. Rand Paul on Sunday sharply criticized President Donald Trump's plan to designate a major Venezuelan drug cartel as a foreign terrorist organization (FTO), warning that the move risks bypassing Congress and creating what he called a de facto state of war. Speaking on CBS News' "Face the Nation," the Kentucky Republican said the designation, which takes effect Monday, would allow the administration to claim expanded military authority without the constitutional debate required for launching armed conflict. "They are pretending as if we are at war," Paul said. "When you have war, the rules of engagement are lessened." On Monday, the list will include "Cartel de los Soles" ("Cartel of the Suns"), which Washington claims is run by Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro. The group is responsible for "terrorist violence throughout our hemisphere," Secretary of State Marco Rubio said. The FTO list includes Islamist groups, separatists, and guerrillas, and recently, gangs and drug organizations from Mexico and Colombia were added. It is overseen by the State Department. Paul argued that applying wartime authorities to antidrug operations would be unlawful and dangerous, noting that not all vessels the Coast Guard stops on suspicion of drug trafficking contain narcotics. He added that about one in four boats boarded off U.S. coasts are not carrying drugs. "It actually would be unlawful if the Coast Guard started blowing up boats," he said. "But for some reason, they say we are at war off the coast of Venezuela." The senator, who serves on the Senate Homeland

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Security and Foreign Relations committees, said he and Sen. Tim Kaine, D-Va., pressed the administration to seek an official war declaration if it believes Venezuela constitutes a wartime environment. "The administration refused," he said. "They want it both ways."

FOX News: Top military leaders head to Puerto Rico to thank troops supporting Caribbean missions

FOX News [11/23/2025 10:47 PM, Greg Wehner, 40621K] reports two of the U.S. military's top leaders will visit Puerto Rico on Monday to meet with troops and express gratitude for their work supporting missions across the Caribbean and Latin America. Pentagon officials announced the visit in a memo on Sunday, saying the trip will include meetings with service members stationed in Puerto Rico and sailors operating in the Caribbean. "Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Dan Caine and SEAC David L. Isom are visiting Puerto Rico on November 24, 2025, for the second time to engage with service members and thank them for their outstanding support to regional missions," the media advisory read. "They will also visit and thank Sailors operating at sea for their dedicated, unwavering service in the SOUTHCOM area of responsibility." Caine and Secretary of War Pete Hegseth marked the first visit in September, when they stopped by on behalf of the Trump administration to show support for troops training on the island. The meeting took place at Muñiz Air Base in Carolina, outside San Juan, and drew top brass including Puerto Rico National Guard Adjutant General Carlos José Rivera-Román, Public Safety Secretary Brig. Gen. Arthur Garffer, and other senior military leaders. Hegseth spoke to nearly 300 soldiers at the base, thanking and describing them as "American warriors." The secretary of war also affirmed that those serving in the Armed Forces will be the best equipped and prepared in the world. The latest visit comes amid rising tensions in the Caribbean Sea, as the U.S. military expands its naval footprint near Venezuela, part of President Donald Trump's push to choke off drug flows from Latin America. Earlier this month, Hegseth announced the official launch of Operation Southern Spear, a mission targeting narco-terror networks across Latin America. Hegseth said on X at the time that U.S. Southern Command and Joint Task Force Southern Spear will lead the mission to defend the homeland and dismantle narco-terrorist networks across the Western Hemisphere. "This mission defends our Homeland, removes narco-terrorists from our Hemisphere, and secures our Homeland from the drugs that are killing our people," Hegseth said. [Editorial note: consult video at source link]

Breitbart: DHS Targets Identity Theft Migrants

Breitbart [11/24/2025 2:11 AM, Neil Munro, 2416K] reports the Department of Homeland Security is detaining document-fraud migrants who inflict massive economic and civic damage on ordinary American families. New York Times sketched the identity theft damage done to Dan Kluver, a married father of two in Olivia, Minnesota. The damage was done by a migrant who worked long hours in another state until his arrest by the Department of Homeland Security in March. The Guatemalan migrant used Kluver's ID to get a job. The employer reported the wages to the IRS, which then demanded extra taxes from Kluver's family. The identity theft also dragged Kluver into a wrongful death lawsuit after the migrant killed an American in an auto accident. The author wrote: "Some years the other [fake] Dan Kluver had earned more than his own salary at a local sugar beet factory, which pushed the total income under [the real Kluver's] Social Security number into a higher tax bracket as the debt started to mount. Twice, he'd contacted law enforcement and filed an identity theft report with the federal government, where it landed in a pile along with tens of thousands of similar reports filed each year. He waited for relief while the I.R.S. docked his annual tax returns and garnished a few of his paychecks, costing him thousands. Finally, a few months before their wedding in 2012, Kristy decided to pay off the balance, emptying her savings and sending in a check for $6,000. Their relief lasted until the next tax season, when a new [tax] bill arrived — this one for $22,000 [because of the migrants' income]." In a note attached to the article, author Eli Saslow said: "Daniel and his family actually spent tons of time and an insane amount of energy (and money) trying to untangle this mess. I think there's a misconception that it's easy to solve identity theft. He protested his debts, went to the I.R.S., visited Social Security offices around the state and filed police reports three times. There were a few years (likely when [the migrant] was deported), when his taxes were normal and he thought the problem had been solved, but then it would start all over again. The issue is that the system is overwhelmed with these cases." "Dan Kluver is in debt and has 15 years of hardship

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that he didn't deserve," Saslow added. However, the article approved by New York Times' pro-migration editors does not disclose how much Kluver — and his wife and children — were required to pay the IRS due to the fraud perpetrated by the migrant, his employers, and Congress. Deep in the article, New York Times admitted that the IRS's oversight system "was backlogged with a million suspicious numbers and almost 80,000 reports of Social Security fraud in the last six months alone." The Times soft-pedalled the damage done to Kluver under sympathy for the Guatemalan migrant, Romeo Pérez-Bravo: By the start of 2025, [the Guatemalan] was preparing for another graveyard shift in St. Joseph, Mo., lacing his work boots in the darkness of his drafty rental while his wife and five children slept. He packed their school lunches for the next day, drove to the dog-food factory and gathered with his co-workers to say their nightly prayer. Then he swiped his badge to begin another 12-hour shift as Daniel Kluver, sinking deeper into an identity that wasn't really his own. By the time Trump was elected to his second term, there were five children in Perez-Bravo's house who also depended on the money that came each Friday in Kluver's name. Most were U.S. citizens, ranging in age from 4 to 19, who answered his Spanish with English and hosted birthday parties at Olive Garden.

New York Times: Two Men. One Identity. They Both Paid the Price.
New York Times [11/23/2025 8:18 AM, Eli Saslow and Gabriela Bhaskar, 135475K] reports Dan Kluver saw the police lights flashing in his rearview mirror late last year and eased his car onto the shoulder, thinking there had been some kind of mistake. He had spent four decades in rural Minnesota without ever getting into trouble. He prided himself on a life built around dependability and routine, working at the same factory where his father once did and spending his weekends coaching baseball and teaching Sunday school. He had never fired a gun, or smoked a cigarette, or missed a payment, or been arrested. "License and registration, please," the officer said. Kluver, 42, handed them over and waited while the officer went back to his patrol car. He listened to the church bells that rang every hour and watched sunlight reflect off the grain silos in downtown Olivia, where he knew most of the 2,400 residents, including the officer who was walking back to his car. "It's strange, but it looks like your license has been suspended," the officer said. "You've got another driver's license with some issues down in Missouri." "What?" Kluver said. "I've barely ever been to Missouri. How's that possible?" The officer had no answers, but Kluver feared he might know what was happening. Over the years, there had been signs that something wasn't right — stray letters about wages earned in unfamiliar towns and collection notices for debt that wasn't his. Kluver had tried to untangle the mess several times by hiring tax specialists and driving to government offices across the state only to run into the same bureaucratic dead ends. But now the problem was bigger than unpaid taxes. Someone was impersonating him, moving through the world as Dan Kluver, building a life in his name with a government-issued ID. His case was one version of a problem that's been spreading across the country for years. The government estimates that as many as one million undocumented workers are using fraudulent or stolen Social Security numbers — a survival tactic used to pass background checks and get jobs. The numbers are skimmed from data breaches, sold in black markets online for as little as $150 or handed out in border towns by human smugglers. Many numbers connect back to U.S. citizen children, dead people or Puerto Ricans whose numbers circulate easily across the mainland. But thousands of others belong to people like Kluver, Americans whose names and identities are no longer theirs alone.

Opinion – Editorials

Washington Examiner: Trump's painful but necessary mass deportations
Washington Examiner [11/24/2025 5:00 AM, Staff, 1394K] reports the foreign-born population of the United States has fallen by roughly 2 million since President Donald Trump took office, reversing the more than 7 million increase under President Joe Biden. Recent reporting shows why these deportations cannot come quickly enough, and new polling reveals a striking reality: although many legal immigrants are frustrated by the removals, they also overwhelmingly acknowledge that they are "necessary." The Current Population Survey, administered by the Census Bureau but published by the Labor Department every month, was not designed to track the foreign born population of the United States, but it is the best dataset we have and the most recent report, released this past Thursday shows that the foreign-born

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population aged 16 and older has fallen by 2 million since January of this year. The Center for Immigration Studies estimates that the total foreign-born decrease, including children, is 2.4 million. This would be the first decrease in over 50 years and comes after a record 7 million increase under Biden, most of whom had no legal right to enter. By the end of Biden's term, a record high 52 million immigrants were in the United States, comprising another record high 16% of the total population. And many of these immigrants are perfectly law-abiding people with a valid legal presence. But millions are not. This week, the City Journal uncovered widespread fraud in Minnesota's Somali community, which took advantage of the state's Medicaid Housing Stabilization Services program to enrich not only themselves, but also fund terrorists back in Africa. Created by Gov. Tim Walz, the HSS Program used federal and state taxpayer dollars to provide "housing services," such as "housing consultation" and "moving expenses," to people with disabilities, mental illness, and substance use disorders. This all comes after federal and Minnesota taxpayers were fleeced by the Feeding Our Future program in 2020, where members of the Somali community pocketed hundreds of millions in tax dollars for school lunches that were never provided. Trump's mass deportations may be difficult, but the alternative is a country that tolerates rampant fraud, classrooms overwhelmed by non-English speakers, soaring housing costs, and a foreign-born population growing faster than the nation can absorb. Increasingly, even legal immigrants understand that real sovereignty demands enforcement, not empathy. Restoring order to the immigration system isn't cruelty; it's the necessary first step toward restoring strength and stability.

Top News (Sunday Talk Shows)

FOX News Sunday Morning Futures with Maria Bartiromo: Sen. Barrasso calls out Dems' 'politics of pain' after video to troops
FOX News Sunday Morning Futures with Maria Bartiromo [11/23/2025 10:41 AM, Staff] reports Senate Majority Whip John Barrasso discusses Democrats posting a video urging service members to refuse illegal orders, Republicans pushing back on President Donald Trump's tariff rebates and the potential for another shutdown.

CBS' Face The Nation: Jason Crow Says President Trump Rhetoric Is Dangerous
CBS' Face The Nation [11/23/2025 11:55 AM, Staff, 1292K] reports Colorado Democratic Representative Jason Crow is one of the six lawmakers who released a recoded video earlier last week that urged service members to defy illegal and unlawful orders. This video prompted the President to respond in a way that concerns many. Crows office had concerns over a bomb threat against his office in Aurora Colorado and his family have received death and murder threats. When asked if the threats were credible. Crow said that he's going to take the threats very seriously. "When you have the president of the United States threatening to execute and to hang and to arrest using this rhetoric, people listen to it. We have seen before a pattern of inciteful, dangerous rhetoric being used by the president and then people acting on that. I lived through an experience January 6, a very similar dynamic. He's been doing this for years, saying things, and in total disregard for the outcome and what might happen when he throws this stuff out in the world." Crow stated. President Trump walked back some of his threats, saying he wasn't threatening death but was saying "sedation" was often in the past, punishable by death.

CBS' Face The Nation: Mark Kelly Says He Didn't Think Trump Would Call For The Execution Of Members Of Congress
CBS' Face The Nation [11/23/2025 11:55 AM, Staff, 1292K] reports earlier last week six democrats released a video calling on service members to remember their oath and not follow unlawful orders. Arizona Democratic Senator Mark Kelly was one of them. President Trumps initial reaction was to call for the execution of these individuals but has since walked back, saying he wasn't threatening death but was saying "sedation" was often in the past, punishable by death. "What the president said is very serious. I didn't think he would step over that line, calling for the execution of members of Congress. And his words carry tremendous weight, more so than anybody else in the country, and he should be aware of that. And because of what he says, there is now an – increased threats against us. I'm not going to get into details

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on my personal security. But, as the husband of Congresswoman Gabby Giffords, we – I understand what political violence is. The president should as well. Just like Gabby, somebody tried to assassinate him, and he should understand that his words have – you know, could have serious, serious consequences." Kelly stated. This comes as just weeks ago the President and other Republicans urging people to dial back the violent rhetoric after the tragic shooting of Charlie Kirk.

NBC's Meet the Press. Amy Klobuchar: "What is dangerous is the president of the United States threatening these members of Congress with death."

NBC's Meet the Press [11/23/2025 12:01 PM, Staff] reports the Democratic senators, Congresspeople who recorded that video telling members of the military, the intelligence community that they can refuse orders that violate the law. The president called this "seditious behavior, punishable by death". Speaker Mike Johnson commented, "Everybody knows that was wildly inappropriate. It is very dangerous. You have leading members of Congress telling troops to disobey orders. I think that's unprecedented in American history." Secretary Bessent just said this was a complete mistake, they should retract it. "What is dangerous is not restating what is in the Uniform Code of Military Justice, which says that our troops cannot follow unlawful orders, very clearly. What is dangerous is the president of the United States threatening these members of Congress with death. Literally, saying that they should be executed. As Mark Kelly said, he is someone who has flown a plane, that's had missiles land nearly on that plane. He has taken anti-aircraft fire. He has launched into space, into orbit on behalf of his country. And he never thought that a president of the United States would try to execute him or to tell people. This is not at all a game. My dear friend, Melissa Hortman, the former Speaker of the House, and her husband, were killed in cold blood by someone who was engaging in political violence. That was the shooter. Or my other friends there, took between them, a husband and wife, 17 shots. Or what happened to Charlie Kirk, that assassination. Members of Congress threats have gone from 1,600 to over 14,000 in just a few years. And that is every year. That's what we're dealing with right now." Senator Amy Klobuchar states.

ABC's This Week With George Stephanopoulos: Elissa Slotkin Says She Wont Let The Threats Stop Her Voice

ABC's This Week With George Stephanopoulos [11/23/2025 10:41 AM, Staff, 1824K] reports Senator Elissa Slotkin has been receiving death and bomb threats. President Trump calling Slotkin and her colleagues' traitors and sedition at the highest level. This all started on Thursday. Donald Trump saying, "it's called seditious behavior at the highest level. Each one of these traitors to our country should be arrested and put on trial." Continuing, "this is really bad and dangerous to our country. Seditious behavior from traitors. Lock them up. Seditious behavior, punishable by death." He also reposted, "Hang them, George Washington would." "I think almost immediately, you know, the security situation changed for all of us. Leadership climate is set at the top. So, if the president's saying things like that, you can imagine people on the ground, what they're doing, the calls into our office, et cetera, et cetera, into our teams, the calling of police. You know, I think I've been through dangerous situations before, so it doesn't change, you know, my feeling about speaking my mind. But obviously, the president took issue with one sentence in a video and was calling for our death. I think that's inappropriate, whether you're a Democrat, Republican or an independent." Slotkin states. The White House says President Trump wasn't threatening death but thinks you and the other members are in serious trouble. Slotkin says that there is no secret that the president is trying to weaponize the Justice Department, and has gone after many people already.

ABC's This Week With George Stephanopoulos: Michael McCaul Reaction To The Video For Troops To Defy Illegal Orders

ABC's This Week With George Stephanopoulos [11/23/2025 10:41 AM, Staff, 1824K] reports Representative Michael McCaul says that he doesn't speak for Trump in terms of hanging members of Congress. McCaul says that the orders that the Democratic leaders are calling to not follow are not illegal stated the orders are based on Article Two, self-defense, of the Constitution, to stop a threat. He is saying that in this case the threat of drugs coming into the country and killing Americans. These lawmakers now have 24/7 increased security due to the President calling for their execution. McCaul is asked what he would say to President Trump about the threats that are continuing? "My advice, though

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not on his White House, but I would tone down the rhetoric and tone down the theme here. I would emphasize more what I discussed, and that is, these orders are not illegal. I mean they have been sent down on a mission to stop drugs from coming into the United States." McCaul states.

FOX News Sunday: [Ukraine] Democratic senator blasts Trump's plan to end war in Ukraine as 'historically bad deal'
FOX News Sunday [11/23/2025 10:41 AM, Staff] reports Sen. Mark Warner, D-Va., discusses President Donald Trump's plan to end the Russia-Ukraine war, negotiations over extending health care subsidies and more on 'Fox News Sunday.'

Immigration and Customs Enforcement

Washington Times: ICE holds record 65,000 migrants; arrests, deportations reach record pace
Washington Times [11/23/2025 4:31 PM, Stephen Dinan, 852K] reports ICE is shattering records for immigration enforcement, setting new high-water marks for arrests, deportations and detention. The agency reported holding more than 65,000 migrants as of Nov. 15, a record by far. It had fewer than 60,000 in late September, just before the government shutdown, and fewer than 40,000 in January when President Biden turned over power to President Trump. Fueling the rise is a surge in arrests. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement averaged nearly 1,200 arrests daily since Oct. 1, a record pace. ICE is deporting illegal immigrants at an even higher rate, more than 1,250 daily. If that held for 12 months, it would exceed 450,000 for the entire year, surpassing the record set in 2012. The number is still shy of the 1 million mark the administration has set. "They need to ramp it up," said Rosemary Jenks, policy director at the Immigration Accountability Project. "There's a big population that should be easier to remove, and we need to get to those and remove them. Americans are willing to support mass deportation, but it has to be mass deportation." The numbers were released as part of a periodic update of ICE detention data. Releases were suspended during the government shutdown, so this was the first data for the fiscal year that began Oct. 1. From Oct. 1 to Nov. 15, the date the data was current, ICE reported that its personnel recorded 54,735 book-ins, which serves as a yardstick for overall arrests. Customs and Border Protection reported another 7,066 book-ins. During the Biden administration, those numbers were reversed. CBP book-ins were dramatically higher than those of ICE. The border chaos left ICE scrambling to deal with the migrants picked up by the Border Patrol and unable to focus on its arrests in the interior. The vast majority of ICE activities were pickups of migrants from prisons and jails. Nearly 95% of ICE arrestees in detention in 2024 had either criminal convictions or pending charges. That number has now dipped below 60%, fueling complaints that ICE is not focusing on the "criminal aliens" who Mr. Trump said were his priority. Ms. Jenks said she wasn't bothered by the decreased criminal ratio. "I couldn't care less how many of them have committed extra crimes. We need to deport all of them," she said. Homeland Security Assistant Secretary Tricia McLaughlin said ICE has funding to hold up to 100,000 migrants on any given day under Mr. Trump's One Big Beautiful Bill Act. She said the funding helps deportations. "With innovative partnerships like Alligator Alcatraz, Speedway Slammer, Louisiana Lockup, and Cornhusker Clink, we've significantly expanded detention space. Despite a rapid number of injunctions, DHS is working rapidly to remove these aliens from detention centers to their final destination — home," she said. She also provided numbers that appear to differ from ICE's published data. Ms. McLaughlin said 70% of the illegal immigrants ICE has arrested have had criminal convictions or pending charges and that the administration is on pace for 600,000 deportations this year. That 600,000 figure appears to include CBP border ousters, which are not part of ICE's formal removal numbers.

Washington Post: In cities targeted by ICE, empty desks and school disruptions follow
Washington Post [11/24/2025 5:01 AM, Justine McDaniel and María Luisa Paúl, 32099K] reports the effects of the Trump administration's immigration crackdown in Charlotte tore through schools last week, disrupting learning as more than 20 percent of students stayed home from class. At many schools, children were either missing or rattled. One wore a tag that read "I'm a U.S. citizen"; another carried an American passport to elementary school. Two kindergartners showed up to class with whistles around

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their necks to blow if they saw immigration agents. “You can’t get ready for this type of disruption,” said Amanda Thompson, president of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg teachers union. “All of our students are being affected.” Charlotte became the latest example of how the Trump administration’s sweeping campaign to deport undocumented immigrants — including activity by immigration agents near schools in some places — has traumatized kids, put new burdens on teachers and administrators and dramatically altered the school year in the communities it has touched. The federal government does not release comprehensive data showing where arrests or detentions are taking place, but a Post review of news reports found instances of parents arrested near campuses in at least 10 states so far this year. In other instances, immigration agents’ actions near campuses — which include shooting a man, releasing tear gas and engaging in a car chase — have prompted lockdowns and alarm. And attendance often drops temporarily following Immigration and Customs Enforcement activity, or rumors of it, school officials say. The Department of Homeland Security is not conducting enforcement operations at schools, spokeswoman Tricia McLaughlin said in a statement to The Post. The agency has repeatedly said it is not raiding schools, and no reports have surfaced of such. But in interviews with 22 teachers, administrators and school staff members in affected areas from California to Maine, The Post found that federal officers are operating close enough to school campuses to upset students and families, regardless of whether they are citizens.

Telemundo Amarillo: Home Depot speaks out after protests over ICE raids outside its stores
Telemundo Amarillo [11/23/2025 2:09 PM, Staff, 4K] reports Home Depot said Sunday that it does not receive notifications about immigration operations carried out by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). The store chain told Telemundo News that it does not collaborate in any way with ICE agents. The statements were made after a group of activists stormed a store of the chain in Burbank, California, as part of the ‘We Ain’t Buying It’ campaign. Activists are demanding that companies report actions that harm their customers. [Editorial note: consult video at source link]

Univision: [NY] ICE Operation on Canal Street Leaves Street Vendor Detained and Tensions with NYPD
Univision [11/23/2025 12:18 PM, Staff, 5004K] reports an operation by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents on Canal Street created tensions with the New York Police Department (NYPD) following the capture of a Senegalese national with a history of selling counterfeit goods. According to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), federal agents went to the Canal Street and Broadway area at noon Saturday to detain Abdou Tall, identified as an undocumented immigrant with multiple previous arrests linked to the illegal trade. According to the official version, the man tried to escape for several blocks, fell to the ground and continued to resist before being handcuffed. Federal authorities criticized the NYPD, saying police had detained Tall twice during October for crimes related to trademark forgery, both classified as felonies. ICE maintains that in neither of the two arrests the police handed him over to his custody, despite a request to detain him for immigration reasons. DHS said that after being released, the suspect immediately returned to the streets, where he was arrested again days later for similar behavior. ICE called this situation an example of what it considers a policy of revolving doors in the city and questioned the lack of cooperation with the immigration authorities.

Post Millennial: [FL] Dozens of anti-ICE agitators arrested after blocking Miami detention facility
Post Millennial [11/23/2025 3:30 PM, Hayden Cunningham, 519K] reports dozens of anti-ICE protesters were arrested Saturday after blocking the entrance to an ICE detention facility near the Alligator Alcatraz site in Florida. The demonstration took place outside the Krome Detention Center in Miami-Dade and involved protesters associated with the Sunrise Movement, a left-wing activist group. Protesters blocked the gate to oppose the Trump administration’s immigration policies. They held a banner reading “abolish ICE” and wore shirts that said “ICE kidnapped my neighbor.” “ICE is a criminal organization that is terrifying everyday people on behalf of fascist billionaires. They have no right to kidnap our neighbors, and it’s time for each of us to stand up to their intimidation tactics. Let’s shut it down,” the Sunrise Movement said in a social media post. The organization further stated that 30 young people were arrested. The organization said online that it is demanding all ICE facilities be shut down, that the government “bring our

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neighbors home," and that ICE be abolished entirely. A video posted by the group showed one woman being handcuffed, telling the camera she was being arrested for "peacefully protesting the horrible treatment of human beings by ICE agents," before an officer responded, "It's called obstruction. Obstruction of justice." NBC 6 South Florida reported that Miami-Dade Sheriff's Office deputies responded after protesters blocked the gate and refused repeated requests to move. Officials said the group ignored multiple orders to disperse and was arrested for trespassing. The sheriff's office added that while it supports peaceful expression, protesters cannot jeopardize safety or block access to critical facilities. The protest is the latest in anti-ICE demonstrations occurring nationwide as the Trump administration continues deportation efforts. The administration has primarily focused on arresting criminal illegal immigrants, and DHS has highlighted arrests of illegal immigrants convicted of violent crimes such as murder, rape, drug trafficking, and child sex crimes. "Every day, the brave men and women of ICE put their lives on the line to remove the worst of the worst criminal illegal aliens from American streets. Just yesterday, ICE arrested murderers, pedophiles, rapists, and drug traffickers," said Assistant Secretary Tricia McLaughlin in a statement last week. "Secretary Noem is delivering on the President's mandate from the American people to remove criminal illegal aliens—many let in by the previous administration—from our country."

Telemundo: [FL] 31 arrests made during protest at Krome detention center

Telemundo [11/23/2025 7:54 PM, Staff, 182K] reports authorities reported that 31 people were arrested on Saturday during a protest at the Krome Detention Center in Miami-Dade. According to the county Sheriff's Office (MDSO), officers responded after several people blocked the front door and refused to vacate it after repeated requests. According to an official statement from the Sunrise Movement (organizing the protest): During the demonstration, attendees carried photos of people who have died in ICE detention centers and signs that read "ICE kidnapped my neighbor ." Participants spoke of the cruel and inhumane treatment the agency inflicts on members of the community. " ICE is a criminal organization that terrorizes ordinary people on behalf of fascist billionaires . They have no right to abduct our neighbors, and it's time for every American to stand up to their intimidation tactics," said Carly Shaffer, organizer of the Sunrise Movement . Manu Guerrero of Sunrise Movement Miami stated, " As young people, we refuse to accept a future where our friends and family can disappear without warning. We are taking action because our communities deserve safety and the freedom to live without fear ." Authorities stated that, while they fully support the right to peaceful expression, it is necessary to guarantee security and access to critical facilities. After repeated orders to disperse were ignored, several people were arrested for trespassing, according to officers. No injuries were reported. [Editorial note: consult video at source link]

Law Enforcement Today: [ID] Idaho Hit-and-Run Leaves 8-Year-Old Dead After Illegal Alien Driver Flees Scene

Law Enforcement Today [11/24/2025 1:53 AM, Trevor Bachman, 82K] reports that, in yet another case among the growing number of motor vehicle deaths caused by illegal aliens, federal officials confirmed that 8-year-old Mora Gerety was killed Saturday by an illegal alien who should have been deported nearly a decade ago. The suspect, 33-year-old Elvin Elgardo Ramos-Caballero of Honduras, had been released into the United States by the Obama administration in 2015 and later granted a driver's license by the sanctuary state of Oregon, according to a press release from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). The Department said Ramos-Caballero entered the country illegally in September 2015, failed to appear for his immigration hearing, and was ordered removed by an immigration judge in May 2016. Despite this, Oregon's sanctuary policies allowed him to legally obtain a state-issued license. He remained in the country unlawfully for nearly ten years before the tragedy that ended young Mora's life on November 11 in Boise. Authorities said Ramos-Caballero was driving a pickup truck and attempted a right-hand turn at an intersection when he struck Mora as she was crossing the street. The child was pronounced dead shortly after. Ramos-Caballero allegedly fled the scene but was arrested later that day and charged with hit and run, as reported by Fox News. "Eight-year-old Mora Gerety's precious life was taken by an illegal alien who should have never been in our country, let alone issued a driver's license by the sanctuary state of Oregon," said DHS Assistant Secretary Tricia McLaughlin in a statement on

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November 22. "Mora's classmates, teachers, friends, and our nation will carry this loss forever. We ask every American to lift this family up in prayer, and we ask God to grant them courage as they face the hardest days a family can endure. Decades of open border policies have turned every community into a border town. These policies have deadly consequences." The case reignited outrage over state-level sanctuary laws that allow illegal immigrants to obtain driving privileges and commercial licenses despite existing federal deportation orders. Representative Byron Donalds of Florida called for an immediate federal crackdown, warning that these policies endanger innocent Americans. "You have the American people, they're doing the right thing, and now they're subject to losing their lives or being in an auto accident with a CDL driver who cannot read our signs, who doesn't know our laws." The DHS statement noted that Ramos-Caballero's release was part of a broader pattern dating back to the Obama years, when thousands of migrants who entered illegally were allowed to remain pending court hearings, many of which they never attended. ICE confirmed that Ramos-Caballero was ordered deported "in absentia" in 2016 after failing to appear.

Telemundo: [CA] This migrant has been missing for weeks after being arrested by ICE and suffering a medical crisis when he was to be deported

Telemundo [11/23/2025 12:15 PM, Staff, 2218K] reports Vicente Ventura Aguilar, an undocumented Mexican immigrant, was detained by federal immigration agents in a corner of southern Los Angeles, according to witnesses to the arrest. A day later, while in Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) custody, he suffered a medical emergency: he lost consciousness and fell to the ground with tremors in his limbs, according to a man who claims he was detained next to him. Since then, Ventura has been missing. It's been more than six weeks. ICE told his family that he is not in his custody, and his loved ones and lawyers have been unable to locate or contact him. They have searched hospitals and morgues and asked for help tracking him in Mexico. They have even filed a missing person's complaint with the Los Angeles Police Department. "The whole family is worried, especially our mother in Mexico," said Felipe, Ventura's brother. "We're afraid he's dead," he adds. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) stated that there was no person with the name of Ventura in its custody that day. 73 people from Mexico were arrested in the Los Angeles area "between October 7 and 8," DHS spokesman Tricia McLaughlin said in a statement to MS NOW, Telemundo's sister network. "None of them were Ventura Aguilar," he said. The family and lawyers claimed that it is possible that Ventura gave authorities a different name when arrested, which would explain why it has not appeared in the ICE system. In his opinion, ICE and the Customs and Border Protection agency, who could have had it in custody, should do more to find him. "They should conduct a search beyond a simple consultation by name and date of birth," said Laura Urias, a family attorney. For example, authorities could search for it using his photograph or other biometric data, Urias suggested.

Breitbart: [CA] California lawmakers question Noem over ICE detention center deaths

Breitbart [11/23/2025 8:28 PM, Staff, 2416K] reports Southern California lawmakers are demanding answers from Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem about 25 detainees who died in the custody of immigration and Customs Enforcement this year, two of whom were from Orange County. Policy makers have cited unfit medical care and system failures at the Adelanto ICE Processing Center in San Bernardino County for a lack of quality care for detainees. They have questioned whether the facility is capable of processing a surge in immigrants tied to President Donald Trump's push to deport undocumented immigrants. Rep. Dave Min, D-Irvine and Rep. Judy Chu, D-Pasadena, wrote a letter to Noem asking the secretary for an explanation of the deaths of more than two dozen people while in ICE custody. The number of in-custody deaths has set an annual record, a number officials began tracking in 2018. "These are not just numbers on a website, but real people – with families, jobs and hopes and dreams – each of whom died in ICE custody," the lawmakers wrote to Noem. "The following cases illustrate systemic patterns of delayed treatment, neglect and failure to properly notify families," the letter continued. Ismael Ayala-Uribe, 39, died Sept. 22 after being apprehended at the Fountain Valley Auto Wash where he worked, his family, which established a GoFundMe account, said. His relatives and federal lawmakers have alleged that Ayala-Uribe was denied proper medical care. Ayala-Uribe lived in Westminster from the age of four, and had been protected from deportation by the Deferred Arrivals and

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Childhood Arrivals program. His application for continued protection was not renewed in 2016. Documents obtained by the Los Angeles Times showed that ICE Adelanto officials were aware of his medical condition and later acknowledged his death in the facility. Gabriel Garcia-Aviles, 56, who lived near Costa Mesa, died Oct. 23, a week after being detained by ICE, which said he was arrested by the U.S. Border Patrol for an outstanding warrant, and was subsequently sent to the Adelanto center. ICE officials said he was only in detention for a few hours before being taken to Victorville hospital for "suspected alcohol withdrawal symptoms" where his condition worsened rapidly and later died. The deaths have raised questions about the treatment of detainees at Adelanto, among the largest federal immigration detention centers in California. "These deaths raise serious questions about ICE's ability to comply with basic detention standards, medical care protocols, and notification requirements, and underscores a pattern of gross negligence that demands immediate accountability," Min and Chu wrote in their letter to Noem and Todd Lyons, acting, ICE director. The letter was signed by 43 other lawmakers, including four from California in addition to Min and Chu.

Citizenship and Immigration Services

NPR: Nobody wants to come': What if the U.S. can no longer attract immigrant physicians?
NPR [11/24/2025 5:00 AM, Yuki Noguchi, 34837K] Audio: HERE reports Michael Liu grew up in Toronto, Canada, then moved to the U.S. for college and medical school because, to him, America was the premiere destination for fulfilling his aspirations to become a physician and researcher. "You know, in chase of the American Dream, and understanding all the opportunities — that was such a draw for me," says Liu, who attended Harvard University. He is now 28 and has deep personal and professional roots in Boston, where he's an internal medicine resident at Mass General Brigham. But this spring, he was shaken by the Trump administration's cuts to scientific research at the National Institutes of Health and staff at the Department of Health and Human Services. "That was a really striking moment for me," Liu says. "It made me question where, professionally, it made most sense for me. I still have strong connections to Toronto and mentors." Then, in September, Liu was doing rounds with two doctors from Mexico and Costa Rica, when the administration hiked fees nearly 30 fold for H1B visas, which are for highly trained professionals, to $100,000. He watched his colleagues' tearful reactions to the sudden uncertainty that thrust on their careers, knowing that employers like hospital systems are unlikely to be able to afford to pay for such dramatic increases. "It was terrible to see," Liu says. He has a green card, having married an American citizen earlier this year. But, he says, the Trump administration's actions affect him. "It feels like my contribution is — just because I was not born in this country — less valued," Liu says. "I really hadn't thought so deeply about going back home before, but definitely it's been much more top of mind." [Editorial note: consult audio at source link]

Customs and Border Protection

Washington Post: [NC] Border Patrol's Charlotte sting reaches into country clubs, upscale shops
Washington Post [11/23/2025 9:21 AM, Teo Armus and Arelis R. Hernández, 24149K] reports the gourmet pasta shop surrounded by million-dollar Colonials might not be the most obvious spot for clues about how hundreds of U.S. Border Patrol officers have swept across this city in recent days. Pasta & Provisions, a longtime local favorite in the Myers Park neighborhood, is more popular among well-to-do bankers who populate the city's soaring financial office buildings than with the working-class immigrants who flocked here to help build that skyline. There is little Spanish spoken outside the shop's kitchen. But as armed federal agents in unmarked SUVs poured into North Carolina's largest city, the store was not immune from the Trump administration's targeted immigration enforcement operation that launched Nov. 15. "It's taking a toll everywhere," said the pasta store's owner, Tommy George, who took shifts washing dishes after one employee's husband had been detained in the sweep. "In a way, the consequences are in every neighborhood." Local officials said they were told the operation has ended, although the Department of Homeland Security — which said it had arrested about 370 people as of Friday — said that "Operation Charlotte's Web" will continue indefinitely. DHS spokeswoman Tricia McLaughlin suggested in

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a statement that the Trump administration set its target on Charlotte in response to more recent moves by local officials to cut ties with Immigration and Customs Enforcement. “This DHS operation will target the criminal illegal aliens who flocked to the Tar Heel State because they knew sanctuary politicians would protect them and allow them to roam free on American streets,” she said.

Univision: [NC] Details of arrest of man accused of attacking Border Patrol
Univision [11/23/2025 2:12 PM, Staff, 5004K] reports Miguel Ángel García Martinez, 24, was arrested and charged with attacking Border Patrol agents in Charlotte during the Charlotte’s Web operation. This week, a video and official case documents raised questions about the official version of the incident were revealed. The defendant faces charges of: assault, resisting arrest, and preventing the work of a federal agent. These are the new details of what happened during the preliminary hearing in U.S. District Court for the Western District of North Carolina on November 20. [Editorial note: consult video at source link]

AP: [IL] Aftermath of Chicago’s intense immigration crackdown leaves lawsuits, investigations and anxiety
AP [11/23/2025 3:30 PM, Sophia Tareen and Christine Fernando, 19051K] reports Chicago has entered what many consider a new uneasy phase of a Trump administration immigration crackdown that has already led to thousands of arrests. While a U.S. Border Patrol commander known for leading intense and controversial surges moved on to North Carolina, federal agents are still arresting immigrants across the nation’s third-largest city and suburbs. A growing number of lawsuits stemming from the crackdown are winding through the courts. Authorities are investigating agents’ actions, including a fatal shooting. Activists say they are not letting their guard down in case things ramp up again, while many residents in the Democratic stronghold where few welcomed the crackdown remain anxious. “I feel a sense of paranoia over when they might be back,” said Santani Silva, an employee at a vintage store in the predominantly Mexican neighborhood of Pilsen. “People are still afraid.” For more than two months, the Chicago area was the focus of an aggressive operation led by Gregory Bovino, a Border Patrol commander behind similar efforts in Los Angeles and soon Louisiana. Armed and masked agents used unmarked SUVs and helicopters throughout the city of 2.7 million and its suburbs to target suspected criminals and immigration violators. Arrests often led to intense standoffs with bystanders, from wealthy neighborhoods to working-class suburbs. While the intensity has died down in the week since Bovino left, reports of arrests still pop up. Activists tracking immigration agents said they confirmed 142 daily sightings at the height of the operation last month. The number is now roughly six a day. “It’s not over,” said Brandon Lee with the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights. “I don’t think it will be over.”

CNN: [IL] Woman shot by border patrol five times speaks out
CNN [11/23/2025 11:20 PM, Caroline Baxendale, 18595K] reports that, in an exclusive interview, CNN’s Omar Jimenez speaks with Marimar Martinez, a United States citizen who was accused of ramming the vehicle of a Customs and Border Protection agent in Chicago before he shot her several times. A judge dismissed charges against Martinez after a reversal by federal prosecutors in one of the most high-profile cases connected to Operation Midway Blitz in Chicago. [Editorial note: consult video at source link]

Politico: [Canada] Trump quietly holds off on Canada tariff increase
Politico [11/23/2025 4:00 PM, Ari Hawkins, 2100K] reports President Donald Trump has yet to follow through on his threat to impose an additional 10 percent tariff on Canadian imports, four weeks after he halted “all trade negotiations” over an anti-tariff ad the province of Ontario ran during the Major League Baseball World Series. “Because of their serious misrepresentation of the facts, and hostile act, I am increasing the Tariff on Canada by 10% over and above what they are paying now,” Trump wrote on Truth Social on Oct. 25, after announcing two days earlier that he was terminating trade talks over the”egregious” ad. Trump’s announcement had Canadian exporters preparing for a worst-case scenario: a sweeping levy layered on top of existing double-digit duties, which would have been particularly painful for industries like autos, where components cross the border multiple times before reaching their final form. But to date, the Trump administration hasn’t sent any official documentation ordering U.S. Customs and Border Protection to enforce the new, higher duty, and U.S. importers have not received any new

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regulatory guidance. “We monitor the federal registry and follow executive order activity on a regular basis and haven’t seen any changes,” said Flavio Volpe, the president of Canada’s Automotive Parts Manufacturers’ Association, which controls over 90 percent of independent parts production in Canada. The White House did not say whether it still plans to impose the tariff when asked for comment. But a separate U.S. official suggested the Trump administration had opted to hold off on additional duties — which would have sent tariffs on Canadian goods to 45 percent — and instead continue to dangle the threat as the two sides gear up for future talks. “The Canadians know what’s on the table,” said the official, granted anonymity to discuss private conversations.

Transportation Security Administration

FOX News: FAA scrambles to hire 8,900 air traffic controllers by 2028 as shortage reaches crisis levels

FOX News [11/24/2025 3:01 AM, Olivianna Calmes, 40621K] reports a nationwide air traffic controller shortage has put new attention on a growing training option the FAA now approves for certain colleges. The recent federal government shutdown highlighted how thin staffing has become, especially as delays and reroutes stacked up across the country. The FAA says it wants to hire at least 8,900 new controllers by 2028. According to FAA workforce data analyzed by USAFacts, about 3,000 controller positions were vacant nationwide as of late 2024 — though not every facility is equally understaffed. That shortage is driving interest in a newer FAA-approved college pathway designed to streamline controller training at a small group of universities — including Middle Georgia State. The Enhanced AT-CTI program allows students to train to the same standard as the FAA Academy, and if hired and meeting FAA requirements such as passing the Air Traffic Skills Assessment (ATSA), medical and security clearances, they can go directly to a facility instead of completing the full academy in Oklahoma City, which can involve long waitlists and multi-month courses. Graduates still undergo facility-specific training and must be certified on-the-job before becoming full controllers. Only about nine schools nationwide have been approved to offer the new Enhanced AT-CTI program as of 2025, according to Kemarie Jeffers, the department chair of aviation science and management at Middle Georgia State. Inside Middle Georgia State’s tower simulator, air traffic control student Brooke Graffagnino says the job’s intensity is what drew her in. "It kind of gets your chest beating, because with how much traffic there is, sometimes it is intense," she said. She says students quickly find out whether they’re suited for the job. "You can kind of tell who does not [love it]. There have been quite a few, and they are no longer here. It takes a lot to get through it," she said. Graffagnino says the importance of the work became clearer as she learned how controllers keep busy airspace organized. "Once you get in the airspace that is super crowded or approaching the larger airports like Atlanta, you need someone to help coordinate and keep everything separate and safe," she said. Middle Georgia State was approved as an Enhanced AT-CTI school in mid-2024. Jeffers says the impact was immediate. "Before our program had maybe about 17 to 20 students. Right now we have 54. So we have already, in that short amount of time, almost tripled in size the amount of students that we have," he said.

USA Today: Thanksgiving weather forecast shows snow, travel delays possible for parts of US

USA Today [11/23/2025 11:03 AM, Karissa Waddick, 67103K] reports heavy rain and snowstorms expected across wide swaths of the United States this week could muck up Thanksgiving travel for millions of Americans taking to the roads and skies. Much of the country, from Seattle to Dallas, could be hit with heavy rain, wind and thunderstorms throughout the week, according to AccuWeather meteorologists, and some areas in the northern United States may see several inches of snowfall. The storm is expected to begin dropping rain and mountain snow in New Mexico and Colorado on Sunday, before moving east over the Plains region early in the week and toward the Midwest and East Coast closer to Thanksgiving. "The best chance of severe weather will be in the South Central and Southeastern states," AccuWeather Lead Long-Range Meteorologist Paul Pastelok predicted. The chances of downpours and lightning come during what’s expected to be one of the busiest travel weeks of the year. AAA predicts more than 81 million people will leave home to celebrate with loved ones for the holiday. Early in the week, rainfall and thunderstorms could be intense enough to impact flights in Texas and

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Arkansas, including at airports in Austin, Dallas and Little Rock. As the storm moves toward the central United States Tuesday, major airports in Chicago, Nashville, St. Louis, Houston and Minneapolis could see delays, according to AccuWeather forecasters.

Federal Emergency Management Agency

NPR: The Trump administration is softening its tone on FEMA
NPR [11/23/2025 8:08 AM, Ayesha Rascoe, 28013K] Audio: HERE reports NPR's Ayesha Rascoe talks to New York Times reporter Scott Dance about efforts to reshape the Federal Emergency Management Agency. President Trump's review panel failed to meet a deadline last week.

Axios: Hurricane season is ending without a U.S. landfall. We got lucky
Axios [11/23/2025 7:20 AM, Alex Fitzpatrick, 12972K] reports the 2025 hurricane season is about to end on Nov. 30 without a single mainland U.S. landfall for the first time in a decade. That's welcome news for hurricane-prone states, but doesn't mean future years will be equally calm — especially as climate change continues to warm the oceans, essentially creating hurricane fuel. Just because this year's Atlantic hurricanes steered clear of the continental U.S. doesn't mean it was a gentle season. Hurricane Melissa slammed into Jamaica as a category 5 hurricane on Oct. 28 after rapidly intensifying over warm ocean waters, with maximum sustained winds of 185 mph. It was one of the most intense Atlantic hurricanes on record, with a lowest recorded pressure of 892 mb. (Lower pressure is correlated with stronger storms; only a handful on record have made it below 900 mb.) Melissa caused at least $10 billion in damage and nearly 100 known deaths as it ravaged the Caribbean; those numbers may yet rise.

CBS News: [TX] Heavy rain, flash flooding risk for North Texas Sunday night to Monday
CBS News [11/23/2025 9:51 PM, McKenna King and Jeff Ray, 39474K] Video: HERE reports rounds of heavy rain arrive late on Sunday night and continue to midday on Monday. The rain clears out for Thanksgiving, but returns next weekend. Just three days ago DFW recorded the wettest November day in history, 3.95". We are expecting more heavy rain to come in from the west on Sunday night. The flood risk is high due to saturated grounds and many rivers at bank full. There is a risk of strong to severe storms the rest of the day into early evening in our western counties; storms have been going on there since mid-afternoon. So far, lighting is the greatest threat from them. The heavy rain enters the metroplex later Sunday night, most of it arriving after midnight. A flood watch continues to 3 p.m. Monday. We are expecting a prolonged period of heavy rain moving across our area. The worst of it will fall from 4 a.m. to 10 a.m. Ponding on roads, flooding in low spots, standing water at construction zones and ongoing heavy rain will make for difficult travel conditions. If you can, please delay your morning travel. As we get later in the morning and across the afternoon, there will be a small but significant window for severe weather to start up. The favored area will be just east and southeast of the metroplex down the I-45 corridor. This includes a low tornado risk.

Secret Service

New York Post: [PA] FBI missed multiple opportunities to stop Thomas Crooks before he tried to assassinate Trump, ex-assistant director fumes
New York Post [11/23/2025 2:37 PM, Anthony Blair, 42219K] reports the FBI had multiple "missed opportunities" to stop Thomas Crooks before he tried to assassinate President Trump, a former assistant director at the Bureau has told The Post. Last week, The Post reported on multiple extremist social media posts believed to be tied to Crooks, including numerous threats of political violence and a dramatic shift against Trump, after previously expressing his admiration for the Republican. If even "half" of Trump's would-be assassin's extremist digital footprint turns out to be true, he should have been on the FBI's radar long before the 20-year-old opened fired on the then-presumptive GOP presidential nominee during a rally in Butler, Pennsylvania, said Chris Swecker, a retired FBI assistant director. "It's clear that he was

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popping off on the social media sites and saying things that should have garnered attention," Swecker, who served in the FBI for 24 years, said. "That constitutes a miss on the part of the FBI," he added, saying that the Bureau's handling of the investigation earned a "a C- grade." Among the disturbing posts that were recently revealed, were comments on YouTube that included, "I always believed being patriotic was lining up a bunch of socialist Jews and blasting their useless brains out with an AR." He also wrote "KILL DEMOCRATS" and said that members of the "Squad" should suffer a "quick, painful death." He also commented: "The only way to fight the gov is with terrorism style attacks, sneak a bomb into an essential building and set it off before anyone sees you, track down any important people/politicians/military leaders etc and try to assassinate them." Swecker — who retired from the Bureau in 2006 — also claimed that the FBI under then-director Christopher Wray was desperate to pin Trump's would-be assassin as a far-right lone gunman. He said it seemed clear to him that when agents found evidence to the contrary, the Bureau "had its thumb on the scales" of the investigation. This led to a lack of transparency in the investigation, which allowed conspiracy theories to spread and multiply, he said.

Breitbart: [PA] Report: FBI Concludes Trump's Would-Be Assassin in Butler Acted Alone
Breitbart [11/23/2025 4:19 PM, Amy Furr, 2416K] reports officials with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) reportedly said Thursday the man who tried to assassinate President Donald Trump in Butler, Pennsylvania, acted alone. The FBI's conclusion came after an intense and global investigation wherein authorities said they left no stone unturned, Fox News reported Friday. The outlet interviewed FBI Director Kash Patel, FBI Deputy Director Dan Bongino, and a senior official who asked to remain anonymous due to the sensitive nature of his work. Patel said his team has been on the case since they took over the agency, and explained, "We not only had to maintain the chain of command to President Trump, but we had to remind the world that President Trump was the victim — one of the four victims — on that day. There are victims' rights rules that apply to him, and they don't get erased because he is the president." "We fully briefed the president, as a victim of this case, at the White House, providing him with all of the details of our investigation, and the president was satisfied with the results and where we left it," Patel said. The shooter in the case was identified as 20-year-old Thomas Matthew Crooks, who reportedly had an interest in "furries" and used "they/them" pronouns.

Coast Guard

San Francisco Chronicle: [CA] Big Sur search to resume Monday for man swept into ocean where 2 died last weekend
San Francisco Chronicle [11/23/2025 8:39 AM, Warren Pederson, 4722K] reports Monterey County recovery crews resumed their search Sunday morning for a man swept into the Pacific Ocean at Garrapata State Beach in Big Sur — the same place where a man and his daughter died after being overcome by waves last weekend. The Monterey County Sheriff's Office was notified around 3 p.m. Saturday that three people were swept off the rocks at Soberanes Point into the ocean. Two women were able to reach land on their own and were taken to a local hospital with unknown injuries, but a man remained in the water, sheriff's officials said. Rescue teams from the sheriff's office, California State Parks, Cal Fire, California Highway Patrol and U.S. Coast Guard joined the search. A Coast Guard helicopter spotted what appeared to be a body in the water at 4:24 p.m., but lost sight due to high surf. The crew suspended the search at 7 p.m. due to low visibility, but resumed efforts Sunday morning.

CISA/Cybersecurity

AP: Big Changes to the Agency Charged With Securing Elections Lead to Midterm Worries
AP [11/23/2025 12:29 PM, Steve Karnowski and Julie Carr Smyth, 19051K] reports since it was created in 2018, the federal government's cybersecurity agency has helped warn state and local election officials about potential threats from foreign governments, showed officials how to protect polling places from attacks and gamed out how to respond to the unexpected, such as an Election Day bomb threat or sudden disinformation campaign. The agency was largely absent from that space for elections this month

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in several states, a potential preview for the 2026 midterms. Shifting priorities of the Trump administration, staffing reductions and budget cuts have many election officials concerned about how engaged the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency will be next year, when control of Congress will be at stake in those elections. Some officials say they have begun scrambling to fill the anticipated gaps. "We do not have a sense of whether we can rely on CISA for these services as we approach a big election year in 2026," said Minnesota Secretary of State Steve Simon, a Democrat who until recently led the bipartisan National Association of Secretaries of State. The association's leaders sent a letter to Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem in February asking her to preserve the cybersecurity agency's core election functions. Noem, whose department oversees the agency, replied the following month that it was reviewing its "funding, products, services, and positions" related to election security and that its services would remain available to election officials. Simon said secretaries of state are still waiting to hear about the agency's plans. CISA, as the agency is known, was formed under the first Trump administration to help safeguard the nation's critical infrastructure, from dams and power plants to election systems. It has been undergoing a major transformation since President Donald Trump's second term began in January. Public records suggest that roughly 1,000 CISA employees have lost their jobs over the past years. The Republican administration in March cut $10 million from two cybersecurity initiatives, including one dedicated to helping state and local election officials. CISA is still without an official director. Trump's nomination of Sean Plankey, a cybersecurity expert in the first Trump administration, has stalled in the Senate. CISA officials did not answer questions seeking specifics about the agency's role in the recently completed elections, its plans for the 2026 election cycle or staffing levels. They said the agency remains ready to help protect election infrastructure. "Under the leadership of President Trump and Secretary Noem, CISA is laser-focused on securing America's critical infrastructure and strengthening cyber resilience across the government and industry," said Marci McCarthy, CISA's director of public affairs. She said CISA would announce its future organizational plans "at the appropriate time."

Reported similarly:
Univision [11/23/2025 3:33 PM, Staff, 5004K]

Bloomberg Law: Banks, FBI Assessing Hack of Real Estate Finance Tech Vendor
Bloomberg Law [11/23/2025 1:33 PM, Jake Bleiberg, 803K] reports the hack of a technology vendor for real estate financiers left major American banks and mortgage lenders working Sunday to assess whether they were affected by the data breach. The vendor, SitusAMC Group Holdings, LP, said in a statement Saturday that someone compromised its systems and took client data including "accounting records and legal agreements."

NewsMax: Major Internet Outages Growing, May Get Worse
NewsMax [11/23/2025 2:04 PM, Mark Swanson, 4109K] reports Internet disruptions are becoming more frequent and more sweeping, according to experts, after a string of major outages has repeatedly knocked large parts of the online world offline. This week's crash at Cloudflare — which caused hour-long problems for platforms including X, OpenAI, and Discord — marked the third significant outage in roughly a month, NBC News reported Sunday. The incidents highlight a central vulnerability: much of the modern internet relies on a handful of giant cloud providers. When one makes even a small mistake or misses a hidden software flaw, the fallout can ricochet across millions of users and businesses. "This spate of outages has been uniquely terrible," Erie Meyer, former chief technologist at the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, told NBC News. "It's like what we were told Y2K would be like — and it's happening more often." Cloud companies known as "hyperscalers" dominate the modern internet because they can expand infrastructure quickly and cheaply. But critics warn this consolidation creates dangerous single points of failure. "When one company's bug can derail everyday life, that's not just technical — that's consolidation," Meyer said. NBC reports the disruptions began Oct. 20 when Amazon Web Services went down, cutting access to everything from gaming networks to Ring cameras. The outage even affected smart-home beds. Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., recently blasted the situation on X, calling it reason "to break up Big Tech." Nine days later, Microsoft's Azure cloud platform suffered a global outage just before the company's quarterly earnings. Delta and Alaska Airlines — which rely on AWS and Azure —

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struggled to check in passengers online. Cloudflare's outage on Tuesday was the worst the company has seen since 2019, CEO Matthew Prince acknowledged. The company first suspected a massive cyberattack but later traced the failure to a software flaw in its anti-bot system.

Terrorism Investigations

FOX News: Trump, Kirk shootings expose online hate breeding lone-wolf assassins, experts warn
FOX News [11/23/2025 8:00 AM, Stepheny Price and Ashley Papa, 40621K] reports federal investigators are examining the online activity of the suspect accused of assassinating conservative activist Charlie Kirk in Utah, as questions grow about how digital spaces are fueling a new wave of politically motivated attacks — including last year's attempted assassination of President Donald Trump. A viral post from the Libs of TikTok account on X listed several recent shootings and noted multiple suspects identified as transgender or nonbinary, calling it "an epidemic of trans violence." But experts say those claims miss the mark. The real danger, they warn, is playing out in the hidden corners of Reddit, Discord and other chat platforms, where grievance and validation feed off one another and push isolated individuals toward violence. Former homeland security advisor for New York state Michael Balboni told Fox News Digital that assassinations have risen over the past decade and the targets are no longer limited to politicians. "We're seeing activists and media figures targeted," Balboni said. "These are people who feel aggrieved or insignificant and believe they'll commit a heroic act. The Charlie Kirk case shows how the threat landscape has widened." He described online hatred as the spark that turns grievance into action, allowing angry users to find each other and fan the flames. "Like-minded folks feed off one another in social-media spaces until somebody takes the next step and decides to kill. That's the key to radicalization today." Investigators are reviewing digital evidence tied to the suspect in Kirk's assassination, including Discord messages recovered after the shooting, according to court filings and law-enforcement statements. Federal agencies are also examining related chat logs, Homeland Security Today reported.

Blaze: Despite terrorist designation, Antifa still runs wild — and conservatives want real action
Blaze [11/24/2025 5:02 AM, Staff, 1442K] reports Antifa radicals have been causing chaos throughout America for years and have finally been designated as a terrorist network by the Trump administration. However, they're still getting away with crimes. "Antifa radicals in Berkeley, California, disrupted a Turning Point USA event outside of UC Berkeley, punched a conservative in the face. The conservative gets arrested," BlazeTV host Christopher Rufo tells co-host Jonathan "Lomez" Keeperman on "Rufo & Lomez." "But our policy prescription is, the administration has to dismantle the left-wing terror networks, whether it's Antifa, other organized militant groups. They have to actually get mugshots, case numbers, inmate numbers," he continues. "The tangible evidence that these left-wing terror networks, which are essentially saying that we can control the streets in places like Portland, we can veto peaceful conservative speech in places like Berkeley — we have to ensure that they can no longer do so and can no longer exert control through violence," he adds. While Rufo points out that Antifa is still out there disrupting whatever it can, Lomez notes that it was a "huge step in the right direction" that it has at least been designated as a terrorist network. "The administration is making the right moves and/or saying the right things. What's missing is the conspicuous action so that your average American, let alone Trump supporter, but just your average American goes, 'Yeah, I don't like Antifa, and the administration is doing something about it, and that's good,'" Lomez says. But the next step is taking the terrorist designation and doing something with it.

CNN: [IN] 'Fortunate' Indiana high school reflects on thwarted school attack
CNN [11/23/2025 9:31 AM, Eric Levenson, 606K] reports like any American school, Mooresville High School in Indiana had long since set up security protocols and mental health services to try to prevent violence on campus. Yet those policies didn't fully prepare them psychologically for the arrest in February of an 18-year-old senior accused of planning "Parkland part two." "Our reaction – and the community's – was one of shock," Matt Saner, the president of the Mooresville Schools board of trustees, told CNN in an email. "These aren't just nameless students that we are responsible for keeping safe, these are our

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neighbors. Our friends. Our family. Our own kids." The Mooresville student's arrest was just one of the many instances around the country, from New York City to Washington state, in which security measures worked as intended, thwarting a potential explosion of violence. CNN and other media outlets have long explored the aftermath of horrific school shootings: The funerals, the physical and psychic damage to survivors, the investigations into what went wrong and the efforts to rebuild. Less explored is what happens when a potential school shooting is successfully thwarted – how the community reacts to the near-tragedy and the lessons learned from a successful intervention. The Mooresville student, Trinity Shockley, now 19, is expected to plead guilty to conspiracy to commit murder on Monday in an Indiana courtroom as part of a plea deal with prosecutors. The "contested" plea hearing – the debate is over the length of the sentence – will include presentations of evidence, prosecutors said. Shockley's attorney declined to comment.

National Security News

FOX News: Trump admin slams South Africa for 'weaponized' G20 presidency as summit ignores Christian persecution

FOX News [11/23/2025 7:48 AM, Paul Tilsley and Efrat Lachter, 40621K] reports the White House has mounted a new verbal attack on South Africa over the G-20 Leaders' Summit in Johannesburg this weekend. White House deputy press secretary Anna Kelly hit back at South African President Cyril Ramaphosa after Pretoria refused to allow a U.S. embassy delegation to take part in the summit's closing ceremony. The U.S. takes over the G-20's presidency next year. But Ramaphosa's spokesperson told reporters here at the summit their president won't perform the ceremonial handover to a junior diplomat. Washington had asked to send the embassy's chargé d'affaires to the ceremony. In what is becoming an increasingly fractious back-and-forth of bitter statements between Pretoria and Washington on several issues around the G-20, Kelly told Fox News Digital, "President Ramaphosa initially declared that he would pass the gavel to an 'empty chair.' Now, he's refusing to facilitate a smooth transition of the G-20 presidency at all." Kelly continued, "This, coupled with South Africa's push to issue a G-20 Leaders Declaration, despite consistent and robust U.S. objections, underscores the fact that they have weaponized their G-20 presidency to undermine the G-20's founding principles. President Trump looks forward to restoring legitimacy to the G-20 in the U.S.'s 2026 host year." Trump withdrew all U.S. participation in the summit over his claims that some White South Africans were being racially discriminated against. Now South Africa's chief rabbi, Dr. Warren Goldstein, has also lashed out at the G-20, speaking exclusively to Fox News Digital, saying, "How can it be that in the long wish list of items that make up the G-20 Leaders Declaration, there wasn't space to condemn one of the greatest human rights crises in Africa – the continent wide jihadi war on Christians?". He continued "How can it be that the first G-20 hosted in Africa by an African government ignores how Africa – from Mozambique to Mali, the DRC, Nigeria, Sudan and so many other countries – has become the central front of Islamist terrorism? "Just Friday, more than 300 girls and 12 teachers were kidnapped from a Catholic school in Nigeria," he added. "Who will speak up for these children and save them? The silence of the G-20 declaration on this and other jihadi atrocities on the continent is a moral disgrace, revealing the gathering to be a heartless charade that history will judge harshly. God's condemnation of Cain following his feeble defense of 'Am I my brother's keeper?' stands as an eternal accusation against the leaders of the G-20 – 'What have you done? The blood of your brother calls out to Me from the ground.'".

FOX News: [Ukraine] Rubio claims 'tremendous amount of progress' in Ukraine peace talks following Geneva meeting

FOX News [11/23/2025 9:11 PM, Emma Bussey, 40621K] reports Secretary of State Marco Rubio said Sunday that discussions over ending the war in Ukraine have entered a productive phase, while claiming "a tremendous amount of progress" had been made. Following a round of talks with a Ukrainian delegation in Geneva, Switzerland, Rubio told reporters negotiators had "a very good day today." "We had a very good day today. I think we made a tremendous amount of progress, even from the last time I spoke to you," Rubio said. "We began almost three weeks ago with a foundational document that we socialized and ran by both sides, and with input from both sides," he said. Rubio described how negotiators had

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been refining the 28-point peace framework that outlines potential conditions for a ceasefire and long-term settlement for Ukraine and Russia. "Over the last 96 hours or more, there's been extensive engagement with the Ukrainian side including our Secretary of the Army and others, being on the ground in Kyiv, meeting with relevant stakeholders across the Ukrainian political spectrum in the legislative branch and the executive branch, and the military and others to further sort of narrow these points." "We arrived here today with one goal: to take what – it's 28 points or 26 points, depending on which version, as it continued to evolve and try to narrow the ones that were open items. And we have achieved that today in a very substantial way," he said. The weekend talks centered on a 28-point plan, which is a framework drafted by the U.S. outlining steps for a possible ceasefire and political settlement. The document is said to cover security guarantees, territorial control, reconstruction mechanisms, and Ukraine's long-term relationship with NATO and the EU. The plan has reportedly evolved through several iterations, narrowing disputes point by point as both sides weigh concessions. "Now, obviously, like any final agreement, it'll have to be agreed upon by the presidents, and there are a couple of issues that we need to continue to work on," Rubio clarified. While declining to specify unresolved issues, Rubio described the moment as "delicate." "This is a very delicate moment, and it's important – like I said, there's not agreement on those yet. Some of it is semantics or language; others require higher-level decisions and consultation; others, I think, just need more time to work through," he said before touching on some issues. "There were some that involved equities or the role of the EU or of NATO or so forth, and those we kind of segregated out because we just met with the national security advisors for various European countries, and those are things we'll have to discuss with them because it involves them." "I don't want to declare victory or finality here. There's still some work to be done," he added. Suggesting there is intent to ensure Ukraine's security, Rubio said that they all "recognize that part of getting a final end to this war will require for Ukraine to feel as if it is safe, and it is never going to be invaded or attacked again." "I honestly believe we'll get there," he said, and when asked about next steps, Rubio said a possible call between Presidents Donald Trump and Volodymyr Zelenskyy could happen, adding, "I don't know. It's possible. I'm not sure." "The deadline is we want to get this done as soon as possible. Obviously, we'd love it to be Thursday," he added. [Editorial note: consult video at source link]

Reported similarly:
Wall Street Journal [11/23/2025 9:25 PM, Michael R. Gordon, Brian Schwartz, and Matthew Luxmoore, 646K]
AP [11/23/2025 6:43 PM, Mark Carlson, Katie Marie Davies and Will Weissert, 14862K]

Bloomberg: [Ukraine] Rubio Sees Ukraine Deadline Easing After 'Productive' Talks
Bloomberg [11/23/2025 6:47 PM, Staff, 38K] reports Donald Trump's proposed Nov. 27 deadline to secure Ukraine's support for a US-backed peace plan isn't set in stone and could drift into the following week, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said, suggesting that plenty of work remains. Rubio's note of caution followed US-Ukrainian talks Sunday in Geneva that both sides described as making progress toward a deal. Any agreement would require signoff by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy as well as Trump and Russia's Vladimir Putin. "It is probably the most productive day we have had on this issue, maybe in the entirety of our engagement, but certainly in a very long time," Rubio told reporters at the US diplomatic mission in Geneva. "But work remains, and because this continues to be a working process, I don't want to declare victory or finality here." The two sides drafted "an updated and refined peace framework" and "agreed to continue intensive work on joint proposals in the coming days," according to a joint statement from the White House. Neither Rubio nor the White House offered specifics on any progress made in the talks. Andriy Yermak, Zelenskiy's chief of staff, joined Rubio at an earlier briefing in Geneva but wasn't present for Rubio's afternoon comments to reporters. Zelenskiy also took a cautious stance in a video posted on X, saying "it's important to ensure that the steps to end the war are effective, and that everything is doable." "Diplomacy has been reinvigorated and that's good," he said. "We have our state position, we have our Ukrainian dignity and we must move in a way that strengthens it, not undermines it." US officials are pushing Ukraine to accept the 28-point proposal to end Russia's war as a basis for negotiations and to issue a statement saying so, according to two people familiar with the matter. Zelenskiy, faced with a blueprint backed by the US and Russia, replied on X earlier that Ukraine "is grateful to the United States," including "personally to President Trump" for US assistance.

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USA Today: [Ukraine] Zelenskyy wants 'guaranteed security' for Ukraine as world leaders gather

USA Today [11/23/2025 5:52 PM, Swapna Venugopal Ramaswamy, 67103K] reports Ukrainian, American and European officials gathered in Geneva on Nov. 23 to discuss a draft plan presented by Washington to end the war in Ukraine after Kyiv and its allies voiced alarm over what they saw as major concessions to the aggressor Russia. President Donald Trump said Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy had until Nov. 27 to approve the 28-point plan, which calls on Ukraine to cede territory, accept limits on its military and renounce ambitions to join NATO. For many Ukrainians, including soldiers fighting on the front lines, such terms would amount to capitulation after nearly four years of Europe's deadliest conflict since World War II. On Nov. 22, however, Trump said his proposal for ending the war is not his final offer. Zelenskyy posted a video on X from the meeting in Geneva on Nov. 23 saying that while he was grateful for all the support, it was important to ensure that the steps taken to end the war are effective. "Ukraine has never wanted war, and we will never be an obstacle to peace. Diplomacy has been reinvigorated — and this is good," he said. "We expect the outcome to deliver the right steps. And the first priority is a reliable peace, guaranteed security, respect for our people, and respect for everyone who gave their lives defending Ukraine from Russian aggression." Since the plan was announced, there has been considerable confusion about who was involved in drawing it up. European allies said they had not been consulted. Before heading to Geneva, Secretary of State Marco Rubio insisted in a post on X that Washington had written the plan. He posted the remark after Republican Sen. Mike Rounds said Rubio had called him and other senators and explained it was a proposal the United States had received and passed on to Ukraine. "The peace proposal was authored by the U.S. It is offered as a strong framework for ongoing negotiations," Rubio wrote on X. "It is based on input from the Russian side. But it is also based on previous and ongoing input from Ukraine."

NBC News: [Ukraine] Trump says Ukraine has expressed 'zero gratitude' for U.S. help amid peace plan talks

NBC News [11/23/2025 6:39 PM, Alexandra Marquez, Courtney Kube, Fiona Glisson, Megan Shannon and Julie Tsirkin, 34509K] reports President Donald Trump inserted fresh tensions into the high-stakes Ukraine-Russia peace talks on Sunday, publicly accusing Kyiv's leaders of showing "zero gratitude" for U.S. support just as U.S. officials in Geneva were working to show a united front. Trump's Truth Social comments landed at a delicate moment: His administration is pressing Ukraine to accept a 28-point peace proposal by Thanksgiving, even as confusion over the plan's authorship and concerns from European allies and U.S. lawmakers have raised questions about whose interests it serves. Senior U.S. officials, including Secretary of State Marco Rubio and special envoy Steve Witkoff, met with Ukrainian officials in Geneva this weekend to move peace talks forward with a goal of ending the war. On Sunday, after a full day of talks, Rubio told reporters "a tremendous amount of progress" had been made. He added, "there's still some work to be done, but we are much further ahead today at this time than we were when we began this morning and where we were a week ago for certain." "So it is in my personal view that we've had probably the most productive and meaningful meeting so far in this entire process since we've been involved in from the beginning," he said. "We have a very good work product that was already built on a foundation of input from all the relative parties involved here, and we were able to go through some of those items now, point by point. And I think we've made good progress." Another U.S. official told NBC News that Rubio, Witkoff and Army Secretary Dan Driscoll met with a Ukrainian delegation at the U.S. Mission in Geneva. The U.S. officials said the discussions were "positive and constructive." In a post later Sunday on Telegram, Zelenskyy thanked the U.S. and European allies. "Ukraine is grateful to the United States, to every American heart, and personally to President Trump for the help that, starting with the Javelins, is saving the lives of Ukrainians. We thank everyone in Europe, in the Group of Seven and the Group of Twenty, who is helping us protect lives," he wrote. The White House said Sunday evening in a joint statement on the U.S.-Ukraine meeting that "both sides agreed the consultations were highly productive." "The discussions showed meaningful progress toward aligning positions and identifying clear next steps," the statement said. "They reaffirmed that any future agreement must fully uphold Ukraine's sovereignty and deliver a sustainable and just peace. As a result of the discussions, the parties drafted an updated and refined peace framework." [Editorial note: consult video at source link]

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NewsMax: [Israel] Israeli Military Hits Hezbollah Terrorist in Beirut's Southern Suburbs
NewsMax [11/23/2025 12:16 PM, Staff, 4109K] reports Israel's military says it has killed senior Hezbollah terrorist Haytham Tabtabai in its strike in Beirut on Sunday. The military in a statement described Tabtabai as the Iran-backed terrorist group's chief of staff. Hezbollah did not immediately comment. Tabtabai had led Hezbollah's elite Radwan Unit. In 2016, the United States designated Tabtabai as a terrorist, calling him a military leader who led Hezbollah's special forces in Syria and Yemen, and it offered up to $5 million for information about him. Israel on Sunday struck Lebanon's capital for the first time since June, saying it targeted Hezbollah's chief of staff and warned the Iran-backed militant group not to rearm and rebuild a year after their latest war. The strike in Beirut's southern suburbs killed five people and wounded 25 others, Lebanon's Health Ministry said. Hezbollah said the strike, launched almost exactly a year after a ceasefire ended that Israel-Hezbollah war, threatened an escalation of attacks — just days before Pope Leo XIV is scheduled to visit Lebanon on his first foreign trip. "We will continue to act forcefully to prevent any threat to the residents of the north and the state of Israel," Israeli Defense Minister Israel Katz said in a statement. Government spokesperson Shosh Bedrosian did not say whether Israel informed the U.S. before the strike, saying only that "Israel makes decisions independently." Israel did not issue an evacuation warning before the strike, and did not name the person targeted. Bedrosian said the Hezbollah chief of staff "led the strengthening and arming of the terrorist organization." Mahmoud Qamati, deputy chair of Hezbollah's political council, told journalists that a high-ranking militant may have been killed but did not give details.

Reported similarly:
Wall Street Journal [11/23/2025 2:45 PM, Anat Peled and Summer Said, 646K]
Reuters [11/23/2025 2:44 PM, Staff, 36480K]

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DHS MORNING BRIEFING

Prepared for the Office of Public Affairs (OPA)
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

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Editorial Note: The DHS Daily Briefing is a collection of news articles related to Department's mission. The inclusion of particular stories is not intended to reflect their importance, nor is it intended to endorse the political viewpoints or affiliations included in news coverage.

TO: Homeland Security Secretary & Staff

DATE: Monday, November 24, 2025 6:00 AM ET

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Top News

New York Post/Breitbart/NewsMax: Trump vows to designate Muslim Brotherhood a terrorist organization

The New York Post [11/23/2025 3:21 PM, Ryan King, 42219K] reports President Trump on Sunday revealed his plans to designate the Muslim Brotherhood as a foreign terrorist organization amid recent revelations about the Islamist group's radicalism and growing influence in the West. "It will be done in the strongest and most powerful terms," Trump told Just the News. "Final documents are being drawn." The move comes on the heels of advocacy from think tanks and lawmakers in Congress. Last week, Republican Texas Gov. Greg Abbott designated both the Muslim Brotherhood and the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) as foreign terrorist organizations in the state. The designation by the federal government seeks to cut off financing and any other means of support to the targeted group, among other things. The Muslim Brotherhood, which was founded in Egypt in 1928, has been cited as having ties to numerous terrorist groups. Hamas, for example, billed itself as "one of the wings of the Muslim Brotherhood in Palestine" in its founding charter. Just the News reported that there had been growing momentum within the Trump administration to designate the Muslim Brotherhood as a foreign terrorist organization, before the president revealed his plan to do. A chilling analysis from the Institute for the Study of Global Antisemitism and Policy last week found that the Muslim Brotherhood is halfway through its plan to "transform Western society from within." "We are now 50 years into the Brotherhood's 100-year plan to entrench themselves into key institutions in the United States and other Western societies to undermine and destroy our democracy," ISGAP's director, Dr. Charles Asher Small, said. "This is not simply a political movement but a transnational ideological project that adapts itself to Western systems while working to undermine them." Breitbart [11/23/2025 3:28 PM, Amy Furr, 2416K] reports that the U.S. Department of State lists Foreign Terrorist Organizations (FTOs) on its website. "Foreign Terrorist Organizations (FTOs) are foreign organizations that are designated by the Secretary of State in accordance with section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA), as amended. FTO designations play a critical role in our fight against terrorism and are an effective means of curtailing support for terrorist activities and pressuring groups to get out of the terrorism business," the agency said. Among those groups are Antifa, Tren de Aragua, ISIS, Boko Haram, and Hamas. The News article said the president has been considering designating the Muslim Brotherhood as an FTO since his first administration. "The Muslim Brotherhood is an Islamist group founded nearly a century ago in Egypt but with chapters, parties, and affiliated movements around the world," the article said. The Muslim Brotherhood has historically been linked to radical Islamist movements, with affiliates fueling terrorism and undermining key U.S. allies, the congresswoman highlighted. More recently, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) confirmed that a British journalist suspected of being a member of the Muslim Brotherhood was in ICE custody and facing deportation, Breitbart News reported in October. NewsMax [11/23/2025 5:31 PM, Brian Freeman, 4109K] reports Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu thanked Trump for his plans to designate the Muslim Brotherhood as a terror group, The Jerusalem Post

reported. "I commend President Trump for outlawing the Muslim Brotherhood," he said. "This is an organization that endangers stability in the Middle East and beyond. That is why the State of Israel has outlawed parts of the organization and will continue to do so." Last week, Texas Gov. Greg Abbott designated both the Muslim Brotherhood and the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) as "foreign terrorist organizations and transnational criminal organizations," according to Just The News. Republicans in the House and the Senate, as well as some Democrats, have urged the State Department to designate the Muslim Brotherhood as a foreign terrorist organization. Secretary of State Marco Rubio signaled in August that the designation was "in the works," but emphasized that the process is lengthy because the Muslim Brotherhood has numerous branches and affiliates that must be examined individually.

CNN/Bloomberg: Trump administration formally designates Venezuela's Maduro as member of a foreign terrorist organization

CNN [11/24/2025 5:02 AM, Betsy Klein, Natasha Bertrand, Kevin Liptak, and Kylie Atwood, 18595K] reports the Trump administration could have expanded authority to take action in Venezuela starting Monday, as the US designates Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro and his government allies as members of a foreign terrorist organization. The designation of "Cartel de los Soles," a phrase that experts say is more a description of allegedly corrupt government officials than an organized crime group, as a foreign terrorist organization will authorize President Donald Trump to impose fresh sanctions targeting Maduro's assets and infrastructure. It doesn't, however, explicitly authorize the use of lethal force, according to legal experts. Still, administration officials have been making the case that the designation — one of the State Department's most serious counterterrorism tools — will give the US expanded military options for striking inside Venezuela. Cartel de los Soles is used to describe a decentralized network of Venezuelan groups within the armed forces linked to drug trafficking, experts say. The Venezuelan president has always denied any personal involvement in drug trafficking, and his government has repeatedly denied the existence of the alleged cartel, which some experts suggest technically doesn't exist in a conventional sense. The designation, announced November 16, comes as the US military has amassed more than a dozen warships and 15,000 troops into the region as part of what the Pentagon has branded "Operation Southern Spear." The US military has killed dozens of people in boat strikes as part of the anti-drug-trafficking campaign. Trump has been briefed by top officials on a range of options for action inside Venezuela, including strikes on military or government facilities and special operations raids. The option of doing nothing also still exists. There is some public opposition to US involvement in the region. According to a CBS News/YouGov poll released Sunday, 70% of Americans oppose the US taking military action in Venezuela, compared with 30% who favor action. Seventy-six percent of respondents say the Trump administration has not clearly explained the US position on military action. Officially, the Trump administration says it is working to cut down on illegal flows of migrants and drugs — but regime change is a possible side effect of those efforts. Trump is hoping that the pressure is enough to force Maduro to step down without taking direct military action, according to a US official. Bloomberg [11/23/2025 8:18 PM, Oscar Medina, 18207K] reports that the decision was published Sunday evening in a federal registry notice dated Nov. 24. The USS Gerald R. Ford, the world's largest aircraft carrier, arrived in the region in November, sparking fears within the Maduro administration that the US may be preparing to strike targets inside Venezuela. In recent weeks, Washington has already taken direct actions, destroying vessels near Venezuela's coast suspected of drug trafficking. As the standoff intensified, repercussions followed during the weekend, as several airlines canceled all flights to and from Venezuela in response to a US Federal

Aviation Administration advisory urging operators to “exercise caution” due to the spiraling crisis. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth said that the FTO designation grants the US government “a whole bunch of new options” to confront narco-terrorist groups. Cartel de los Soles now joins a list of designated foreign terrorist organizations that includes Islamist groups, as well as powerful drug syndicates like Mexican, Ecuadorian, and Colombian cartels, and Venezuela’s notorious Tren de Aragua.

AP: US set to label Maduro-tied Cartel de los Soles as a terror organization. It’s not a cartel per se

AP [11/24/2025 12:02 AM, Regina Garcia Cano, 28013K] reports President Donald Trump’s administration is set to ramp up pressure on Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro on Monday by designating the Cartel de los Soles as a foreign terrorist organization. But the entity that the U.S. government alleges is led by Maduro is not a cartel per se. The designation is the latest measure in the Trump administration’s escalating campaign to combat drug trafficking into the U.S. In previewing the step about a week ago, U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio accused Cartel de los Soles, or Cartel of the Suns, of being “responsible for terrorist violence” in the Western Hemisphere. The move planned Monday comes as Trump evaluates whether to take military action against Venezuela, which Trump has not ruled out despite bringing up the possibility of talks with Maduro. Land strikes or other actions would be a major expansion of the monthslong operation that has included a massive military buildup in the Caribbean Sea and striking boats accused of trafficking drugs, killing more than 80 people. Venezuelans began using the term Cartel de los Soles in the 1990s to refer to high-ranking military officers who had grown rich from drug-running. As corruption later expanded nationwide, first under the late President Hugo Chávez and then under Maduro, its use loosely expanded to police and government officials as well as activities like illegal mining and fuel trafficking. The “suns” in the name refer to the epaulettes affixed to the uniforms of high-ranking military officers. The umbrella term was elevated to a Maduro-led drug-trafficking organization in 2020, when the U.S. Justice Department in Trump’s first term announced the indictment of Venezuela’s leader and his inner circle on narcoterrorism and other charges. “It is not a group,” said Adam Isaacson, director for defense oversight at the Washington Office on Latin America organization. “It’s not like a group that people would ever identify themselves as members. They don’t have regular meetings. They don’t have a hierarchy.” Up until this year, the label of foreign terrorist organization had been reserved for groups like the Islamic State or al-Qaida that use violence for political ends. The Trump administration applied it in February to eight Latin American criminal organizations involved in drug trafficking, migrant smuggling and other activities. The administration blames such designated groups for operating the boats it is striking but rarely identifies the organizations and has not provided any evidence. It says the attacks , which began off the coast of Venezuela and later expanded to the eastern Pacific Ocean, are meant to stop narcotics from flowing to American cities. But many — including Maduro himself — see the military moves as an effort to end the ruling party’s 26-year hold on power. Since the arrival of U.S. military vessels and troops to the Caribbean months ago, Venezuela’s U.S.-backed political opposition also has reignited its perennial promise of removing Maduro from office, fueling speculation over the purpose of what the Trump administration has called a counterdrug operation.

NewsMax: What Does US ‘Terrorist’ Designation for Venezuela Mean?

NewsMax [11/23/2025 11:26 PM, Staff, 4109K] reports Washington’s designation of an alleged Venezuelan cartel as a foreign terrorist organization (FTO) takes effect on Monday,

opening the door to new forms of US pressure on President Nicolas Maduro. The FTO list, which includes Islamist groups, separatists, guerrillas, and more recently, gangs and drug organizations from Mexico and Colombia, is overseen by the State Department. From Monday, the list will include "Cartel de los Soles" ("Cartel of the Suns"), which Washington claims is run by Maduro. The shadowy group is responsible for "terrorist violence throughout our hemisphere," Secretary of State Marco Rubio said. The move is part of the Trump administration's campaign against drugs and illegal immigration from Latin America. No evidence has been made public to support the accusation of Maduro's involvement in the group. However, with a major military presence now deployed in the Caribbean, including an aircraft carrier, the FTO designation will give legal cover for more pressure on the Venezuelan authorities. Already, US forces have killed at least 83 people in air strikes on boats accused of ferrying drugs in international waters since September, according to an AFP tally of publicly released figures. Again, no evidence has been made public that drugs were in the boats. Trump earlier this month stated that Maduro's days are "numbered" and US media outlets claim the Republican leader has authorized covert CIA operations in Venezuela. The State Department's FTO list definition does not mention military actions, but in an interview Friday Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth suggested that the new classification would bring "a whole bunch of new options."

New York Times: Trump Moves to End Temporary Protected Status for Somalis

New York Times [11/24/2025 3:20 AM, Nicholas Bogel-Burroughs, 330K] reports President Trump intends to strip hundreds of Somalis living in the United States of the protected status they have had for decades under a program for immigrants from countries in crisis. Mr. Trump specifically targeted "Somalis in Minnesota" in a social media post on Friday, writing that he was terminating their eligibility for the Temporary Protected Status program. More Somalis live in Minnesota than in any other state. Kristi Noem, the homeland security secretary, said in Minneapolis on Sunday that her office would evaluate whether to end protection for Somalis under the program. Doing so would require giving 60 days' notice. Ms. Noem suggested that, if the status was revoked, the change would apply to Somali immigrants across the country, and not just in Minnesota. Temporary Protected Status allows people from countries in turmoil because of a civil war, natural disaster or other crisis to live and work in the United States. Technically, the status is temporary, and meant to last about 18 months unless it is renewed — but it has often been renewed, and for several groups including the Somalis, it had become all but permanent. Protected status was first granted to Somalis in 1991, when the country was torn apart by civil war and its national government collapsed. The designation has been extended many times since, including under the prior Trump administration. The most recent renewal was to last until mid-March. Though there are an estimated 42,500 foreign-born Somalis living in Minnesota, only a small number of them are covered by the Temporary Protected Status program. As of March, there were 705 Somalis in the whole United States who were covered by the status, according to the Congressional Research Service. Counting people from other covered countries as well, Minnesota has about 8,460 people with the protected status. On his social media platform, Truth Social, Mr. Trump wrote on Friday that "Somali gangs are terrorizing the people" of Minnesota, and said that the state was a "hub of fraudulent money laundering activity." Several Somali immigrants in Minnesota have been convicted in fraud schemes in recent years, including embezzlement of government funds from food-aid programs for hungry children. Gov. Tim Walz, a Democrat, said on social media that Mr. Trump had chosen to "broadly target an entire community." Mr. Walz suggested that the president's move was an attempt to distract attention from other issues in the administration. About 73 percent of Somali immigrants in the United States are naturalized U.S. citizens, according to

the Census Bureau. Mr. Trump has moved to end T.P.S. protection for hundreds of thousands of immigrants from other countries, including Venezuela, Honduras, Afghanistan and, earlier this month, South Sudan.

Telemundo: Kristi Noem says the government will review existing TPS designations
Telemundo [11/24/2025 12:13 AM, Staff, 2218K] reports the Secretary of Homeland Security pointed out that the measure aims to verify that the law has been properly enforced. She also noted that this program was always intended to be temporary and was never a means of obtaining asylum in the United States. [Editorial note: consult video at source link]

FOX News: Kristi Noem unveils $1B TSA modernization plan, awards $10K bonuses to workers who served during shutdown
FOX News [11/23/2025 8:38 PM, Sophia Compton, 40621K] reports Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Kristi Noem on Sunday announced a $1 billion nationwide upgrade to Transportation Security Administration (TSA) equipment and awarded $10,000 bonus payments to select employees. Speaking at Minneapolis–Saint Paul International Airport in Minnesota, Noem praised TSA workers for their dedication during the recent 43-day federal government shutdown, which ended earlier this month. "What we saw during that time period was remarkable," Noem said. "… We saw people who recognized that their purpose … was to serve people, was to go out and continue to show up for work — sometimes taking on extra shifts, taking care of other individuals, but still making sure that we were keeping people safe and keeping our security systems and standards high." Noem said the $10,000 bonuses were intended to reward employees who went above and beyond during the shutdown. "We have $10,000 bonus payments that we will be paying to each of the individuals behind us — recognizing that they are examples," Noem said. "… We will continue to work to train every single individual under the department to do and to serve, such as they did during this last challenging and difficult time." The secretary also announced a $1 billion TSA modernization initiative to strengthen airport safety and allow TSA workers to do their jobs "well, accurately, efficiently." "We will be putting over $1 billion into new scanning equipment, new X-ray equipment, [Advanced Imaging Technology] equipment," she said. "… It's been over a decade, maybe 15 years, since the department has put this kind of resources into new technologies to keep our transportation system secure, so that will be coming and being deployed over the next many months." Noem first announced the TSA investment a day earlier during remarks at Harry Reid International Airport in Las Vegas, saying the funds would go toward "new technology and advancements in security systems," according to the Washington Examiner. On Thursday, Secretary of Transportation Sean Duffy and Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Administrator Bryan Bedford announced that hundreds of air traffic controllers and technicians who worked during the government shutdown would receive bonus checks. The Department of Transportation (DOT) said in a statement that 776 air traffic controllers and technicians would be awarded $10,000 for their "patriotic work." "These patriotic men and women never missed a beat and kept the flying public safe throughout the shutdown," Duffy said in a statement. "Democrats may not care about their financial well-being, but President Trump does." DHS did not immediately respond to Fox News Digital's request for comment. [Editorial note: consult video at source link]

Reported similarly:
FOX 9 Minneapolis [11/23/2025 6:54 PM, Soyoung Kim, 40621K]

Breitbart: DOJ Staffer in Texas Arrested on Terrorism Charges After Doxxing Federal Agent During Raid

Breitbart [11/23/2025 11:36 AM, Ildefonso Ortiz and Brandon Darby, 2416K] reports a U.S. Department of Justice employee has been hit with state terrorism charges after allegedly doxxing a federal agent during a border raid. This week, investigators with the Cameron County District Attorney's Office arrested Karen Olvera De Leon on charges stemming from a criminal indictment. Olvera De Leon is an employee with the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Texas in Brownsville and is charged with one count of terrorism and one count of tampering with physical evidence. According to information provided to Breitbart Texas by Cameron County District Attorney Luis Saenz, the case began on June 9, when federal agents conducted a raid in Brownsville. During the operation, bystanders began recording and livestreaming. Various social media users began commenting on one of the livestreams when one of the commenters made what authorities considered a death threat against the agent being shown in the video. Moments after, another commenter revealed the identity of the agent in the video. The doxxing triggered a federal investigation, where authorities were able to track down and identify the commenter as Olvera De Leon. According to Saenz, Cameron County investigators arrested Olvera De Leon after determining that she was the one who had doxed the federal agent. Jail records at the Carrizales Rucker Detention Center in Cameron County revealed that a local judge set a total bond for Olvera at $20,000 personal recognizance, meaning that she did not have to post a bond and was released with her signature, but if she fails to appear in future court dates, she would be responsible for paying the bond amount. The doxxing case in South Texas comes at a time when federal agents, particularly those with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and U.S. Border Patrol, have been the target of numerous attacks and threats over immigration enforcement actions.

CNN: In New Orleans, immigrants are staying home and hiding out as city braces for Border Patrol operation

CNN [11/24/2025 4:09 AM, Zoe Sottile, 18595K] reports in New Orleans, people are used to having their resilience tested. There was Hurricane Katrina, the BP oil spill, a major hotel collapse, a vicious early pandemic surge and a terror attack during the 2025 New Year's celebrations. Now immigrants and organizers say they're preparing for what feels like may be another disaster heading for their community: Top Border Patrol official Gregory Bovino and roughly 250 federal agents are expected to launch an immigration enforcement operation in the city starting the first week of December, according to two sources familiar with the planning. Advocates and residents told CNN they're preparing a bit like they would for one of the hurricanes that have ravaged the sinking city. "The immigrant community is feeling absolute panic and terrified," Rachel Taber, a volunteer with Unión Migrante, an immigrant-led advocacy group, said. "People are treating it like a hurricane as much as they can, buying groceries, staying in the house, planning not to be able to go to work." The 307-year-old city, a blue enclave in a Republican-led state, will be the latest target of the Department of Homeland Security's operations, according to those two sources, part of the president's pledge to enact mass deportations of undocumented immigrants. In response to questions from CNN about the operation, DHS sent a statement from Assistant Secretary Tricia McLaughlin: "For the safety and security of law enforcement, we're not going to telegraph potential operations."

NPR: New Orleans prepares for possible federal immigration crackdown

NPR [11/24/2025 4:48 AM, Steve Inskeep and Michael McEwen, 34837K] reports New Orleans residents are preparing for a possible deployment of U.S. Customs and Border Patrol agents to the region, even though the agency won't say whether or not it is actually coming. [Editorial note: consult audio at source link]

Univision: Appeals court upholds block on expedited removal of immigrants detained far from the border

Univision [11/23/2025 6:19 PM, Staff, 5004K] reports an appeals court has so far upheld a block on the expedited removal of undocumented immigrants detained far from the border without due process. In a 2-1 decision, a panel of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals rejected a request from the Trump administration to lift a lower court's hold on such deportations while its appeal is being reviewed. The panel upheld the main part of the decision issued on August 29 by Judge Jia Cobb of the District Court of Columbia following a lawsuit filed by the organization Make the Road New York. "On January 21, 2025, the Acting Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security extended expedited removal to include all persons located anywhere in the United States who, at the time of their arrest, cannot demonstrate continuous presence in the United States for the preceding two years," the court document reads. "That order to expand (this process) extended the expedited removal scheme to a new and far-reaching geographic area that includes major population centers such as Atlanta, Chicago, Dallas, Los Angeles, New York City, and St. Louis. (...) The order to expand (the process), as well as the guidance issued by the acting secretary two days later, determined that department personnel should apply throughout the United States the same systems and procedures that the department had applied on the coasts and within the first 100 miles of the land border," he adds. The court document adds that the guidance calls for asking detainees if they fear harm from being removed from the United States, but not whether they have been present in the United States for two years or more. The guidance also does not stipulate that they be given the opportunity to contest expedited removal, according to the court document. "It is not likely that the department will be able to show that its systems and procedures are constitutionally adequate to provide detained individuals with the opportunity to demonstrate their ineligibility to be removed on the basis that they have resided continuously in the United States for two years or more," the appeals court stated. In August, Judge Cobb did not question the constitutionality of the law that allows for expedited removal in its application at the border. "I simply believe that, in applying the statute to a large group of people who live in the interior of the country and who have not previously been subject to expedited removal, the government must afford them due process," he wrote. "Prioritizing speed above all else will inevitably lead the government to wrongly expel people through this flawed process," he added.

CBS News: Rep. Buddy Carter calls for more federal agents in metro Atlanta, citing immigration concerns

CBS News [11/23/2025 1:11 PM, Staff, 39474K] Video: HERE Republican U.S. Rep. Buddy Carter is advocating for increased federal law enforcement presence in metro Atlanta, describing the situation as "alarming" and urging the Department of Homeland Security to intervene. Carter told CBS Atlanta on Friday that Atlanta needs additional federal agents because of crime and what he claims is a growing number of undocumented immigrants living in Georgia. "We found out that there are over half a million illegal immigrants in the state of Georgia, the sixth most in any state in the country," Carter said. "That's alarming, and this is something that should be addressed now." Carter's office referenced a 2023 report from the Migration Policy Institute estimating that about 479,000 people without legal

status live in Georgia. While Carter's district covers southeast Georgia — not Atlanta — he said the city remains a focal point for his concerns. "Atlanta is the most populous area in our state… and that's where a lot of the illegals are at. So that's where we should focus," he said. Carter also echoed past comments from Gov. Brian Kemp, who has supported efforts under former President Donald Trump's administration to remove what he described as "dangerous criminals" from Georgia communities. "I don't know of any citizen who doesn't want to feel safe and who doesn't deserve to feel safe in their city and in their state," Carter said. "That's exactly what we're trying to do here." The request is already drawing pushback from Atlanta residents and immigrant advocates who worry increased federal presence could lead to immigration raids and disrupt families. One resident who spoke with CBS Atlanta said the proposal is causing fear in immigrant communities. "We don't want ICE to come to Atlanta," she said. "We are a community of workers and there is nothing wrong with us."

Breitbart: Abbott Orders Deployed Texas National Guard Troops Home from Illinois Ahead of Thanksgiving

Breitbart [11/23/2025 12:22 PM, Bob Price, 2416K] reports Governor Greg Abbott confirmed Saturday that Texas National Guard troops deployed to Illinois in October to support the federal Operation Midway Blitz immigration enforcement have been ordered to return to the Lone Star State before Thanksgiving. According to information released by Nexstar, Governor Abbott revealed that the troops who were deployed by President Donald Trump have received orders to return to Texas this week. The governor made the announcement during a campaign event in San Marcos on Saturday, KXAN reported. "They've already been ordered to return before Thanksgiving," the governor stated. Last weekend, the Department of War ordered the Texas and California National Guard soldiers to return to their home states, Breitbart Texas reported. The governor's statement put a timeline on their return to the Lone Star State. In Chicago, 200 Texas National Guard soldiers were deployed to the Chicago area in October in response to violent protests and actions against Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents and facilities. Texas Governor Greg Abbott authorized the federal government to deploy the National Guard, which has been patrolling the nation's southern border during the Biden-era border crisis, Breitbart Texas' Randy Clark reported. The Guardsmen were deployed under the president's Title 10 authority which was challenged by U.S. District Court Judge April Perry, CNN reported. The U.S. Supreme Court asked for an additional briefing on the case. Department of War officials reportedly said the soldiers in both deployments did not engage in "forward-facing" operations and instead, remained behind the scenes.

NewsMax: Tabor, Cleveland to Newsmax: Charlotte Crackdown Exposes Criminal Threats

NewsMax [11/23/2025 10:11 AM, Staff, 4109K] reports Operation Charlotte's Web, a sweeping enforcement initiative in North Carolina's largest city, highlights a rapidly growing threat that federal agents confront daily, whether on city streets or at the U.S.-Mexico border, former DEA country attaché Wesley Tabor and retired Border Patrol agent and former Terrell County sheriff Thaddeus Cleveland told Newsmax on Sunday. "These types of operations are something we've had and conducted for many decades, both under Republican and Democrat administrations," Cleveland said on Newsmax's "Wake Up America Weekend," adding that criminal suspects increasingly resort to extreme measures. "When we're trying to apprehend those that are either smuggling illegal aliens or when illegal aliens lead us in those high-speed pursuits, they'll do whatever it takes, putting the

U.S. citizens and public in danger," Cleveland said. Operation Charlotte's Web has led to more than 350 arrests of alleged criminal illegal immigrants, drawing urgent warnings from former law enforcement officials about escalating threats to officers and the public. Cleveland said the most troubling development is what he views as political rhetoric encouraging hostility toward agents. "The most concerning thing we still see is the rhetoric coming from the left that emboldens these criminals as well as inflames the issue," he said. Cleveland emphasized that while large-scale enforcement actions are necessary, agents are repeatedly placed in harm's way as criminal networks grow more brazen. Tabor said Charlotte's Web demonstrates how deeply criminal activity tied to illegal immigration has taken root nationwide.

USA Today: Trump revives calls for Chicago crackdown after deadly shooting

USA Today [11/23/2025 5:25 PM, Karissa Waddick, 67103K] reports President Donald Trump revived calls to ramp up the federal government's military crackdown in Chicago after a 14-year-old was killed and eight other teenagers were wounded during weekend shootings in the city's bustling downtown corridor. In a Nov. 22 Truth Social post, Trump described "massive crime and rioting" in downtown Chicago and argued Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker and Mayor Brandon Johnson were "refusing Federal Government help for a situation that could be quickly remedied." "The people are chanting, BRING IN TRUMP!!!" he said. Gunfire erupted Nov. 21 around 10 p.m. local time just two blocks from Millennium Park, where the popular "Cloud Gate" sculpture sits. Hours earlier, thousands had gathered in the park to watch fireworks and listen to live music during the city's Christmas tree lighting ceremony. Johnson said the shots appeared to ring out during a "teen takeover" that brought large crowds of young people into the city. Officers nearby saw a "large group on the sidewalk" that began to scatter after the shots were fired, the Chicago Police Department said in an email to USA TODAY. They are still investigating the cause. When they arrived to the scene, authorities found seven teenagers, aged 13 to 17, wounded. Less than an hour later, officers found two other teenagers with gunshot wounds blocks away. One of them, 14-year-old Armani Floyd, died of his injuries, according to the Cook County Medical Examiner's Office. "Incidents like last night set us back as a city, and it evokes fear," Johnson said of the violence during a Nov. 22 news conference. He described the shooting as "emotional whiplash" from the cheerful mood downtown during the tree lighting. "Our young people have to understand that they should not attend these unauthorized events that have been advertised on social media," Johnson said of the teen takeover. The event was promoted on social media a week before the deadly incident, and police had been monitoring the conversation, Johnson told reporters. He said the city placed 700 extra police officers and violence intervention specialists in the streets around the expected gathering place, but admitted the precautions "did not do enough." "I'm the first person to recognize that we have more work to do in this city to provide safe spaces for our young people," Johnson said. "When we have a setback like this, it just reminds us of the long road we have to build the city we all want to live in."

Washington Times: Trump says Chicago residents begging for crime help after violent weekend

Washington Times [11/23/2025 8:29 PM, Matt Delaney, 852K] reports President Trump says Chicagoans are clamoring for federal law enforcement assistance with shouts of "Bring in Trump" after two weekend shootings left one teen dead and several others wounded downtown. Mr. Trump reiterated his desire to crack down on crime in Chicago and called out "massive crime and rioting" after seven teenagers were injured Friday in a shooting

outside the Chicago Theatre. Less than an hour later, a 14-year-old boy was killed in a separate shooting, police said. “Multiple Police Officers attacked and badly injured. 300 people rioting, 6 victims shot, one critical and one dead,” the president posted Saturday on Truth Social. “In the meantime, Governor [J.B.] Pritzker and the Low IQ Mayor of Chicago are refusing federal government help for a situation that could be quickly remedied. The people are chanting, BRING IN TRUMP!!!” Police have not confirmed if any officers were injured in either of the shootings. Mr. Trump appeared to be taking cues from Alderman Brian Hopkins, the 2nd Ward Democrat who posted about 300 juveniles rioting downtown and officers being assaulted with mace and stun guns. Mr. Hopkins said one officer had to be hospitalized. Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson said 18 people were arrested and five weapons recovered amid the violence. However, the Democratic mayor said none of the suspects was thought to be the triggermen in the two shootings. “It is, quite frankly, frustrating and quite upsetting when this type of violence takes place because it does engender and evoke fear,” Mr. Johnson said. “So we will have a strong police presence. We’ll have stronger control over how traffic flows.”

FOX News: Heavily redacted voting records for school superintendent nabbed by ICE spark outrage

FOX News [11/23/2025 11:42 AM, Emma Colton Fox, 40621K] Video: HERE reports a legal fight is brewing over a Maryland county board of elections’ heavy redactions to the voter registration records of an illegal immigrant who served as superintendent of Iowa’s largest school system until he was arrested by federal authorities this year, Fox News Digital has learned. "This was shocking," Justin Riemer, CEO and president of the conservative legal group Restoring Integrity and Trust in Elections (RITE), told Fox News Digital in a Zoom interview on Friday. "When I saw the news reporting, and they showed screenshots of the registration applications with all this information redacted, I was just shocked.” Riemer was reacting to Prince George’s County’s Board of Elections’ recent release of voter registration documents belonging to illegal alien Ian Andre Roberts, which included blacking out Roberts’ sex, whether he checked the citizenship box, his date of birth and other information. The election attorney is representing RITE and conservative research group the American Accountability Foundation (AAF) in their efforts to receive the voter registration documents with fewer redactions. Roberts, who is originally from Guyana and first entered the U.S. in 1994, was working as the superintendent of the Des Moines public school district when Immigration and Customs Enforcement arrested him in September. Roberts was not legally permitted to work in the country after an employment authorization card expired in 2020, Fox News Digital previously reported. The arrest of an illegal immigrant working in such a high-profile position shocked conservatives and others. Additional details surrounding his lengthy rap sheet surfaced as journalists and other investigators looked into his history. It was soon discovered that he was listed as a registered Democratic voter in Maryland, where he previously lived, and that he had a conviction for reckless driving in 2012, the Department of Homeland Security reported in October. The Maryland State Board of Elections previously said Roberts did not vote in elections.

Breitbart: ‘Sedition Is a Major Crime’: Trump Hammers Democrats Who Told Military to Defy ‘Illegal Orders’

Breitbart [11/23/2025 11:26 AM, Amy Furr, 2416K] reports the group of Democrat lawmakers who told military members to disobey orders should be locked up, President Donald Trump proposed Saturday. Trump made his statements after those lawmakers,

including Sen. Elissa Slotkin (D-MI), were featured in a video on Tuesday urging troops to ignore orders in the clip that said "Don't give up the ship," per Fox News. In his post on Truth Social, Trump said, "THE TRAITORS THAT TOLD THE MILITARY TO DISOBEY MY ORDERS SHOULD BE IN JAIL RIGHT NOW, NOT ROAMING THE FAKE NEWS NETWORKS TRYING TO EXPLAIN THAT WHAT THEY SAID WAS OK. IT WASN'T, AND NEVER WILL BE! IT WAS SEDITION AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL, AND SEDITION IS A MAJOR CRIME. THERE CAN BE NO OTHER INTERPRETATION OF WHAT THEY SAID!". In a subsequent post, the president wrote, "MANY GREAT LEGAL SCHOLARS AGREE THAT THE DEMOCRAT TRAITORS THAT TOLD THE MILITARY TO DISOBEY MY ORDERS, AS PRESIDENT, HAVE COMMITTED A CRIME OF SERIOUS PROPORTION!". During an interview after the video of the Democrats was posted online, a senior advisor to Trump, Stephen Miller, said it was insurrection. "It's a general call for rebellion from the CIA and the armed services of the United States, by Democrat lawmakers." Miller added, "We have seen the Democratic Party nurse the flames of violence and insurrection against the federal government for the last ten months. When you see this continuous campaign of violence against ICE officers and Border Patrol agents, when you see Democrat sanctuary politicians and Democrat sanctuary governors side with the rioters, side with the assaulters over federal law enforcement, and that spills even into juries and grand juries. When you see Democrat jurors engage in nullification to let off violent attackers who are engaging in physical violence, physical assault against federal officers, this is a dangerous moment."

Breitbart: Rand Paul: Trump Calling Dems Traitors Deserving of Death 'Reckless, Inappropriate, Irresponsible'

Breitbart [11/23/2025 2:15 PM, Pam Key, 2416K] Video: HERE reports Sunday on CBS's "Face the Nation," Sen. Rand Paul (R-KY) said President Donald Trump calling Democratic lawmakers traders whose comments warrant the death penalty was "reckless, inappropriate, irresponsible."

NewsMax: Sen. Paul: Trump 'Pretending as if We Are at War' With Venezuela

NewsMax [11/23/2025 1:46 PM, Staff, 4109K] reports Sen. Rand Paul on Sunday sharply criticized President Donald Trump's plan to designate a major Venezuelan drug cartel as a foreign terrorist organization (FTO), warning that the move risks bypassing Congress and creating what he called a de facto state of war. Speaking on CBS News' "Face the Nation," the Kentucky Republican said the designation, which takes effect Monday, would allow the administration to claim expanded military authority without the constitutional debate required for launching armed conflict. "They are pretending as if we are at war," Paul said. "When you have war, the rules of engagement are lessened." On Monday, the list will include "Cartel de los Soles" ("Cartel of the Suns"), which Washington claims is run by Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro. The group is responsible for "terrorist violence throughout our hemisphere," Secretary of State Marco Rubio said. The FTO list includes Islamist groups, separatists, and guerrillas, and recently, gangs and drug organizations from Mexico and Colombia were added. It is overseen by the State Department. Paul argued that applying wartime authorities to antidrug operations would be unlawful and dangerous, noting that not all vessels the Coast Guard stops on suspicion of drug trafficking contain narcotics. He added that about one in four boats boarded off U.S. coasts are not carrying drugs. "It actually would be unlawful if the Coast Guard started blowing up boats," he said. "But for some reason, they say we are at war off the coast of Venezuela." The senator, who serves on the Senate Homeland Security and Foreign Relations committees, said he and Sen. Tim

Kaine, D-Va., pressed the administration to seek an official war declaration if it believes Venezuela constitutes a wartime environment. "The administration refused," he said. "They want it both ways."

FOX News: Top military leaders head to Puerto Rico to thank troops supporting Caribbean missions

FOX News [11/23/2025 10:47 PM, Greg Wehner, 40621K] reports two of the U.S. military's top leaders will visit Puerto Rico on Monday to meet with troops and express gratitude for their work supporting missions across the Caribbean and Latin America. Pentagon officials announced the visit in a memo on Sunday, saying the trip will include meetings with service members stationed in Puerto Rico and sailors operating in the Caribbean. "Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Dan Caine and SEAC David L. Isom are visiting Puerto Rico on November 24, 2025, for the second time to engage with service members and thank them for their outstanding support to regional missions," the media advisory read. "They will also visit and thank Sailors operating at sea for their dedicated, unwavering service in the SOUTHCOM area of responsibility." Caine and Secretary of War Pete Hegseth marked the first visit in September, when they stopped by on behalf of the Trump administration to show support for troops training on the island. The meeting took place at Muñiz Air Base in Carolina, outside San Juan, and drew top brass including Puerto Rico National Guard Adjutant General Carlos José Rivera-Román, Public Safety Secretary Brig. Gen. Arthur Garffer, and other senior military leaders. Hegseth spoke to nearly 300 soldiers at the base, thanking and describing them as "American warriors." The secretary of war also affirmed that those serving in the Armed Forces will be the best equipped and prepared in the world. The latest visit comes amid rising tensions in the Caribbean Sea, as the U.S. military expands its naval footprint near Venezuela, part of President Donald Trump's push to choke off drug flows from Latin America. Earlier this month, Hegseth announced the official launch of Operation Southern Spear, a mission targeting narco-terror networks across Latin America. Hegseth said on X at the time that U.S. Southern Command and Joint Task Force Southern Spear will lead the mission to defend the homeland and dismantle narco-terrorist networks across the Western Hemisphere. "This mission defends our Homeland, removes narco-terrorists from our Hemisphere, and secures our Homeland from the drugs that are killing our people," Hegseth said. [Editorial note: consult video at source link]

Breitbart: DHS Targets Identity Theft Migrants

Breitbart [11/24/2025 2:11 AM, Neil Munro, 2416K] reports the Department of Homeland Security is detaining document-fraud migrants who inflict massive economic and civic damage on ordinary American families. New York Times sketched the identity theft damage done to Dan Kluver, a married father of two in Olivia, Minnesota. The damage was done by a migrant who worked long hours in another state until his arrest by the Department of Homeland Security in March. The Guatemalan migrant used Kluver's ID to get a job. The employer reported the wages to the IRS, which then demanded extra taxes from Kluver's family. The identity theft also dragged Kluver into a wrongful death lawsuit after the migrant killed an American in an auto accident. The author wrote: "Some years the other [fake] Dan Kluver had earned more than his own salary at a local sugar beet factory, which pushed the total income under [the real Kluver's] Social Security number into a higher tax bracket as the debt started to mount. Twice, he'd contacted law enforcement and filed an identity theft report with the federal government, where it landed in a pile along with tens of thousands of similar reports filed each year. He waited for relief while the I.R.S. docked his annual tax returns and garnished a few of his paychecks, costing him thousands. Finally, a few months

before their wedding in 2012, Kristy decided to pay off the balance, emptying her savings and sending in a check for $6,000. Their relief lasted until the next tax season, when a new [tax] bill arrived — this one for $22,000 [because of the migrants' income]." In a note attached to the article, author Eli Saslow said: "Daniel and his family actually spent tons of time and an insane amount of energy (and money) trying to untangle this mess. I think there's a misconception that it's easy to solve identity theft. He protested his debts, went to the I.R.S., visited Social Security offices around the state and filed police reports three times. There were a few years (likely when [the migrant] was deported), when his taxes were normal and he thought the problem had been solved, but then it would start all over again. The issue is that the system is overwhelmed with these cases." "Dan Kluver is in debt and has 15 years of hardship that he didn't deserve," Saslow added. However, the article approved by New York Times' pro-migration editors does not disclose how much Kluver — and his wife and children — were required to pay the IRS due to the fraud perpetrated by the migrant, his employers, and Congress. Deep in the article, New York Times admitted that the IRS's oversight system "was backlogged with a million suspicious numbers and almost 80,000 reports of Social Security fraud in the last six months alone." The Times soft-pedalled the damage done to Kluver under sympathy for the Guatemalan migrant, Romeo Pérez-Bravo: By the start of 2025, [the Guatemalan] was preparing for another graveyard shift in St. Joseph, Mo., lacing his work boots in the darkness of his drafty rental while his wife and five children slept. He packed their school lunches for the next day, drove to the dog-food factory and gathered with his co-workers to say their nightly prayer. Then he swiped his badge to begin another 12-hour shift as Daniel Kluver, sinking deeper into an identity that wasn't really his own. By the time Trump was elected to his second term, there were five children in Perez-Bravo's house who also depended on the money that came each Friday in Kluver's name. Most were U.S. citizens, ranging in age from 4 to 19, who answered his Spanish with English and hosted birthday parties at Olive Garden.

New York Times: Two Men. One Identity. They Both Paid the Price.

New York Times [11/23/2025 8:18 AM, Eli Saslow and Gabriela Bhaskar, 135475K] reports Dan Kluver saw the police lights flashing in his rearview mirror late last year and eased his car onto the shoulder, thinking there had been some kind of mistake. He had spent four decades in rural Minnesota without ever getting into trouble. He prided himself on a life built around dependability and routine, working at the same factory where his father once did and spending his weekends coaching baseball and teaching Sunday school. He had never fired a gun, or smoked a cigarette, or missed a payment, or been arrested. "License and registration, please," the officer said. Kluver, 42, handed them over and waited while the officer went back to his patrol car. He listened to the church bells that rang every hour and watched sunlight reflect off the grain silos in downtown Olivia, where he knew most of the 2,400 residents, including the officer who was walking back to his car. "It's strange, but it looks like your license has been suspended," the officer said. "You've got another driver's license with some issues down in Missouri." "What?" Kluver said. "I've barely ever been to Missouri. How's that possible?" The officer had no answers, but Kluver feared he might know what was happening. Over the years, there had been signs that something wasn't right — stray letters about wages earned in unfamiliar towns and collection notices for debt that wasn't his. Kluver had tried to untangle the mess several times by hiring tax specialists and driving to government offices across the state only to run into the same bureaucratic dead ends. But now the problem was bigger than unpaid taxes. Someone was impersonating him, moving through the world as Dan Kluver, building a life in his name with a government-issued ID. His case was one version of a problem that's been spreading

across the country for years. The government estimates that as many as one million undocumented workers are using fraudulent or stolen Social Security numbers — a survival tactic used to pass background checks and get jobs. The numbers are skimmed from data breaches, sold in black markets online for as little as $150 or handed out in border towns by human smugglers. Many numbers connect back to U.S. citizen children, dead people or Puerto Ricans whose numbers circulate easily across the mainland. But thousands of others belong to people like Kluver, Americans whose names and identities are no longer theirs alone.

Opinion – Editorials

Washington Examiner: Trump's painful but necessary mass deportations
Washington Examiner [11/24/2025 5:00 AM, Staff, 1394K] reports the foreign-born population of the United States has fallen by roughly 2 million since President Donald Trump took office, reversing the more than 7 million increase under President Joe Biden. Recent reporting shows why these deportations cannot come quickly enough, and new polling reveals a striking reality: although many legal immigrants are frustrated by the removals, they also overwhelmingly acknowledge that they are "necessary." The Current Population Survey, administered by the Census Bureau but published by the Labor Department every month, was not designed to track the foreign born population of the United States, but it is the best dataset we have and the most recent report, released this past Thursday shows that the foreign-born population aged 16 and older has fallen by 2 million since January of this year. The Center for Immigration Studies estimates that the total foreign-born decrease, including children, is 2.4 million. This would be the first decrease in over 50 years and comes after a record 7 million increase under Biden, most of whom had no legal right to enter. By the end of Biden's term, a record high 52 million immigrants were in the United States, comprising another record high 16% of the total population. And many of these immigrants are perfectly law-abiding people with a valid legal presence. But millions are not. This week, the City Journal uncovered widespread fraud in Minnesota's Somali community, which took advantage of the state's Medicaid Housing Stabilization Services program to enrich not only themselves, but also fund terrorists back in Africa. Created by Gov. Tim Walz, the HSS Program used federal and state taxpayer dollars to provide "housing services," such as "housing consultation" and "moving expenses," to people with disabilities, mental illness, and substance use disorders. This all comes after federal and Minnesota taxpayers were fleeced by the Feeding Our Future program in 2020, where members of the Somali community pocketed hundreds of millions in tax dollars for school lunches that were never provided. Trump's mass deportations may be difficult, but the alternative is a country that tolerates rampant fraud, classrooms overwhelmed by non-English speakers, soaring housing costs, and a foreign-born population growing faster than the nation can absorb. Increasingly, even legal immigrants understand that real sovereignty demands enforcement, not empathy. Restoring order to the immigration system isn't cruelty; it's the necessary first step toward restoring strength and stability.

Top News (Sunday Talk Shows)

FOX News Sunday Morning Futures with Maria Bartiromo: Sen. Barrasso calls out Dems' 'politics of pain' after video to troops
FOX News Sunday Morning Futures with Maria Bartiromo [11/23/2025 10:41 AM, Staff] reports Senate Majority Whip John Barrasso discusses Democrats posting a video urging service members to refuse illegal orders, Republicans pushing back on President Donald Trump's tariff rebates and the potential for another shutdown.

CBS' Face The Nation: Jason Crow Says President Trump Rhetoric Is Dangerous
CBS' Face The Nation [11/23/2025 11:55 AM, Staff, 1292K] reports Colorado Democratic Representative Jason Crow is one of the six lawmakers who released a recoded video earlier last week that urged service members to defy illegal and unlawful orders. This video prompted the President to respond in a way that concerns many. Crows office had concerns over a bomb threat against his office in Aurora Colorado and his family have received death and murder threats. When asked if the threats were credible. Crow said that he's going to take the threats very seriously. "When you have the president of the United States threatening to execute and to hang and to arrest using this rhetoric, people listen to it. We have seen before a pattern of inciteful, dangerous rhetoric being used by the president and then people acting on that. I lived through an experience January 6, a very similar dynamic. He's been doing this for years, saying things, and in total disregard for the outcome and what might happen when he throws this stuff out in the world." Crow stated. President Trump walked back some of his threats, saying he wasn't threatening death but was saying "sedation" was often in the past, punishable by death.

CBS' Face The Nation: Mark Kelly Says He Didn't Think Trump Would Call For The Execution Of Members Of Congress
CBS' Face The Nation [11/23/2025 11:55 AM, Staff, 1292K] reports earlier last week six democrats released a video calling on service members to remember their oath and not follow unlawful orders. Arizona Democratic Senator Mark Kelly was one of them. President Trumps initial reaction was to call for the execution of these individuals but has since walked back, saying he wasn't threatening death but was saying "sedation" was often in the past, punishable by death. "What the president said is very serious. I didn't think he would step over that line, calling for the execution of members of Congress. And his words carry tremendous weight, more so than anybody else in the country, and he should be aware of that. And because of what he says, there is now an – increased threats against us. I'm not going to get into details on my personal security. But, as the husband of Congresswoman Gabby Giffords, we – I understand what political violence is. The president should as well. Just like Gabby, somebody tried to assassinate him, and he should understand that his words have – you know, could have serious, serious consequences." Kelly stated. This comes as just weeks ago the President and other Republicans urging people to dial back the violent rhetoric after the tragic shooting of Charlie Kirk.

NBC's Meet the Press. Amy Klobuchar: "What is dangerous is the president of the United States threatening these members of Congress with death."
NBC's Meet the Press [11/23/2025 12:01 PM, Staff] reports the Democratic senators, Congresspeople who recorded that video telling members of the military, the intelligence community that they can refuse orders that violate the law. The president called this

“seditious behavior, punishable by death”. Speaker Mike Johnson commented, "Everybody knows that was wildly inappropriate. It is very dangerous. You have leading members of Congress telling troops to disobey orders. I think that’s unprecedented in American history." Secretary Bessent just said this was a complete mistake, they should retract it. "What is dangerous is not restating what is in the Uniform Code of Military Justice, which says that our troops cannot follow unlawful orders, very clearly. What is dangerous is the president of the United States threatening these members of Congress with death. Literally, saying that they should be executed. As Mark Kelly said, he is someone who has flown a plane, that’s had missiles land nearly on that plane. He has taken anti-aircraft fire. He has launched into space, into orbit on behalf of his country. And he never thought that a president of the United States would try to execute him or to tell people. This is not at all a game. My dear friend, Melissa Hortman, the former Speaker of the House, and her husband, were killed in cold blood by someone who was engaging in political violence. That was the shooter. Or my other friends there, took between them, a husband and wife, 17 shots. Or what happened to Charlie Kirk, that assassination. Members of Congress threats have gone from 1,600 to over 14,000 in just a few years. And that is every year. That’s what we’re dealing with right now." Senator Amy Klobuchar states.

ABC’s This Week With George Stephanopoulos: Elissa Slotkin Says She Wont Let The Threats Stop Her Voice

ABC’s This Week With George Stephanopoulos [11/23/2025 10:41 AM, Staff, 1824K] reports Senator Elissa Slotkin has been receiving death and bomb threats. President Trump calling Slotkin and her colleagues’ traitors and sedition at the highest level. This all started on Thursday. Donald Trump saying, "it’s called seditious behavior at the highest level. Each one of these traitors to our country should be arrested and put on trial." Continuing, "this is really bad and dangerous to our country. Seditious behavior from traitors. Lock them up. Seditious behavior, punishable by death." He also reposted, "Hang them, George Washington would." "I think almost immediately, you know, the security situation changed for all of us. Leadership climate is set at the top. So, if the president’s saying things like that, you can imagine people on the ground, what they’re doing, the calls into our office, et cetera, et cetera, into our teams, the calling of police. You know, I think I’ve been through dangerous situations before, so it doesn’t change, you know, my feeling about speaking my mind. But obviously, the president took issue with one sentence in a video and was calling for our death. I think that’s inappropriate, whether you’re a Democrat, Republican or an independent." Slotkin states. The White House says President Trump wasn’t threatening death but thinks you and the other members are in serious trouble. Slotkin says that there is no secret that the president is trying to weaponize the Justice Department, and has gone after many people already.

ABC’s This Week With George Stephanopoulos: Michael McCaul Reaction To The Video For Troops To Defy Illegal Orders

ABC’s This Week With George Stephanopoulos [11/23/2025 10:41 AM, Staff, 1824K] reports Representative Michael McCaul says that he doesn’t speak for Trump in terms of hanging members of Congress. McCaul says that the orders that the Democratic leaders are calling to not follow are not illegal stated the orders are based on Article Two, self-defense, of the Constitution, to stop a threat. He is saying that in this case the threat of drugs coming into the country and killing Americans. These lawmakers now have 24/7 increased security due to the President calling for their execution. McCaul is asked what he would say to President Trump about the threats that are continuing? "My advice, though not

on his White House, but I would tone down the rhetoric and tone down the theme here. I would emphasize more what I discussed, and that is, these orders are not illegal. I mean they have been sent down on a mission to stop drugs from coming into the United States." McCaul states.

FOX News Sunday: [Ukraine] Democratic senator blasts Trump's plan to end war in Ukraine as 'historically bad deal'
FOX News Sunday [11/23/2025 10:41 AM, Staff] reports Sen. Mark Warner, D-Va., discusses President Donald Trump's plan to end the Russia-Ukraine war, negotiations over extending health care subsidies and more on 'Fox News Sunday.'

Immigration and Customs Enforcement

Washington Times: ICE holds record 65,000 migrants; arrests, deportations reach record pace
Washington Times [11/23/2025 4:31 PM, Stephen Dinan, 852K] reports ICE is shattering records for immigration enforcement, setting new high-water marks for arrests, deportations and detention. The agency reported holding more than 65,000 migrants as of Nov. 15, a record by far. It had fewer than 60,000 in late September, just before the government shutdown, and fewer than 40,000 in January when President Biden turned over power to President Trump. Fueling the rise is a surge in arrests. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement averaged nearly 1,200 arrests daily since Oct. 1, a record pace. ICE is deporting illegal immigrants at an even higher rate, more than 1,250 daily. If that held for 12 months, it would exceed 450,000 for the entire year, surpassing the record set in 2012. The number is still shy of the 1 million mark the administration has set. "They need to ramp it up," said Rosemary Jenks, policy director at the Immigration Accountability Project. "There's a big population that should be easier to remove, and we need to get to those and remove them. Americans are willing to support mass deportation, but it has to be mass deportation." The numbers were released as part of a periodic update of ICE detention data. Releases were suspended during the government shutdown, so this was the first data for the fiscal year that began Oct. 1. From Oct. 1 to Nov. 15, the date the data was current, ICE reported that its personnel recorded 54,735 book-ins, which serves as a yardstick for overall arrests. Customs and Border Protection reported another 7,066 book-ins. During the Biden administration, those numbers were reversed. CBP book-ins were dramatically higher than those of ICE. The border chaos left ICE scrambling to deal with the migrants picked up by the Border Patrol and unable to focus on its arrests in the interior. The vast majority of ICE activities were pickups of migrants from prisons and jails. Nearly 95% of ICE arrestees in detention in 2024 had either criminal convictions or pending charges. That number has now dipped below 60%, fueling complaints that ICE is not focusing on the "criminal aliens" who Mr. Trump said were his priority. Ms. Jenks said she wasn't bothered by the decreased criminal ratio. "I couldn't care less how many of them have committed extra crimes. We need to deport all of them," she said. Homeland Security Assistant Secretary Tricia McLaughlin said ICE has funding to hold up to 100,000 migrants on any given day under Mr. Trump's One Big Beautiful Bill Act. She said the funding helps deportations. "With innovative partnerships like Alligator Alcatraz, Speedway Slammer, Louisiana Lockup, and Cornhusker Clink, we've significantly expanded detention space. Despite a rapid number of injunctions, DHS is working rapidly to remove these aliens from detention centers to their final destination — home," she said. She also provided numbers that appear to differ from ICE's published data. Ms. McLaughlin said 70% of the illegal immigrants ICE has arrested

have had criminal convictions or pending charges and that the administration is on pace for 600,000 deportations this year. That 600,000 figure appears to include CBP border ousters, which are not part of ICE's formal removal numbers.

Washington Post: In cities targeted by ICE, empty desks and school disruptions follow

Washington Post [11/24/2025 5:01 AM, Justine McDaniel and María Luisa Paúl, 32099K] reports the effects of the Trump administration's immigration crackdown in Charlotte tore through schools last week, disrupting learning as more than 20 percent of students stayed home from class. At many schools, children were either missing or rattled. One wore a tag that read "I'm a U.S. citizen"; another carried an American passport to elementary school. Two kindergartners showed up to class with whistles around their necks to blow if they saw immigration agents. "You can't get ready for this type of disruption," said Amanda Thompson, president of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg teachers union. "All of our students are being affected." Charlotte became the latest example of how the Trump administration's sweeping campaign to deport undocumented immigrants — including activity by immigration agents near schools in some places — has traumatized kids, put new burdens on teachers and administrators and dramatically altered the school year in the communities it has touched. The federal government does not release comprehensive data showing where arrests or detentions are taking place, but a Post review of news reports found instances of parents arrested near campuses in at least 10 states so far this year. In other instances, immigration agents' actions near campuses — which include shooting a man, releasing tear gas and engaging in a car chase — have prompted lockdowns and alarm. And attendance often drops temporarily following Immigration and Customs Enforcement activity, or rumors of it, school officials say. The Department of Homeland Security is not conducting enforcement operations at schools, spokeswoman Tricia McLaughlin said in a statement to The Post. The agency has repeatedly said it is not raiding schools, and no reports have surfaced of such. But in interviews with 22 teachers, administrators and school staff members in affected areas from California to Maine, The Post found that federal officers are operating close enough to school campuses to upset students and families, regardless of whether they are citizens.

Telemundo Amarillo: Home Depot speaks out after protests over ICE raids outside its stores

Telemundo Amarillo [11/23/2025 2:09 PM, Staff, 4K] reports Home Depot said Sunday that it does not receive notifications about immigration operations carried out by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). The store chain told Telemundo News that it does not collaborate in any way with ICE agents. The statements were made after a group of activists stormed a store of the chain in Burbank, California, as part of the 'We Ain't Buying It' campaign. Activists are demanding that companies report actions that harm their customers. [Editorial note: consult video at source link]

Univision: [NY] ICE Operation on Canal Street Leaves Street Vendor Detained and Tensions with NYPD

Univision [11/23/2025 12:18 PM, Staff, 5004K] reports an operation by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents on Canal Street created tensions with the New York Police Department (NYPD) following the capture of a Senegalese national with a history of selling counterfeit goods. According to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), federal agents went to the Canal Street and Broadway area at noon Saturday to detain Abdou Tall,

identified as an undocumented immigrant with multiple previous arrests linked to the illegal trade. According to the official version, the man tried to escape for several blocks, fell to the ground and continued to resist before being handcuffed. Federal authorities criticized the NYPD, saying police had detained Tall twice during October for crimes related to trademark forgery, both classified as felonies. ICE maintains that in neither of the two arrests the police handed him over to his custody, despite a request to detain him for immigration reasons. DHS said that after being released, the suspect immediately returned to the streets, where he was arrested again days later for similar behavior. ICE called this situation an example of what it considers a policy of revolving doors in the city and questioned the lack of cooperation with the immigration authorities.

Post Millennial: [FL] Dozens of anti-ICE agitators arrested after blocking Miami detention facility

Post Millennial [11/23/2025 3:30 PM, Hayden Cunningham, 519K] reports dozens of anti-ICE protesters were arrested Saturday after blocking the entrance to an ICE detention facility near the Alligator Alcatraz site in Florida. The demonstration took place outside the Krome Detention Center in Miami-Dade and involved protesters associated with the Sunrise Movement, a left-wing activist group. Protesters blocked the gate to oppose the Trump administration's immigration policies. They held a banner reading "abolish ICE" and wore shirts that said "ICE kidnapped my neighbor." "ICE is a criminal organization that is terrifying everyday people on behalf of fascist billionaires. They have no right to kidnap our neighbors, and it's time for each of us to stand up to their intimidation tactics. Let's shut it down," the Sunrise Movement said in a social media post. The organization further stated that 30 young people were arrested. The organization said online that it is demanding all ICE facilities be shut down, that the government "bring our neighbors home," and that ICE be abolished entirely. A video posted by the group showed one woman being handcuffed, telling the camera she was being arrested for "peacefully protesting the horrible treatment of human beings by ICE agents," before an officer responded, "It's called obstruction. Obstruction of justice." NBC 6 South Florida reported that Miami-Dade Sheriff's Office deputies responded after protesters blocked the gate and refused repeated requests to move. Officials said the group ignored multiple orders to disperse and was arrested for trespassing. The sheriff's office added that while it supports peaceful expression, protesters cannot jeopardize safety or block access to critical facilities. The protest is the latest in anti-ICE demonstrations occurring nationwide as the Trump administration continues deportation efforts. The administration has primarily focused on arresting criminal illegal immigrants, and DHS has highlighted arrests of illegal immigrants convicted of violent crimes such as murder, rape, drug trafficking, and child sex crimes. "Every day, the brave men and women of ICE put their lives on the line to remove the worst of the worst criminal illegal aliens from American streets. Just yesterday, ICE arrested murderers, pedophiles, rapists, and drug traffickers," said Assistant Secretary Tricia McLaughlin in a statement last week. "Secretary Noem is delivering on the President's mandate from the American people to remove criminal illegal aliens—many let in by the previous administration—from our country."

Telemundo: [FL] 31 arrests made during protest at Krome detention center

Telemundo [11/23/2025 7:54 PM, Staff, 182K] reports authorities reported that 31 people were arrested on Saturday during a protest at the Krome Detention Center in Miami-Dade. According to the county Sheriff's Office (MDSO), officers responded after several people blocked the front door and refused to vacate it after repeated requests. According to an

official statement from the Sunrise Movement (organizing the protest): During the demonstration, attendees carried photos of people who have died in ICE detention centers and signs that read "ICE kidnapped my neighbor ." Participants spoke of the cruel and inhumane treatment the agency inflicts on members of the community. " ICE is a criminal organization that terrorizes ordinary people on behalf of fascist billionaires . They have no right to abduct our neighbors, and it's time for every American to stand up to their intimidation tactics," said Carly Shaffer, organizer of the Sunrise Movement . Manu Guerrero of Sunrise Movement Miami stated, " As young people, we refuse to accept a future where our friends and family can disappear without warning. We are taking action because our communities deserve safety and the freedom to live without fear ." Authorities stated that, while they fully support the right to peaceful expression, it is necessary to guarantee security and access to critical facilities. After repeated orders to disperse were ignored, several people were arrested for trespassing, according to officers. No injuries were reported. [Editorial note: consult video at source link]

Law Enforcement Today: [ID] Idaho Hit-and-Run Leaves 8-Year-Old Dead After Illegal Alien Driver Flees Scene

Law Enforcement Today [11/24/2025 1:53 AM, Trevor Bachman, 82K] reports that, in yet another case among the growing number of motor vehicle deaths caused by illegal aliens, federal officials confirmed that 8-year-old Mora Gerety was killed Saturday by an illegal alien who should have been deported nearly a decade ago. The suspect, 33-year-old Elvin Elgardo Ramos-Caballero of Honduras, had been released into the United States by the Obama administration in 2015 and later granted a driver's license by the sanctuary state of Oregon, according to a press release from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). The Department said Ramos-Caballero entered the country illegally in September 2015, failed to appear for his immigration hearing, and was ordered removed by an immigration judge in May 2016. Despite this, Oregon's sanctuary policies allowed him to legally obtain a state-issued license. He remained in the country unlawfully for nearly ten years before the tragedy that ended young Mora's life on November 11 in Boise. Authorities said Ramos-Caballero was driving a pickup truck and attempted a right-hand turn at an intersection when he struck Mora as she was crossing the street. The child was pronounced dead shortly after. Ramos-Caballero allegedly fled the scene but was arrested later that day and charged with hit and run, as reported by Fox News. "Eight-year-old Mora Gerety's precious life was taken by an illegal alien who should have never been in our country, let alone issued a driver's license by the sanctuary state of Oregon," said DHS Assistant Secretary Tricia McLaughlin in a statement on November 22. "Mora's classmates, teachers, friends, and our nation will carry this loss forever. We ask every American to lift this family up in prayer, and we ask God to grant them courage as they face the hardest days a family can endure. Decades of open border policies have turned every community into a border town. These policies have deadly consequences." The case reignited outrage over state-level sanctuary laws that allow illegal immigrants to obtain driving privileges and commercial licenses despite existing federal deportation orders. Representative Byron Donalds of Florida called for an immediate federal crackdown, warning that these policies endanger innocent Americans. "You have the American people, they're doing the right thing, and now they're subject to losing their lives or being in an auto accident with a CDL driver who cannot read our signs, who doesn't know our laws." The DHS statement noted that Ramos-Caballero's release was part of a broader pattern dating back to the Obama years, when thousands of migrants who entered illegally were allowed to remain pending court hearings, many of which they never attended. ICE confirmed that Ramos-Caballero was ordered deported "in absentia" in 2016 after failing to appear.

Telemundo: [CA] This migrant has been missing for weeks after being arrested by ICE and suffering a medical crisis when he was to be deported
Telemundo [11/23/2025 12:15 PM, Staff, 2218K] reports Vicente Ventura Aguilar, an undocumented Mexican immigrant, was detained by federal immigration agents in a corner of southern Los Angeles, according to witnesses to the arrest. A day later, while in Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) custody, he suffered a medical emergency: he lost consciousness and fell to the ground with tremors in his limbs, according to a man who claims he was detained next to him. Since then, Ventura has been missing. It's been more than six weeks. ICE told his family that he is not in his custody, and his loved ones and lawyers have been unable to locate or contact him. They have searched hospitals and morgues and asked for help tracking him in Mexico. They have even filed a missing person's complaint with the Los Angeles Police Department. "The whole family is worried, especially our mother in Mexico," said Felipe, Ventura's brother. "We're afraid he's dead," he adds. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) stated that there was no person with the name of Ventura in its custody that day. 73 people from Mexico were arrested in the Los Angeles area "between October 7 and 8," DHS spokesman Tricia McLaughlin said in a statement to MS NOW, Telemundo's sister network. "None of them were Ventura Aguilar," he said. The family and lawyers claimed that it is possible that Ventura gave authorities a different name when arrested, which would explain why it has not appeared in the ICE system. In his opinion, ICE and the Customs and Border Protection agency, who could have had it in custody, should do more to find him. "They should conduct a search beyond a simple consultation by name and date of birth," said Laura Urias, a family attorney. For example, authorities could search for it using his photograph or other biometric data, Urias suggested.

Breitbart: [CA] California lawmakers question Noem over ICE detention center deaths
Breitbart [11/23/2025 8:28 PM, Staff, 2416K] reports Southern California lawmakers are demanding answers from Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem about 25 detainees who died in the custody of immigration and Customs Enforcement this year, two of whom were from Orange County. Policy makers have cited unfit medical care and system failures at the Adelanto ICE Processing Center in San Bernardino County for a lack of quality care for detainees. They have questioned whether the facility is capable of processing a surge in immigrants tied to President Donald Trump's push to deport undocumented immigrants. Rep. Dave Min, D-Irvine and Rep. Judy Chu, D-Pasadena, wrote a letter to Noem asking the secretary for an explanation of the deaths of more than two dozen people while in ICE custody. The number of in-custody deaths has set an annual record, a number officials began tracking in 2018. "These are not just numbers on a website, but real people – with families, jobs and hopes and dreams – each of whom died in ICE custody," the lawmakers wrote to Noem. "The following cases illustrate systemic patterns of delayed treatment, neglect and failure to properly notify families," the letter continued. Ismael Ayala-Uribe, 39, died Sept. 22 after being apprehended at the Fountain Valley Auto Wash where he worked, his family, which established a GoFundMe account, said. His relatives and federal lawmakers have alleged that Ayala-Uribe was denied proper medical care. Ayala-Uribe lived in Westminster from the age of four, and had been protected from deportation by the Deferred Arrivals and Childhood Arrivals program. His application for continued protection was not renewed in 2016. Documents obtained by the Los Angeles Times showed that ICE Adelanto officials were aware of his medical condition and later acknowledged his death in the facility. Gabriel Garcia-Aviles, 56, who lived near Costa Mesa, died Oct. 23, a week after being detained by ICE, which said he was arrested by the U.S. Border Patrol for an outstanding warrant, and was subsequently sent to the Adelanto center. ICE officials said

he was only in detention for a few hours before being taken to Victorville hospital for "suspected alcohol withdrawal symptoms" where his condition worsened rapidly and later died. The deaths have raised questions about the treatment of detainees at Adelanto, among the largest federal immigration detention centers in California. "These deaths raise serious questions about ICE's ability to comply with basic detention standards, medical care protocols, and notification requirements, and underscores a pattern of gross negligence that demands immediate accountability," Min and Chu wrote in their letter to Noem and Todd Lyons, acting, ICE director. The letter was signed by 43 other lawmakers, including four from California in addition to Min and Chu.

Citizenship and Immigration Services

NPR: Nobody wants to come': What if the U.S. can no longer attract immigrant physicians?

NPR [11/24/2025 5:00 AM, Yuki Noguchi, 34837K] Audio: HERE reports Michael Liu grew up in Toronto, Canada, then moved to the U.S. for college and medical school because, to him, America was the premiere destination for fulfilling his aspirations to become a physician and researcher. "You know, in chase of the American Dream, and understanding all the opportunities — that was such a draw for me," says Liu, who attended Harvard University. He is now 28 and has deep personal and professional roots in Boston, where he's an internal medicine resident at Mass General Brigham. But this spring, he was shaken by the Trump administration's cuts to scientific research at the National Institutes of Health and staff at the Department of Health and Human Services. "That was a really striking moment for me," Liu says. "It made me question where, professionally, it made most sense for me. I still have strong connections to Toronto and mentors." Then, in September, Liu was doing rounds with two doctors from Mexico and Costa Rica, when the administration hiked fees nearly 30 fold for H1B visas, which are for highly trained professionals, to $100,000. He watched his colleagues' tearful reactions to the sudden uncertainty that thrust on their careers, knowing that employers like hospital systems are unlikely to be able to afford to pay for such dramatic increases. "It was terrible to see," Liu says. He has a green card, having married an American citizen earlier this year. But, he says, the Trump administration's actions affect him. "It feels like my contribution is — just because I was not born in this country — less valued," Liu says. "I really hadn't thought so deeply about going back home before, but definitely it's been much more top of mind." [Editorial note: consult audio at source link]

Customs and Border Protection

Washington Post: [NC] Border Patrol's Charlotte sting reaches into country clubs, upscale shops

Washington Post [11/23/2025 9:21 AM, Teo Armus and Arelis R. Hernández, 24149K] reports the gourmet pasta shop surrounded by million-dollar Colonials might not be the most obvious spot for clues about how hundreds of U.S. Border Patrol officers have swept across this city in recent days. Pasta & Provisions, a longtime local favorite in the Myers Park neighborhood, is more popular among well-to-do bankers who populate the city's

soaring financial office buildings than with the working-class immigrants who flocked here to help build that skyline. There is little Spanish spoken outside the shop's kitchen. But as armed federal agents in unmarked SUVs poured into North Carolina's largest city, the store was not immune from the Trump administration's targeted immigration enforcement operation that launched Nov. 15. "It's taking a toll everywhere," said the pasta store's owner, Tommy George, who took shifts washing dishes after one employee's husband had been detained in the sweep. "In a way, the consequences are in every neighborhood." Local officials said they were told the operation has ended, although the Department of Homeland Security — which said it had arrested about 370 people as of Friday — said that "Operation Charlotte's Web" will continue indefinitely. DHS spokeswoman Tricia McLaughlin suggested in a statement that the Trump administration set its target on Charlotte in response to more recent moves by local officials to cut ties with Immigration and Customs Enforcement. "This DHS operation will target the criminal illegal aliens who flocked to the Tar Heel State because they knew sanctuary politicians would protect them and allow them to roam free on American streets," she said.

Univision: [NC] Details of arrest of man accused of attacking Border Patrol
Univision [11/23/2025 2:12 PM, Staff, 5004K] reports Miguel Ángel García Martinez, 24, was arrested and charged with attacking Border Patrol agents in Charlotte during the Charlotte's Web operation. This week, a video and official case documents raised questions about the official version of the incident were revealed. The defendant faces charges of: assault, resisting arrest, and preventing the work of a federal agent. These are the new details of what happened during the preliminary hearing in U.S. District Court for the Western District of North Carolina on November 20. [Editorial note: consult video at source link]

AP: [IL] Aftermath of Chicago's intense immigration crackdown leaves lawsuits, investigations and anxiety
AP [11/23/2025 3:30 PM, Sophia Tareen and Christine Fernando, 19051K] reports Chicago has entered what many consider a new uneasy phase of a Trump administration immigration crackdown that has already led to thousands of arrests. While a U.S. Border Patrol commander known for leading intense and controversial surges moved on to North Carolina, federal agents are still arresting immigrants across the nation's third-largest city and suburbs. A growing number of lawsuits stemming from the crackdown are winding through the courts. Authorities are investigating agents' actions, including a fatal shooting. Activists say they are not letting their guard down in case things ramp up again, while many residents in the Democratic stronghold where few welcomed the crackdown remain anxious. "I feel a sense of paranoia over when they might be back," said Santani Silva, an employee at a vintage store in the predominantly Mexican neighborhood of Pilsen. "People are still afraid." For more than two months, the Chicago area was the focus of an aggressive operation led by Gregory Bovino, a Border Patrol commander behind similar efforts in Los Angeles and soon Louisiana. Armed and masked agents used unmarked SUVs and helicopters throughout the city of 2.7 million and its suburbs to target suspected criminals and immigration violators. Arrests often led to intense standoffs with bystanders, from wealthy neighborhoods to working-class suburbs. While the intensity has died down in the week since Bovino left, reports of arrests still pop up. Activists tracking immigration agents said they confirmed 142 daily sightings at the height of the operation last month. The number is now roughly six a day. "It's not over," said Brandon Lee with the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights. "I don't think it will be over."

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CNN: [IL] Woman shot by border patrol five times speaks out
CNN [11/23/2025 11:20 PM, Caroline Baxendale, 18595K] reports that, in an exclusive interview, CNN's Omar Jimenez speaks with Marimar Martinez, a United States citizen who was accused of ramming the vehicle of a Customs and Border Protection agent in Chicago before he shot her several times. A judge dismissed charges against Martinez after a reversal by federal prosecutors in one of the most high-profile cases connected to Operation Midway Blitz in Chicago. [Editorial note: consult video at source link]

Politico: [Canada] Trump quietly holds off on Canada tariff increase
Politico [11/23/2025 4:00 PM, Ari Hawkins, 2100K] reports President Donald Trump has yet to follow through on his threat to impose an additional 10 percent tariff on Canadian imports, four weeks after he halted "all trade negotiations" over an anti-tariff ad the province of Ontario ran during the Major League Baseball World Series. "Because of their serious misrepresentation of the facts, and hostile act, I am increasing the Tariff on Canada by 10% over and above what they are paying now," Trump wrote on Truth Social on Oct. 25, after announcing two days earlier that he was terminating trade talks over the"egregious" ad. Trump's announcement had Canadian exporters preparing for a worst-case scenario: a sweeping levy layered on top of existing double-digit duties, which would have been particularly painful for industries like autos, where components cross the border multiple times before reaching their final form. But to date, the Trump administration hasn't sent any official documentation ordering U.S. Customs and Border Protection to enforce the new, higher duty, and U.S. importers have not received any new regulatory guidance. "We monitor the federal registry and follow executive order activity on a regular basis and haven't seen any changes," said Flavio Volpe, the president of Canada's Automotive Parts Manufacturers' Association, which controls over 90 percent of independent parts production in Canada. The White House did not say whether it still plans to impose the tariff when asked for comment. But a separate U.S. official suggested the Trump administration had opted to hold off on additional duties — which would have sent tariffs on Canadian goods to 45 percent — and instead continue to dangle the threat as the two sides gear up for future talks. "The Canadians know what's on the table," said the official, granted anonymity to discuss private conversations.

Transportation Security Administration

FOX News: FAA scrambles to hire 8,900 air traffic controllers by 2028 as shortage reaches crisis levels
FOX News [11/24/2025 3:01 AM, Olivianna Calmes, 40621K] reports a nationwide air traffic controller shortage has put new attention on a growing training option the FAA now approves for certain colleges. The recent federal government shutdown highlighted how thin staffing has become, especially as delays and reroutes stacked up across the country. The FAA says it wants to hire at least 8,900 new controllers by 2028. According to FAA workforce data analyzed by USAFacts, about 3,000 controller positions were vacant nationwide as of late 2024 — though not every facility is equally understaffed. That shortage is driving interest in a newer FAA-approved college pathway designed to streamline controller training at a small group of universities — including Middle Georgia State. The Enhanced AT-CTI program allows students to train to the same standard as the FAA Academy, and if hired and meeting FAA requirements such as passing the Air Traffic Skills Assessment (ATSA), medical and security clearances, they can go directly to a facility instead of completing the full academy in Oklahoma City, which can involve long waitlists

and multi-month courses. Graduates still undergo facility-specific training and must be certified on-the-job before becoming full controllers. Only about nine schools nationwide have been approved to offer the new Enhanced AT-CTI program as of 2025, according to Kemarie Jeffers, the department chair of aviation science and management at Middle Georgia State. Inside Middle Georgia State's tower simulator, air traffic control student Brooke Graffagnino says the job's intensity is what drew her in. "It kind of gets your chest beating, because with how much traffic there is, sometimes it is intense," she said. She says students quickly find out whether they're suited for the job. "You can kind of tell who does not [love it]. There have been quite a few, and they are no longer here. It takes a lot to get through it," she said. Graffagnino says the importance of the work became clearer as she learned how controllers keep busy airspace organized. "Once you get in the airspace that is super crowded or approaching the larger airports like Atlanta, you need someone to help coordinate and keep everything separate and safe," she said. Middle Georgia State was approved as an Enhanced AT-CTI school in mid-2024. Jeffers says the impact was immediate. "Before our program had maybe about 17 to 20 students. Right now we have 54. So we have already, in that short amount of time, almost tripled in size the amount of students that we have," he said.

USA Today: Thanksgiving weather forecast shows snow, travel delays possible for parts of US

USA Today [11/23/2025 11:03 AM, Karissa Waddick, 67103K] reports heavy rain and snowstorms expected across wide swaths of the United States this week could muck up Thanksgiving travel for millions of Americans taking to the roads and skies. Much of the country, from Seattle to Dallas, could be hit with heavy rain, wind and thunderstorms throughout the week, according to AccuWeather meteorologists, and some areas in the northern United States may see several inches of snowfall. The storm is expected to begin dropping rain and mountain snow in New Mexico and Colorado on Sunday, before moving east over the Plains region early in the week and toward the Midwest and East Coast closer to Thanksgiving. "The best chance of severe weather will be in the South Central and Southeastern states," AccuWeather Lead Long-Range Meteorologist Paul Pastelok predicted. The chances of downpours and lightning come during what's expected to be one of the busiest travel weeks of the year. AAA predicts more than 81 million people will leave home to celebrate with loved ones for the holiday. Early in the week, rainfall and thunderstorms could be intense enough to impact flights in Texas and Arkansas, including at airports in Austin, Dallas and Little Rock. As the storm moves toward the central United States Tuesday, major airports in Chicago, Nashville, St. Louis, Houston and Minneapolis could see delays, according to AccuWeather forecasters.

Federal Emergency Management Agency

NPR: The Trump administration is softening its tone on FEMA

NPR [11/23/2025 8:08 AM, Ayesha Rascoe, 28013K] Audio: HERE reports NPR's Ayesha Rascoe talks to New York Times reporter Scott Dance about efforts to reshape the Federal Emergency Management Agency. President Trump's review panel failed to meet a deadline last week.

Axios: Hurricane season is ending without a U.S. landfall. We got lucky

Axios [11/23/2025 7:20 AM, Alex Fitzpatrick, 12972K] reports the 2025 hurricane season is about to end on Nov. 30 without a single mainland U.S. landfall for the first time in a decade. That's welcome news for hurricane-prone states, but doesn't mean future years will be equally calm — especially as climate change continues to warm the oceans, essentially creating hurricane fuel. Just because this year's Atlantic hurricanes steered clear of the continental U.S. doesn't mean it was a gentle season. Hurricane Melissa slammed into Jamaica as a category 5 hurricane on Oct. 28 after rapidly intensifying over warm ocean waters, with maximum sustained winds of 185 mph. It was one of the most intense Atlantic hurricanes on record, with a lowest recorded pressure of 892 mb. (Lower pressure is correlated with stronger storms; only a handful on record have made it below 900 mb.) Melissa caused at least $10 billion in damage and nearly 100 known deaths as it ravaged the Caribbean; those numbers may yet rise.

CBS News: [TX] Heavy rain, flash flooding risk for North Texas Sunday night to Monday

CBS News [11/23/2025 9:51 PM, McKenna King and Jeff Ray, 39474K] Video: HERE reports rounds of heavy rain arrive late on Sunday night and continue to midday on Monday. The rain clears out for Thanksgiving, but returns next weekend. Just three days ago DFW recorded the wettest November day in history, 3.95". We are expecting more heavy rain to come in from the west on Sunday night. The flood risk is high due to saturated grounds and many rivers at bank full. There is a risk of strong to severe storms the rest of the day into early evening in our western counties; storms have been going on there since mid-afternoon. So far, lighting is the greatest threat from them. The heavy rain enters the metroplex later Sunday night, most of it arriving after midnight. A flood watch continues to 3 p.m. Monday. We are expecting a prolonged period of heavy rain moving across our area. The worst of it will fall from 4 a.m. to 10 a.m. Ponding on roads, flooding in low spots, standing water at construction zones and ongoing heavy rain will make for difficult travel conditions. If you can, please delay your morning travel. As we get later in the morning and across the afternoon, there will be a small but significant window for severe weather to start up. The favored area will be just east and southeast of the metroplex down the I-45 corridor. This includes a low tornado risk.

Secret Service

New York Post: [PA] FBI missed multiple opportunities to stop Thomas Crooks before he tried to assassinate Trump, ex-assistant director fumes

New York Post [11/23/2025 2:37 PM, Anthony Blair, 42219K] reports the FBI had multiple "missed opportunities" to stop Thomas Crooks before he tried to assassinate President Trump, a former assistant director at the Bureau has told The Post. Last week, The Post reported on multiple extremist social media posts believed to be tied to Crooks, including numerous threats of political violence and a dramatic shift against Trump, after previously expressing his admiration for the Republican. If even "half" of Trump's would-be assassin's extremist digital footprint turns out to be true, he should have been on the FBI's radar long before the 20-year-old opened fired on the then-presumptive GOP presidential nominee during a rally in Butler, Pennsylvania, said Chris Swecker, a retired FBI assistant director. "It's clear that he was popping off on the social media sites and saying things that should have garnered attention," Swecker, who served in the FBI for 24 years, said. "That constitutes a miss on the part of the FBI," he added, saying that the Bureau's handling of the investigation earned a "a C- grade." Among the disturbing posts that were recently

revealed, were comments on YouTube that included, "I always believed being patriotic was lining up a bunch of socialist Jews and blasting their useless brains out with an AR." He also wrote "KILL DEMOCRATS" and said that members of the "Squad" should suffer a "quick, painful death." He also commented: "The only way to fight the gov is with terrorism style attacks, sneak a bomb into an essential building and set it off before anyone sees you, track down any important people/politicians/military leaders etc and try to assassinate them." Swecker — who retired from the Bureau in 2006 — also claimed that the FBI under then-director Christopher Wray was desperate to pin Trump's would-be assassin as a far-right lone gunman. He said it seemed clear to him that when agents found evidence to the contrary, the Bureau "had its thumb on the scales" of the investigation. This led to a lack of transparency in the investigation, which allowed conspiracy theories to spread and multiply, he said.

Breitbart: [PA] Report: FBI Concludes Trump's Would-Be Assassin in Butler Acted Alone

Breitbart [11/23/2025 4:19 PM, Amy Furr, 2416K] reports officials with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) reportedly said Thursday the man who tried to assassinate President Donald Trump in Butler, Pennsylvania, acted alone. The FBI's conclusion came after an intense and global investigation wherein authorities said they left no stone unturned, Fox News reported Friday. The outlet interviewed FBI Director Kash Patel, FBI Deputy Director Dan Bongino, and a senior official who asked to remain anonymous due to the sensitive nature of his work. Patel said his team has been on the case since they took over the agency, and explained, "We not only had to maintain the chain of command to President Trump, but we had to remind the world that President Trump was the victim — one of the four victims — on that day. There are victims' rights rules that apply to him, and they don't get erased because he is the president." "We fully briefed the president, as a victim of this case, at the White House, providing him with all of the details of our investigation, and the president was satisfied with the results and where we left it," Patel said. The shooter in the case was identified as 20-year-old Thomas Matthew Crooks, who reportedly had an interest in "furries" and used "they/them" pronouns.

Coast Guard

San Francisco Chronicle: [CA] Big Sur search to resume Monday for man swept into ocean where 2 died last weekend

San Francisco Chronicle [11/23/2025 8:39 AM, Warren Pederson, 4722K] reports Monterey County recovery crews resumed their search Sunday morning for a man swept into the Pacific Ocean at Garrapata State Beach in Big Sur — the same place where a man and his daughter died after being overcome by waves last weekend. The Monterey County Sheriff's Office was notified around 3 p.m. Saturday that three people were swept off the rocks at Soberanes Point into the ocean. Two women were able to reach land on their own and were taken to a local hospital with unknown injuries, but a man remained in the water, sheriff's officials said. Rescue teams from the sheriff's office, California State Parks, Cal Fire, California Highway Patrol and U.S. Coast Guard joined the search. A Coast Guard helicopter spotted what appeared to be a body in the water at 4:24 p.m., but lost sight due to high surf. The crew suspended the search at 7 p.m. due to low visibility, but resumed efforts Sunday morning.

CISA/Cybersecurity

AP: Big Changes to the Agency Charged With Securing Elections Lead to Midterm Worries

AP [11/23/2025 12:29 PM, Steve Karnowski and Julie Carr Smyth, 19051K] reports since it was created in 2018, the federal government's cybersecurity agency has helped warn state and local election officials about potential threats from foreign governments, showed officials how to protect polling places from attacks and gamed out how to respond to the unexpected, such as an Election Day bomb threat or sudden disinformation campaign. The agency was largely absent from that space for elections this month in several states, a potential preview for the 2026 midterms. Shifting priorities of the Trump administration, staffing reductions and budget cuts have many election officials concerned about how engaged the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency will be next year, when control of Congress will be at stake in those elections. Some officials say they have begun scrambling to fill the anticipated gaps. "We do not have a sense of whether we can rely on CISA for these services as we approach a big election year in 2026," said Minnesota Secretary of State Steve Simon, a Democrat who until recently led the bipartisan National Association of Secretaries of State. The association's leaders sent a letter to Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem in February asking her to preserve the cybersecurity agency's core election functions. Noem, whose department oversees the agency, replied the following month that it was reviewing its "funding, products, services, and positions" related to election security and that its services would remain available to election officials. Simon said secretaries of state are still waiting to hear about the agency's plans. CISA, as the agency is known, was formed under the first Trump administration to help safeguard the nation's critical infrastructure, from dams and power plants to election systems. It has been undergoing a major transformation since President Donald Trump's second term began in January. Public records suggest that roughly 1,000 CISA employees have lost their jobs over the past years. The Republican administration in March cut $10 million from two cybersecurity initiatives, including one dedicated to helping state and local election officials. CISA is still without an official director. Trump's nomination of Sean Plankey, a cybersecurity expert in the first Trump administration, has stalled in the Senate. CISA officials did not answer questions seeking specifics about the agency's role in the recently completed elections, its plans for the 2026 election cycle or staffing levels. They said the agency remains ready to help protect election infrastructure. "Under the leadership of President Trump and Secretary Noem, CISA is laser-focused on securing America's critical infrastructure and strengthening cyber resilience across the government and industry," said Marci McCarthy, CISA's director of public affairs. She said CISA would announce its future organizational plans "at the appropriate time."

Reported similarly:
Univision [11/23/2025 3:33 PM, Staff, 5004K]

Bloomberg Law: Banks, FBI Assessing Hack of Real Estate Finance Tech Vendor

Bloomberg Law [11/23/2025 1:33 PM, Jake Bleiberg, 803K] reports the hack of a technology vendor for real estate financiers left major American banks and mortgage lenders working Sunday to assess whether they were affected by the data breach. The vendor, SitusAMC Group Holdings, LP, said in a statement Saturday that someone compromised its systems and took client data including "accounting records and legal agreements."

NewsMax: Major Internet Outages Growing, May Get Worse

NewsMax [11/23/2025 2:04 PM, Mark Swanson, 4109K] reports Internet disruptions are becoming more frequent and more sweeping, according to experts, after a string of major outages has repeatedly knocked large parts of the online world offline. This week's crash at Cloudflare — which caused hour-long problems for platforms including X, OpenAI, and Discord — marked the third significant outage in roughly a month, NBC News reported Sunday. The incidents highlight a central vulnerability: much of the modern internet relies on a handful of giant cloud providers. When one makes even a small mistake or misses a hidden software flaw, the fallout can ricochet across millions of users and businesses. "This spate of outages has been uniquely terrible," Erie Meyer, former chief technologist at the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, told NBC News. "It's like what we were told Y2K would be like — and it's happening more often." Cloud companies known as "hyperscalers" dominate the modern internet because they can expand infrastructure quickly and cheaply. But critics warn this consolidation creates dangerous single points of failure. "When one company's bug can derail everyday life, that's not just technical — that's consolidation," Meyer said. NBC reports the disruptions began Oct. 20 when Amazon Web Services went down, cutting access to everything from gaming networks to Ring cameras. The outage even affected smart-home beds. Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., recently blasted the situation on X, calling it reason "to break up Big Tech." Nine days later, Microsoft's Azure cloud platform suffered a global outage just before the company's quarterly earnings. Delta and Alaska Airlines — which rely on AWS and Azure — struggled to check in passengers online. Cloudflare's outage on Tuesday was the worst the company has seen since 2019, CEO Matthew Prince acknowledged. The company first suspected a massive cyberattack but later traced the failure to a software flaw in its anti-bot system.

Terrorism Investigations

FOX News: Trump, Kirk shootings expose online hate breeding lone-wolf assassins, experts warn

FOX News [11/23/2025 8:00 AM, Stepheny Price and Ashley Papa, 40621K] reports federal investigators are examining the online activity of the suspect accused of assassinating conservative activist Charlie Kirk in Utah, as questions grow about how digital spaces are fueling a new wave of politically motivated attacks — including last year's attempted assassination of President Donald Trump. A viral post from the Libs of TikTok account on X listed several recent shootings and noted multiple suspects identified as transgender or nonbinary, calling it "an epidemic of trans violence." But experts say those claims miss the mark. The real danger, they warn, is playing out in the hidden corners of Reddit, Discord and other chat platforms, where grievance and validation feed off one another and push isolated individuals toward violence. Former homeland security advisor for New York state Michael Balboni told Fox News Digital that assassinations have risen over the past decade and the targets are no longer limited to politicians. "We're seeing activists and media figures targeted," Balboni said. "These are people who feel aggrieved or insignificant and believe they'll commit a heroic act. The Charlie Kirk case shows how the threat landscape has widened." He described online hatred as the spark that turns grievance into action, allowing angry users to find each other and fan the flames. "Like-minded folks feed off one another in social-media spaces until somebody takes the next step and decides to kill. That's the key to radicalization today." Investigators are reviewing digital evidence tied to the suspect in Kirk's assassination, including Discord messages recovered after the shooting, according

to court filings and law-enforcement statements. Federal agencies are also examining related chat logs, Homeland Security Today reported.

Blaze: Despite terrorist designation, Antifa still runs wild — and conservatives want real action

Blaze [11/24/2025 5:02 AM, Staff, 1442K] reports Antifa radicals have been causing chaos throughout America for years and have finally been designated as a terrorist network by the Trump administration. However, they're still getting away with crimes. "Antifa radicals in Berkeley, California, disrupted a Turning Point USA event outside of UC Berkeley, punched a conservative in the face. The conservative gets arrested," BlazeTV host Christopher Rufo tells co-host Jonathan "Lomez" Keeperman on "Rufo & Lomez." "But our policy prescription is, the administration has to dismantle the left-wing terror networks, whether it's Antifa, other organized militant groups. They have to actually get mugshots, case numbers, inmate numbers," he continues. "The tangible evidence that these left-wing terror networks, which are essentially saying that we can control the streets in places like Portland, we can veto peaceful conservative speech in places like Berkeley — we have to ensure that they can no longer do so and can no longer exert control through violence," he adds. While Rufo points out that Antifa is still out there disrupting whatever it can, Lomez notes that it was a "huge step in the right direction" that it has at least been designated as a terrorist network. "The administration is making the right moves and/or saying the right things. What's missing is the conspicuous action so that your average American, let alone Trump supporter, but just your average American goes, 'Yeah, I don't like Antifa, and the administration is doing something about it, and that's good,'" Lomez says. But the next step is taking the terrorist designation and doing something with it.

CNN: [IN] 'Fortunate' Indiana high school reflects on thwarted school attack

CNN [11/23/2025 9:31 AM, Eric Levenson, 606K] reports like any American school, Mooresville High School in Indiana had long since set up security protocols and mental health services to try to prevent violence on campus. Yet those policies didn't fully prepare them psychologically for the arrest in February of an 18-year-old senior accused of planning "Parkland part two." "Our reaction – and the community's – was one of shock," Matt Saner, the president of the Mooresville Schools board of trustees, told CNN in an email. "These aren't just nameless students that we are responsible for keeping safe, these are our neighbors. Our friends. Our family. Our own kids." The Mooresville student's arrest was just one of the many instances around the country, from New York City to Washington state, in which security measures worked as intended, thwarting a potential explosion of violence. CNN and other media outlets have long explored the aftermath of horrific school shootings: The funerals, the physical and psychic damage to survivors, the investigations into what went wrong and the efforts to rebuild. Less explored is what happens when a potential school shooting is successfully thwarted – how the community reacts to the near-tragedy and the lessons learned from a successful intervention. The Mooresville student, Trinity Shockley, now 19, is expected to plead guilty to conspiracy to commit murder on Monday in an Indiana courtroom as part of a plea deal with prosecutors. The "contested" plea hearing – the debate is over the length of the sentence – will include presentations of evidence, prosecutors said. Shockley's attorney declined to comment.

National Security News

FOX News: Trump admin slams South Africa for 'weaponized' G20 presidency as summit ignores Christian persecution

FOX News [11/23/2025 7:48 AM, Paul Tilsley and Efrat Lachter, 40621K] reports the White House has mounted a new verbal attack on South Africa over the G-20 Leaders' Summit in Johannesburg this weekend. White House deputy press secretary Anna Kelly hit back at South African President Cyril Ramaphosa after Pretoria refused to allow a U.S. embassy delegation to take part in the summit's closing ceremony. The U.S. takes over the G-20's presidency next year. But Ramaphosa's spokesperson told reporters here at the summit their president won't perform the ceremonial handover to a junior diplomat. Washington had asked to send the embassy's chargé d'affaires to the ceremony. In what is becoming an increasingly fractious back-and-forth of bitter statements between Pretoria and Washington on several issues around the G-20, Kelly told Fox News Digital, "President Ramaphosa initially declared that he would pass the gavel to an 'empty chair.' Now, he's refusing to facilitate a smooth transition of the G-20 presidency at all." Kelly continued, "This, coupled with South Africa's push to issue a G-20 Leaders Declaration, despite consistent and robust U.S. objections, underscores the fact that they have weaponized their G-20 presidency to undermine the G-20's founding principles. President Trump looks forward to restoring legitimacy to the G-20 in the U.S.'s 2026 host year." Trump withdrew all U.S. participation in the summit over his claims that some White South Africans were being racially discriminated against. Now South Africa's chief rabbi, Dr. Warren Goldstein, has also lashed out at the G-20, speaking exclusively to Fox News Digital, saying, "How can it be that in the long wish list of items that make up the G-20 Leaders Declaration, there wasn't space to condemn one of the greatest human rights crises in Africa – the continent wide jihadi war on Christians?". He continued "How can it be that the first G-20 hosted in Africa by an African government ignores how Africa – from Mozambique to Mali, the DRC, Nigeria, Sudan and so many other countries – has become the central front of Islamist terrorism? "Just Friday, more than 300 girls and 12 teachers were kidnapped from a Catholic school in Nigeria," he added. "Who will speak up for these children and save them? The silence of the G-20 declaration on this and other jihadi atrocities on the continent is a moral disgrace, revealing the gathering to be a heartless charade that history will judge harshly. God's condemnation of Cain following his feeble defense of 'Am I my brother's keeper?' stands as an eternal accusation against the leaders of the G-20 – 'What have you done? The blood of your brother calls out to Me from the ground.'".

FOX News: [Ukraine] Rubio claims 'tremendous amount of progress' in Ukraine peace talks following Geneva meeting

FOX News [11/23/2025 9:11 PM, Emma Bussey, 40621K] reports Secretary of State Marco Rubio said Sunday that discussions over ending the war in Ukraine have entered a productive phase, while claiming "a tremendous amount of progress" had been made. Following a round of talks with a Ukrainian delegation in Geneva, Switzerland, Rubio told reporters negotiators had "a very good day today." "We had a very good day today. I think we made a tremendous amount of progress, even from the last time I spoke to you," Rubio said. "We began almost three weeks ago with a foundational document that we socialized and ran by both sides, and with input from both sides," he said. Rubio described how negotiators had been refining the 28-point peace framework that outlines potential conditions for a ceasefire and long-term settlement for Ukraine and Russia. "Over the last 96 hours or more, there's been extensive engagement with the Ukrainian side including our

Secretary of the Army and others, being on the ground in Kyiv, meeting with relevant stakeholders across the Ukrainian political spectrum in the legislative branch and the executive branch, and the military and others to further sort of narrow these points." "We arrived here today with one goal: to take what – it's 28 points or 26 points, depending on which version, as it continued to evolve and try to narrow the ones that were open items. And we have achieved that today in a very substantial way," he said. The weekend talks centered on a 28-point plan, which is a framework drafted by the U.S. outlining steps for a possible ceasefire and political settlement. The document is said to cover security guarantees, territorial control, reconstruction mechanisms, and Ukraine's long-term relationship with NATO and the EU. The plan has reportedly evolved through several iterations, narrowing disputes point by point as both sides weigh concessions. "Now, obviously, like any final agreement, it'll have to be agreed upon by the presidents, and there are a couple of issues that we need to continue to work on," Rubio clarified. While declining to specify unresolved issues, Rubio described the moment as "delicate." "This is a very delicate moment, and it's important – like I said, there's not agreement on those yet. Some of it is semantics or language; others require higher-level decisions and consultation; others, I think, just need more time to work through," he said before touching on some issues. "There were some that involved equities or the role of the EU or of NATO or so forth, and those we kind of segregated out because we just met with the national security advisors for various European countries, and those are things we'll have to discuss with them because it involves them." "I don't want to declare victory or finality here. There's still some work to be done," he added. Suggesting there is intent to ensure Ukraine's security, Rubio said that they all "recognize that part of getting a final end to this war will require for Ukraine to feel as if it is safe, and it is never going to be invaded or attacked again." "I honestly believe we'll get there," he said, and when asked about next steps, Rubio said a possible call between Presidents Donald Trump and Volodymyr Zelenskyy could happen, adding, "I don't know. It's possible. I'm not sure." "The deadline is we want to get this done as soon as possible. Obviously, we'd love it to be Thursday," he added. [Editorial note: consult video at source link]

Reported similarly:
Wall Street Journal [11/23/2025 9:25 PM, Michael R. Gordon, Brian Schwartz, and Matthew Luxmoore, 646K]
AP [11/23/2025 6:43 PM, Mark Carlson, Katie Marie Davies and Will Weissert, 14862K]

Bloomberg: [Ukraine] Rubio Sees Ukraine Deadline Easing After 'Productive' Talks
Bloomberg [11/23/2025 6:47 PM, Staff, 38K] reports Donald Trump's proposed Nov. 27 deadline to secure Ukraine's support for a US-backed peace plan isn't set in stone and could drift into the following week, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said, suggesting that plenty of work remains. Rubio's note of caution followed US-Ukrainian talks Sunday in Geneva that both sides described as making progress toward a deal. Any agreement would require signoff by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy as well as Trump and Russia's Vladimir Putin. "It is probably the most productive day we have had on this issue, maybe in the entirety of our engagement, but certainly in a very long time," Rubio told reporters at the US diplomatic mission in Geneva. "But work remains, and because this continues to be a working process, I don't want to declare victory or finality here." The two sides drafted "an updated and refined peace framework" and "agreed to continue intensive work on joint proposals in the coming days," according to a joint statement from the White House. Neither Rubio nor the White House offered specifics on any progress made in the talks. Andriy Yermak, Zelenskiy's chief of staff, joined Rubio at an earlier briefing in Geneva but wasn't

present for Rubio's afternoon comments to reporters. Zelenskiy also took a cautious stance in a video posted on X, saying "it's important to ensure that the steps to end the war are effective, and that everything is doable." "Diplomacy has been reinvigorated and that's good," he said. "We have our state position, we have our Ukrainian dignity and we must move in a way that strengthens it, not undermines it." US officials are pushing Ukraine to accept the 28-point proposal to end Russia's war as a basis for negotiations and to issue a statement saying so, according to two people familiar with the matter. Zelenskiy, faced with a blueprint backed by the US and Russia, replied on X earlier that Ukraine "is grateful to the United States," including "personally to President Trump" for US assistance.

USA Today: [Ukraine] Zelenskyy wants 'guaranteed security' for Ukraine as world leaders gather

USA Today [11/23/2025 5:52 PM, Swapna Venugopal Ramaswamy, 67103K] reports Ukrainian, American and European officials gathered in Geneva on Nov. 23 to discuss a draft plan presented by Washington to end the war in Ukraine after Kyiv and its allies voiced alarm over what they saw as major concessions to the aggressor Russia. President Donald Trump said Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy had until Nov. 27 to approve the 28-point plan, which calls on Ukraine to cede territory, accept limits on its military and renounce ambitions to join NATO. For many Ukrainians, including soldiers fighting on the front lines, such terms would amount to capitulation after nearly four years of Europe's deadliest conflict since World War II. On Nov. 22, however, Trump said his proposal for ending the war is not his final offer. Zelenskyy posted a video on X from the meeting in Geneva on Nov. 23 saying that while he was grateful for all the support, it was important to ensure that the steps taken to end the war are effective. "Ukraine has never wanted war, and we will never be an obstacle to peace. Diplomacy has been reinvigorated — and this is good," he said. "We expect the outcome to deliver the right steps. And the first priority is a reliable peace, guaranteed security, respect for our people, and respect for everyone who gave their lives defending Ukraine from Russian aggression." Since the plan was announced, there has been considerable confusion about who was involved in drawing it up. European allies said they had not been consulted. Before heading to Geneva, Secretary of State Marco Rubio insisted in a post on X that Washington had written the plan. He posted the remark after Republican Sen. Mike Rounds said Rubio had called him and other senators and explained it was a proposal the United States had received and passed on to Ukraine. "The peace proposal was authored by the U.S. It is offered as a strong framework for ongoing negotiations," Rubio wrote on X. "It is based on input from the Russian side. But it is also based on previous and ongoing input from Ukraine."

NBC News: [Ukraine] Trump says Ukraine has expressed 'zero gratitude' for U.S. help amid peace plan talks

NBC News [11/23/2025 6:39 PM, Alexandra Marquez, Courtney Kube, Fiona Glisson, Megan Shannon and Julie Tsirkin, 34509K] reports President Donald Trump inserted fresh tensions into the high-stakes Ukraine-Russia peace talks on Sunday, publicly accusing Kyiv's leaders of showing "zero gratitude" for U.S. support just as U.S. officials in Geneva were working to show a united front. Trump's Truth Social comments landed at a delicate moment: His administration is pressing Ukraine to accept a 28-point peace proposal by Thanksgiving, even as confusion over the plan's authorship and concerns from European allies and U.S. lawmakers have raised questions about whose interests it serves. Senior U.S. officials, including Secretary of State Marco Rubio and special envoy Steve Witkoff, met with Ukrainian officials in Geneva this weekend to move peace talks forward with a goal

of ending the war. On Sunday, after a full day of talks, Rubio told reporters "a tremendous amount of progress" had been made. He added, "there's still some work to be done, but we are much further ahead today at this time than we were when we began this morning and where we were a week ago for certain." "So it is in my personal view that we've had probably the most productive and meaningful meeting so far in this entire process since we've been involved in from the beginning," he said. "We have a very good work product that was already built on a foundation of input from all the relative parties involved here, and we were able to go through some of those items now, point by point. And I think we've made good progress." Another U.S. official told NBC News that Rubio, Witkoff and Army Secretary Dan Driscoll met with a Ukrainian delegation at the U.S. Mission in Geneva. The U.S. officials said the discussions were "positive and constructive." In a post later Sunday on Telegram, Zelenskyy thanked the U.S. and European allies. "Ukraine is grateful to the United States, to every American heart, and personally to President Trump for the help that, starting with the Javelins, is saving the lives of Ukrainians. We thank everyone in Europe, in the Group of Seven and the Group of Twenty, who is helping us protect lives," he wrote. The White House said Sunday evening in a joint statement on the U.S.-Ukraine meeting that "both sides agreed the consultations were highly productive." "The discussions showed meaningful progress toward aligning positions and identifying clear next steps," the statement said. "They reaffirmed that any future agreement must fully uphold Ukraine's sovereignty and deliver a sustainable and just peace. As a result of the discussions, the parties drafted an updated and refined peace framework." [Editorial note: consult video at source link]

NewsMax: [Israel] Israeli Military Hits Hezbollah Terrorist in Beirut's Southern Suburbs

NewsMax [11/23/2025 12:16 PM, Staff, 4109K] reports Israel's military says it has killed senior Hezbollah terrorist Haytham Tabtabai in its strike in Beirut on Sunday. The military in a statement described Tabtabai as the Iran-backed terrorist group's chief of staff. Hezbollah did not immediately comment. Tabtabai had led Hezbollah's elite Radwan Unit. In 2016, the United States designated Tabtabai as a terrorist, calling him a military leader who led Hezbollah's special forces in Syria and Yemen, and it offered up to $5 million for information about him. Israel on Sunday struck Lebanon's capital for the first time since June, saying it targeted Hezbollah's chief of staff and warned the Iran-backed militant group not to rearm and rebuild a year after their latest war. The strike in Beirut's southern suburbs killed five people and wounded 25 others, Lebanon's Health Ministry said. Hezbollah said the strike, launched almost exactly a year after a ceasefire ended that Israel-Hezbollah war, threatened an escalation of attacks — just days before Pope Leo XIV is scheduled to visit Lebanon on his first foreign trip. "We will continue to act forcefully to prevent any threat to the residents of the north and the state of Israel," Israeli Defense Minister Israel Katz said in a statement. Government spokesperson Shosh Bedrosian did not say whether Israel informed the U.S. before the strike, saying only that "Israel makes decisions independently." Israel did not issue an evacuation warning before the strike, and did not name the person targeted. Bedrosian said the Hezbollah chief of staff "led the strengthening and arming of the terrorist organization." Mahmoud Qamati, deputy chair of Hezbollah's political council, told journalists that a high-ranking militant may have been killed but did not give details.

Reported similarly:
Wall Street Journal [11/23/2025 2:45 PM, Anat Peled and Summer Said, 646K]
Reuters [11/23/2025 2:44 PM, Staff, 36480K]

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