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IN THE NEWS

Founder of Sinaloa Cartel Pleads Guilty to Drug Trafficking

[The New York Times](#) (08/25, Nerkar) reported that Ismael Zambada García, better known as El Mayo and one of the founders of the Sinaloa cartel, pleaded guilty in Brooklyn federal court to charges of operating a continuing criminal enterprise and racketeering conspiracy. The 75-year-old cartel leader admitted to his decades-long role in trafficking cocaine, heroin, and other narcotics across the U.S.-Mexico border, acknowledging the immense harm caused by the drug trade. According to the article, Zambada García, who co-founded the Sinaloa cartel alongside Joaquín "El Chapo" Guzmán, was arrested in Texas in July 2024 after being lured into a trap by El Chapo's son, Joaquín Guzmán López. The arrest sparked violent clashes between rival cartel factions—Los Mayos and Los Chapitos—prompting Mexico's President Claudia Sheinbaum to deploy thousands of troops to restore order. [Associated Press](#) (08/25, Sisak) highlighted that the Trump administration has declared drug cartels to be terrorist organizations, positioned military assets off Venezuela, and compelled the Mexican government to hand over several dozen high-ranking cartel officials for prosecution. In a DOJ [press release](#), Director Patel stated, "Today's plea is a proud moment for the FBI and its partners as the founders of a notoriously violent drug trafficking organization, one that engages in an array of illegal activity, including murder and corruption, face the consequences of their actions. Our work does not end here. We will continue to relentlessly leverage everything at our disposal in our efforts to thwart the Sinaloa Cartel and put an end to their drug trafficking operations and the carnage that goes along with it." The FBI, HSI, and DEA investigated the case. Additional reporting was provided by [The Guardian](#) (08/25, Helmore), [ABC News](#) (08/25, Katersky), [Reuters](#) (08/25, Cohen, Raymond), [BBC News](#) (08/25, Grant), [Los Angeles Times](#) (08/25, Hamilton) [Al Jazeera](#) (08/25, Staff Writer), [CBS News](#) (08/25, Rosen), [USA Today](#) (08/25, Meyer), [NewsNation](#) (08/25, Bradley, Arnold), and [Financial Times](#) (08/25, Wiggins, Murray).

President Trump Threatens New Investigation of Chris Christie Over 'Bridgegate' Scandal

The [Washington Post](#) (08/25, Svitek) reported that President Donald Trump is threatening to launch a new investigation into former New Jersey governor Chris Christie over the "Bridgegate" scandal. According to the article, the threat came after Christie criticized Trump on television, prompting Trump to suggest that Christie should be held accountable for the scandal. Trump claims that Christie "refused to take responsibility" for the actions of his aides, who were involved in the 2013 scandal that caused traffic jams on the George Washington Bridge. The [New York Post](#) (08/25, Crane) detailed that Trump hinted at investigating his former ally-turned-foe for "criminal acts" after Christie suggested the president doesn't care about separating himself from federal probes — just days after former National Security Adviser John Bolton was targeted in an FBI raid. "I just watched Sloppy Chris Christie be interviewed on a ratings-challenged 'News' Show, 'This Week With George Slopodopolus,' on ABC Fake News," Trump wrote on Truth Social late Sunday. "Can anyone believe anything that Sloppy Chris says? Do you remember the way he lied about the dangerous and deadly closure of the George Washington Bridge in order to stay out of prison, at the same time sacrificing people who worked for him, including a young mother, who spent years trying to fight off the vicious charges against her," Trump raged on Truth Social late Sunday. "Chris refused to take responsibility for these criminal acts. For the sake of JUSTICE, perhaps we should start looking at that very serious situation again? NO ONE IS ABOVE THE LAW!" Trump wrote — the same words Director Patel said after Bolton was raided on Friday. Additional reporting on the story was provided by [Politico](#) (08/25, Svirnovskiy), [CNN](#) (08/25, Reilly, Jaramillo, D'Antonio), [UPI](#) (08/25, Coote), [Los Angeles Magazine](#) (08/25, Su), [The Independent](#) (08/25, Liddell), [Inquirer](#) (08/25, Palmer), [USA Today](#) (08/25, Jansen), [New York Magazine](#) (08/25, Hartmann), [Mother Jones](#) (08/25, Oh), [NBC News](#) (08/25, Lebowitz), [The Hill](#) (08/25, Fortinsky), [Patch](#) (08/25, Lissner), and [MSNBC](#) (08/25, Benen).

Continued Reporting: John Bolton Breaks Silence After Home Was Raided by FBI

[Daily Mail](#) (08/25, Lepore) reported that John Bolton's home was raided by the FBI on Friday morning, with over a dozen agents searching his house and office. The raid is part of an investigation into Bolton allegedly sending private national security documents to his wife and daughter from his work account before he was fired by Donald Trump in 2019. Director Patel appeared to publicly address the raid on Friday, posting to X: 'NO ONE is above the law... @FBI agents on mission.' Despite the raid, Bolton broke his silence to criticize Trump's policies, particularly his recent summit with Russian President Vladimir Putin, in a Monday morning op-ed for the [Washington Examiner](#) (08/25, Bolton). [MSNBC](#) (08/25, Benen) reported that Vice President JD Vance defended the investigation, implying that the White House is involved, and stated "we are investigating Ambassador Bolton", raising concerns about the administration's potential retribution against a critic. The article added that President Trump stated that he wasn't directly responsible for what he described as the FBI's "raid" on Bolton's home and office, but he added, "I could know about it. I could be the one starting it. I'm actually the chief law enforcement officer." Additional reporting on the story was provided by [SFGate](#) (08/25, Mettela), [Raw Story](#) (08/25, Willis), [The Independent](#) (08/25, Bedigan),

[The Hill](#) (08/25, Suter) (2), [Fox News](#) (08/25, Phillips), and [The Atlantic](#) (08/25, Frum). [The Times](#) (08/25, Hague), [MSNBC](#) (08/25, Eisen), and the [Washington Times](#) (08/25, Sadler) published opinion pieces on the story.

Continued Reporting: D.C. Arrests Surpass 1,000 as Trump-Backed Crackdown Enters 12th Homicide-Free Day

[Fox News](#) (08/25, Dorgan) reported that arrests in Washington, D.C. have surpassed 1,000 under President Donald Trump's federal crime crackdown. According to the article, the city has marked its 12th consecutive day without a homicide, with 86 arrests and 10 illegal guns seized on Sunday alone. U.S. Attorney Jeanine Pirro credits Trump's deployment of federal agencies for the decrease in crime, saying it has made a significant difference in public safety in the capital. The article highlighted that Director Patel said 26 of Sunday's arrests came from FBI operations, including five drug seizures. "Keep getting after it," he [posted on X](#). The [Washington Post](#) (08/25, George) reported that the House Oversight Committee is investigating the D.C. police department over allegations of manipulating crime data to make crime rates appear lower. A whistleblower has come forward with claims that crime statistics were manipulated on a widespread basis, at the direction of supervisory officials, and potentially impacts all seven patrol districts. The [New York Post](#) (08/25, Nesi, Christenson) also reported on the story.

House Committee Subpoenas Epstein Estate For 'Birthday Book' With Alleged Trump Note

[USA TODAY](#) (08/25, Collins) reported that the House Oversight Committee has subpoenaed Jeffrey Epstein's estate for documents, including a "birthday book" that allegedly contains a note from President Donald Trump. According to the article, the committee is investigating possible mismanagement of the federal government's investigation into Epstein and his former girlfriend, Ghislaine Maxwell, as well as potential violations of ethics rules related to elected officials. The estate has until September 8 to produce the requested information, which also includes Epstein's will, financial transactions, and potential client lists. The article highlighted that the Trump administration has faced heavy criticism by Republicans and Democrats due to its earlier refusal to release the investigative records the Justice Department and FBI have in connection with the case. Additional reporting on the story was provided by [NBC News](#) (08/25, Asghar, Gregorian), [The Independent](#) (08/25, Dobkin), [Fox News](#) (08/25, Elkind), [CBS News](#) (08/25, Quinn), [National Review](#) (08/25, Lynch), [Axios](#) (08/25, Santaliz), and [Newsweek](#) (08/25, King).

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COUNTERINTELLIGENCE

How China Influences Elections in America's Biggest City

The [New York Times](#) (08/26, Forsythe, Root, et al.) reported that the Chinese government has used Manhattan-based community groups—many tied to China's consulate and ruling Communist Party—to influence elections in New York City by backing sympathetic candidates and undermining those critical of Beijing. The article described a range of tactics, including threats to business interests, covert sabotage, and fundraising efforts by tax-exempt nonprofits, some of which violate U.S. election law. In one case, a Chinese Ministry of State Security agent attempted to compromise or physically harm a former Tiananmen protest leader who ran for Congress; the private investigator he hired was cooperating with the FBI, which later filed criminal charges. The article also noted that the FBI arrested leaders of a group operating a clandestine Chinese police station and interviewed Chinatown leaders about consular pressure. In another instance, a top FBI agent warned New York lawmakers that consulate officers use threats and inducements to influence U.S. politicians, especially those supporting Taiwan. These influence campaigns reportedly resulted in political defeats for figures critical of China and diverted city funding to consulate-aligned groups. The author assessed that China's efforts reflect a long-term strategy to suppress dissent within the diaspora and shape American political outcomes favorable to Beijing.

DOE Issues Guidance to Protect Universities From Foreign Exploitation

The [Times of India](#) (08/26, Staff Writer) reported that the U.S. Department of Education has issued guidance to protect American universities from foreign exploitation, warning of risks from talent recruitment, espionage, and cyber intrusions. According to the article, the guidance, released in collaboration with national intelligence agencies, urges universities to bolster security measures, including due diligence in partnerships and enhanced cybersecurity, and report suspicious activities. The article noted that federal officials, including Paul Moore and James Cangialosi, are raising alarm about hostile foreign actors exploiting the open nature of America's research universities, and are pushing for stronger safeguards and transparency about foreign influence in U.S. higher

education. The article highlighted that the bulletin was released jointly with several federal partners, including the FBI, which is urging universities to adopt stronger safeguards.

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CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS

Continued Reporting: Manhunt for Travis Decker Intensifies, FBI to Hold Press Conference

[ABC News](#) (08/25, Forrester) reported that the FBI has intensified its manhunt for Travis Decker, a 32-year-old Army veteran accused of murdering his three young daughters at Rock Island Campground in Leavenworth, Washington. The campground, along with nearby roads and trails, has been closed through August 27 to aid the investigation. According to the article, the victims—Paityn, 9, Evelyn, 8, and Olivia, 5—were found on June 2 with plastic bags over their heads and cable ties nearby after Decker failed to return them from a court-approved visit. The medical examiner ruled their deaths homicides caused by asphyxiation, and DNA evidence links only Decker and his daughters to the scene. The article noted that authorities, including the FBI, U.S. Marshals, Homeland Security, Border Patrol, Washington State Patrol, and local police, are involved in the ongoing search. Decker, who has military training, has been missing for nearly three months and is considered armed and dangerous. Investigators believe he may have fled to Canada, citing his online searches before the murders. A \$20,000 reward remains in place for information leading to his arrest, and the FBI and Chelan County Sheriff's Office plan to provide further updates at a press conference. While there has not been a "break in the case," over 100 FBI personnel are on the ground searching a quarter-mile radius around the crime scene to collect "all possible evidence" on where the fugitive father might be, according to Peter Orth, supervisory senior resident agent for the FBI Seattle field office. Additional reporting was provided by [KIRO \(CBS-7\)](#) (08/25, Staff Writer), [The Sun](#) (08/25, Martinez), [People](#) (08/25, Spargo), [KSRO-FM](#) (08/25, Staff Writer), [KCPQ \(Fox-13\)](#) (08/25, Flojo), [King \(NBC-5\)](#) (08/25, Sundell & Day), [KOIN \(CBS-6\)](#) (08/25, Plante), [KXLY](#) (08/25, Luck), [KOMO \(ABC-4\)](#) (08/25, Berry), and [Daily Mail](#) (08/25, White).

Prosecutors Fail Three Times to Charge Woman With Felony Assault of FBI Agent in D.C.

The [New York Times](#) (08/25, Feuer, Kim) reported that federal prosecutors in Washington failed three times to obtain a felony indictment against Sidney Lori Reid, who was accused of assaulting an FBI agent during a protest, and have reduced the charges to a misdemeanor. According to the article, the case is unusual because prosecutors typically have control over the information presented to grand juries and usually obtain indictments. Reid's lawyers argue that the altercation occurred due to the actions of the federal agents, and they are prepared to present their case to a jury to clear Reid's name. The reduction of the charges against Reid also came after federal prosecutors failed to indict several protesters in Los Angeles after evidence challenging the government's narrative emerged.

California Man Pleads Not Guilty to Two Murders

[My News LA](#) (08/25, Staff Writer) reported that Erick Escamilla, a 27-year-old ex-con, has pleaded not guilty to charges of murdering an 81-year-old woman, Ok Ja Kim, and a 53-year-old man, Menashe Hidra, during burglaries at their homes in the San Fernando Valley, with the incidents occurring nearly three years apart. According to LAPD homicide Lt. Guy Golan, Escamilla allegedly accessed the roof of the apartment building and used a skylight to enter the apartment next door to Hidra's unit, then climbed from the balcony to Hidra's apartment, leading to a violent confrontation with the victim. Escamilla was arrested on May 8 by the Los Angeles Police Department in connection with Hidra's killing, with the other charges being added later, and he was found at a hospital where he was being treated for an unspecified medical issue, thanks to the work of homicide investigators and cooperation with the FBI Fugitive Task Force. The investigation into Kim's slaying, which occurred on August 2, 2022, revealed that she was brutally murdered, having suffered sharp and blunt force injuries, and was strangled during a home invasion robbery, with authorities offering a \$50,000 reward in October 2022 for help in finding her killer.

Prolific Drug Distributor Sentenced to Federal Prison for Role in Drug Ring Tied to Aryan Prison Gang

[KIRO \(CBS-7\)](#) (08/25, Dallas) reported that Anthony Escoto, a 52-year-old Tukwila man, has been sentenced to 10 years in prison for his role in a drug ring tied to the Aryan prison gang. According to the article, Escoto pleaded guilty to conspiracy to distribute controlled substances and possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime. Escoto was repeatedly heard on wiretap ordering pound quantities of methamphetamine and thousands of fentanyl pills for distribution, according to records filed in the case. After one drug deal, the car

Escoto was riding in was stopped by police. The co-defendant driving Escoto claimed the drugs were his, but investigators had heard Escoto over the wiretap and knew the drugs belonged to him. According to a DOJ [press release](#), the investigation was led by the FBI.

New York Pizzeria Owner Facing Additional Drug-Related Charges, Free on Bond

The [Daytona Beach News-Journal](#) (08/25, Fernandez) reported that the owner of Lenny's New York Pizza and Lenny's New York Pizza II, Leonard Fries Jr., is facing additional drug-related charges after turning himself in at the Flagler County jail on August 22, following his arrest earlier in the year when his home was raided by the Flagler County Sheriff's Office and the FBI. According to Flagler County Sheriff Rick Staly, the new charges are based on undercover drug purchases made from Fries before the search of his home, and the prosecution waited for the results of lab tests on the drugs before filing the charges, which are part of Operation Summer Slammer.

Former Owners of North Carolina Company Plead Guilty to Fraud

[WNCT \(CBS-9\)](#) (08/25, Muck) reported that Keke Komeko Johnson and Francine Sims Super, former owners of Life Touch LLC, pleaded guilty to fraud for misusing Medicaid reimbursement funds. They used over \$1 million in Medicaid funds to buy gift cards, which were given to patients to convince them to continue using the company's services, allowing Johnson and Super to receive kickbacks. Johnson and Super face prison sentences, with Johnson facing up to 11 years and Super facing up to 6 years, for their roles in the federal scheming. The [press release](#) noted that the FBI investigated the case.

Nevada Man Convicted of Sex Trafficking, Faces up to Fifty Five Years in Prison

[KTVN \(CBS-2\)](#) (08/25, Staff Writer) reported that Claude King, a 37-year-old Reno man, was convicted of seven sex trafficking-related charges. According to the article, the charges include sex trafficking, living on the earnings of a prostitute with force, domestic battery, kidnapping, and dissuading a person from testifying. Detectives started the investigation of King after receiving a tip that he was violently sex trafficking women in the community. The article noted that on September 30, 2022, detectives with the Human Exploitation and Trafficking (H.E.A.T.) unit and the FBI arrested 34-year-old Claude King in Reno, on charges relating to sex trafficking. Additional reporting was provided by [KOLO \(ABC-8\)](#) (08/25, Sheridan).

Multi-Agency Operation Results in Nearly Eighty Undocumented Migrant Arrests in the Valley

[KRGV \(ABC-5\)](#) (08/25, Caicedo) reported that a multi-agency operation called Operation Pick-Off resulted in the arrest of 78 people for immigration-related violations in the Rio Grande Valley. In support of Operation Pick-Off, the FBI, through its Summer Heat initiative, surged resources alongside its law enforcement partners to focus on intelligence-driven, multi-jurisdictional operations against priority targets. According to the article, the operation, which began on August 22nd, targeted individuals who were in the US illegally, including 65 people who had previously been removed and were serving probation for state crimes. In a Department of Justice [press release](#), Special Agent in Charge Aaron Tapp of the FBI – San Antonio Field Office stated, "Today's threats are too complex, too dangerous, and too widespread for any one agency to handle alone. That's why the FBI joined forces with its law enforcement partners to launch a bold, coordinated strike. Operation Pick Off stands as proof of what that unity can achieve, and it wouldn't have been possible without the unwavering dedication of the U.S. Attorney's Office to protecting our southern border."

FBI Warns of Rising Swatting Incidents After 'False Alarms' in Tennessee

[WTVC \(ABC-9\)](#) (08/25, Collado) reported that the FBI is warning of a rise in "swatting" incidents, where false reports of violence are made to emergency services, after recent incidents in Chattanooga and other locations. According to the article, these false calls can be costly to law enforcement and affect the mental health of those involved, with the FBI taking potential hoax threats very seriously. According to the FBI, knowingly providing false information to emergency services can lead to a prison sentence of up to 5 years, and law enforcement officials, such as Vince Champion of the International Brotherhood of Police Officers, are calling for an end to these pranks that drain resources and put innocent people at risk.

Villanova University Receives Another False Active Shooter Call

[WPVI \(ABC-6\)](#) (08/25, Perez) reported that Villanova University received a false active shooter call on Sunday, prompting a shelter-in-place order for students and staff. The call was determined to be a hoax after a thorough sweep of the area, and authorities issued an "all clear". This is the second false active shooter call at Villanova University in four days, with the first incident occurring on Thursday, and authorities are investigating both incidents. The article highlighted that Delaware County District Attorney Jack Stollsteimer said his office and the FBI

are investigating Thursday's incident, adding, "We're going to work to try to get to the bottom of who might have done this." There was no immediate response from Stollsteimer's office following Sunday's incident. The Chattanooga incident is also under investigation by multiple agencies, including the FBI, the school said.

Former Maui Police Officer Pleads Guilty to Federal Civil Rights Violation

[Maui Now](#) (08/25, Staff Writer) reported that Carlos Frate, a 40-year-old former Maui Police Department officer, pleaded guilty to using unreasonable force against an arrestee. According to the article, Frate admitted to repeatedly tasing the arrestee, who was not resisting or posing a threat, and knew his force was unjustified. The article noted that Frate faces a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison, with his final sentence to be determined at a hearing scheduled for January 6, 2026. "We entrust our law enforcement officers with vast power and authority, and when they abuse it, they're not just depriving victims of their civil rights, but they are also degrading the public's trust in our criminal justice system," said Special Agent in Charge David Porter of the FBI Honolulu Field Office. "The FBI will continue to investigate and hold accountable anyone who violates federal law, regardless of their position."

Chinese National in U.S. Illegally Charged With Running Prostitution Ring Out of Massage Parlors

The [Christian Post](#) (08/25, Kamman) reported that Qingqin Xie, a 39-year-old Chinese national living unlawfully in the U.S., has been charged with running a prostitution business out of massage parlors in New York. According to the article, Xie allegedly employed women to engage in sex acts with customers and paid to promote her business online with sexually explicit advertisements. Craig L. Tremaroli, the special agent in charge of the Albany FBI Field Office, declared that Xie's arrest should "send a message" that the FBI will collaborate with law enforcement partners to "shut down these disturbing illicit businesses and ensure those who operate them are brought to justice."

Two South Dakota Men Sentenced to Years in Federal Prison in Assault Case

[KCCR-FM](#) (08/25, Nelson) reported that Trevin Witt, 18, was sentenced to 11 years in federal prison for his role in a violent assault with a firearm. Lawrence Taylor, 21, was sentenced to 4 years and 9 months in federal prison for his involvement in the same assault. According to the article, the convictions stem from a violent incident that occurred on April 13, 2024, in the Crow Creek Sioux Indian Reservation. On that day, Witt and Taylor forcibly entered the home of the victim. Witt held a gun to the head of a resident, demanding to know where the victim was. When the victim came up the stairs from the basement, he was shot by Witt. The victim survived the encounter. The [press release](#) noted that the FBI investigated the case.

Indiana Man Sentenced to Federal Prison for Secretly Recording Minor in Their Home

[WTHR \(NBC-13\)](#) (08/25, Staff Writer) reported that Douglas Gibson, a 40-year-old sex offender from Lebanon, Indiana, has been sentenced to federal prison. According to the article, Gibson pleaded guilty to sexual exploitation of a minor and secretly recorded a child born in 2011 using hidden cameras in their bedroom and bathroom. The article noted that he also distributed and possessed images and videos of other prepubescent children engaged in sexually explicit conduct, and will now face decades in prison to protect children from his exploitation. [WISH \(CW-8\)](#) (08/25, Adkins) quoted FBI Indianapolis Special Agent in Charge Timothy J. O'Malley: "The exploitation of children is one of the most serious crimes we investigate. This sentence makes clear that there are severe consequences for those who attempt to harm or exploit children. The FBI will continue to work tirelessly with our partners to protect the most vulnerable members of our communities."

Former Memphis Homeschool Basketball Coach Sentenced to Twelve Years for Child Sex Abuse

[WATN \(ABC-24\)](#) (08/25, Davis) reported that Andreus Shannon, a 44-year-old basketball coach, was sentenced to 12 years in prison for having sex with an underage player. According to the article, Shannon groomed the 16-year-old player and convinced her parents to drive her to practices and scrimmages in Mississippi and Tennessee. The article noted that the FBI led the investigation, assisted by the Memphis Police Department and the Olive Branch Police Department. "Andreus Shannon callously undermined the trust of unsuspecting parents, preying on a minor for years," stated Special Agent in Charge of the FBI Jackson Field Office Robert Eikhoff. "Shannon's deliberate actions in targeting the innocence of our youth will not be tolerated. The FBI, U.S. Attorney's Office, Mississippi Attorney General's Office, Olive Branch Police Department, Oxford Police Department, and the Memphis Police Department will continue to aggressively investigate and bring predatory individuals like Shannon to justice." Additional reporting was provided by [WMC \(NBC-5\)](#) (08/25, Moore) and [WREG \(CBS-3\)](#) (08/25, Davis).

Washington Man Sentenced to Five Years for Child Pornography Possession

[Dailyfly](#) (08/25, Staff Writer) reported that Kevin Lee Towner, a 61-year-old man from Selah, has been sentenced to 5 years in federal prison for possessing child pornography. Towner pleaded guilty after investigators found over 3,000 images of child pornography at his residence during a 2020 search. The article stated the case was investigated by the FBI and prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Michael D. Murphy as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide Department of Justice program aimed at combating child sexual exploitation and abuse. In the [press release](#), W. Mike Herrington, Special Agent in Charge of the FBI Seattle field office, stated, "Child sexual abuse material is extremely damaging to young people, especially because it is often repeatedly shared and can be nearly impossible to remove from the Internet. Mr. Towner was found to possess not just some but thousands of these graphic images, including of very young children, and he will now face the consequences of that conduct. The FBI is committed to protecting child victims by holding these kinds of predators accountable and showing them they cannot hide their illegal online activity."

Baltimore Man Pleads Guilty to Sexually Exploiting a Minor

[WJZ \(CBS-13\)](#) (08/25, Lockman) reported that Zachary Anthony Campbell, a 33-year-old Baltimore man, pleaded guilty to sexually exploiting a minor on two occasions in 2023 and 2024. According to his guilty plea, Campbell sexually abused an 11-year-old victim. On two occasions, in October 2023 and February 2024, Campbell recorded a video of himself sexually abusing the victim, who appeared to be sleeping. Additionally, on five occasions in 2023 and 2024, Campbell placed a hidden camera in a bathroom and recorded videos of the victim in various stages of undressing. Campbell saved the sexual-exploitation videos on his phone. The [press release](#) noted that the FBI was involved in the investigation.

New York Teacher Charged With Sexual Exploitation of a Minor

[Hoodline](#) (08/25, Keegan) reported that Daniel Alan Monarchi, a 26-year-old special education teacher from Red Hook, New York, has been charged with sexual exploitation of a minor. According to the article, Monarchi allegedly used a Discord account to engage in explicit conversations with minors and solicit explicit videos, manipulating his victims under the guise of a trusted teacher. The article quoted FBI Assistant Director in Charge, Christopher G. Raia: "We entrust teachers with the responsibility of helping to care for our children and not harm them by engaging in sexual exploitation of minors."

FBI Investigates Florida Bank Robbery, Nearby School Goes Into Lockdown

[WTVJ \(NBC-6\)](#) (08/25, Hamacher) reported that the FBI is searching for a suspect who robbed the Amerant Bank in Coral Springs on Monday. According to the article, FBI Spokesman Jim Marshall stated the robbery occurred around 11:45 a.m. and the suspect demanded money from an employee without causing any injuries. Surveillance photos released by the FBI showed the suspect in sunglasses and a mask. The article noted that the robbery prompted a precautionary lockdown at nearby Ramblewood Elementary School, which was lifted about an hour later. The FBI is leading the investigation, and there are no suspects at this time. Additional reporting was provided by [WPLG \(ABC-10\)](#) (08/25, Batchelor), [Coral Springs Talk](#) (08/25, Deutsch), and [TapInto.net](#) (08/25, Perez).

Bank Robbery Suspect in Texas Seen Wearing 'Star Wars' Helmet in Surveillance Video

[National Enquirer](#) (08/25, Butler) reported that a bank robbery occurred at the Western Bank on Buffalo Gap Road in Texas, with the suspect wearing a "Star Wars" clone trooper helmet. According to the article, the Abilene Police Department responded to the report and is investigating the incident, with the FBI also being notified. The article noted that Abilene Crime Stoppers is offering a \$1,000 reward for information leading to the suspect's identification and arrest. Additional reporting was provided by [San Angelo Live](#) (08/25, Banda).

Lionel Richie Was Present During Attempted Home Robbery, Suspect Arrested

[NBC News](#) (08/25, Madani) reported that at least 8 people have been charged in an alleged gang-related burglary ring in Los Angeles, with ties to the Rolling 30s and 55 Neighborhood gangs. According to the article, the suspects, known as the Rich Roll Burglary Crew, are responsible for 92 residential burglaries across the city, using sophisticated methods such as cameras and jammers to monitor and disable security systems. Of the houses burglarized, one belonged to musician Lionel Richie, who was present during the attempted robbery, and another home belonging to actor Brad Pitt was broken into earlier this month. "The FBI has spearheaded an initiative targeting South American Theft Groups by combining our nationwide resources and collaborating with our valued law enforcement partners to link commonalities and suspects of cases across the country," said the FBI spokesman in a statement. "While some victims of these brazen crimes happen to be professional athletes with careers in the spotlight, rest assured: the FBI is dedicated to protecting all Americans from violent crime—no matter their job description or zip code." Additional reporting was provided by [WBLS-FM](#) (08/25, Staff Writer), [WCAX \(CBS-3\)](#)

(08/25, Powell), [The Blast](#) (08/25, Bamidele), [Suggest.com](#) (08/25, Whidden), and [MusicTimes.com](#) (08/25, Panganiban).

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FINANCIAL CRIME & CORPORATE SCANDALS

Hawaii County Council Seeks FBI's Help in Fight Against Financial Crimes

[Honolulu Star Advertiser](#) (08/25, Farr) and [Hoodline](#) (08/25, Suzuki) reported that the Hawaii County Council has approved a resolution to collaborate with the FBI's Honolulu Division on the Hawaii Financial Crimes Task Force to combat financial crimes. The task force aims to identify and prosecute individuals and groups involved in financial crimes, particularly those targeting vulnerable populations such as seniors. The articles detailed that the partnership will allow the Hawaii Police Department to work with the FBI to exchange information and coordinate efforts to protect the community from financial scams and offenses, with the goal of enhancing the county's ability to safeguard residents through collaborative investigations.

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CYBER DIVISION

Nevada State Government Offices Closed After Network Security Incident

[CNN](#) (08/25, Campbell) and [Reuters](#) (08/25, Satter) reported that Nevada state government offices are closed due to a "network security incident" detected on Sunday, according to Gov. Joe Lombardo's office. The FBI is assisting in the investigation, but details of the incident, including whether it's malicious, have not been disclosed. The articles noted that emergency services, including 911, remain operational, and officials warn residents to be cautious of potential scammers trying to capitalize on the incident.

Chinese Hacker Sentenced for Kill Switch Attack on Ohio Firm's Global Network

[GBHackers](#) (08/25, Staff Writer) reported that Davis Lu, a 55-year-old Chinese national, was sentenced to 4 years in prison for sabotaging his employer's global network with a custom "kill switch". The article explained that Lu, a former software developer, caused hundreds of thousands of dollars in losses and crippled operations after his employer stripped him of key responsibilities in 2018. "The defendant breached his employer's trust by using his access and technical knowledge to sabotage company networks, wreaking havoc and causing hundreds of thousands of dollars in losses for a U.S. company," said Acting Assistant Attorney General Matthew R. Galeotti of the Justice Department's Criminal Division. FBI Cyber Division Assistant Director Brett Leatherman added, "This case underscores the importance of identifying insider threats early and engaging proactively with law enforcement to mitigate risks." The article noted that the investigation was spearheaded by the FBI Cleveland Division.

FBI Warns of Russian Government Cyber Threats

[Homeland Preparedness](#) (08/25, Druga) reported that the FBI is warning of a cyber threat from Russian government cyber actors, specifically the Russian Federal Security Service's (FSB) Center 16, also known as "Berserk Bear" and "Dragonfly". According to the article, the group has been exploiting vulnerabilities in networking devices, including Cisco Smart Install, to collect configuration files and enable unauthorized access to U.S. entities' systems. The article noted that the FBI urges individuals who suspect they have been targeted to report the activity to their local FBI field office or the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center. [CPO Magazine](#) (08/25, Hope) also reported on the story.

FBI and India's CBI Busts Cyber Fraud Network Targeting U.S. Nationals

[New India Express](#) (08/25, Staff Writer) reported that India's Central Bureau of Investigation has busted a cyber fraud network that targeted U.S. nationals, defrauding them of nearly \$40 million. The article noted that the operation was conducted in coordination with the FBI and involved the seizure of various digital devices and cash, with further investigations ongoing to trace the money trail and identify additional suspects. "A major breakthrough came when investigators raided an illegal call centre, Digikaps: The Future of Digital, operating out of Global Tower, opposite Khalsa College for Women, Amritsar. At the site, 34 individuals were caught red-handed while engaged in cyber fraud activities," a senior CBI official said.

Health Provider Confirms Data Breach Impacting 2.4 Million Patients

[Bit Defender](#) (08/25, Constantinescu) reported that DaVita, a kidney care provider, has confirmed a data breach affecting 2.4 million patients due to a ransomware attack. The breach, attributed to the Interlock cybercrime group, exposed personal and medical information, including Social Security numbers and health insurance data. DaVita is offering free credit monitoring to affected patients and plans to strengthen its cybersecurity measures in response to the incident. The article highlighted that the FBI and federal cybersecurity agencies recently issued a joint warning that Interlock affiliates are financially motivated and target essential services. Past Interlock attacks had severe consequences, including the disruption of chemotherapy and surgery appointments and the triggering of a state of emergency in Saint Paul, Minnesota.

FBI Says Impersonation Scam Is Particularly Vicious

[AL.com](#) (08/25, Gore) reported that the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center has received reports of scammers pretending to be law firms claiming to help victims recover funds, particularly targeting those who lost money in cryptocurrency schemes. According to the article, the scammers, often impersonating attorneys or government representatives, request personal and financial information and upfront fees or payments, and may use social media or messaging platforms to reach out to victims. The article stated that to protect yourself, the FBI advises assuming a "zero trust" model, verifying all claims and documentation, and being cautious of requests for payment in cryptocurrency or prepaid gift cards, as well as fictitious government or regulatory entities.

New York Police Detective Indicted for Attempted Purchases on Genesis Market

[The Cyber Express](#) (08/25, Khaitan) reported that Buffalo Police Detective Terrance Michael Cizek, also known as "DrMonster", has been indicted for attempting to purchase stolen credentials from the illicit online marketplace Genesis Market. According to the article, Cizek faces charges including affecting transactions using access devices issued to other individuals and aggravated identity theft, which could result in up to 15 years in federal prison and a \$250,000 fine. The article noted that the indictment is part of a broader FBI investigation into Genesis Market, which trafficked stolen digital data, and Cizek is accused of purchasing 11 stolen data bundles and making false statements to investigators.

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OTHER FBI NEWS

University of North Georgia Students Network With Intelligence Community

[UNG](#) (08/25, Ray) reported that the University of North Georgia's Cumming Campus hosted the fourth annual National Intelligence Summer Academy (NISA) from July 14-18, where high school students networked with former members of the CIA, FBI, and other agencies. The article explained that the program made a significant impact on the students, who praised the dedication of the speakers and the opportunities for networking, with many expressing their desire to work in the intelligence field and hoping the program continues to inspire others.

FBI Data Downplays How Often Armed Civilians Stop Mass Shooters

The [Daily Caller](#) (08/25, Crozier) reported that the FBI has undercounted cases of armed civilians stopping mass shootings, with the Crime Prevention Research Center (CPRC) finding that civilians stopped at least 36% of active shooters from 2014 to 2024, contrary to the FBI's reported 3.7%. According to the article, in 2024, armed civilians stopped at least 47.8% of reported active shooters, but the FBI recorded zero such cases. The article noted that the CPRC attributes the undercounting to the FBI overlooking or misclassifying incidents, and notes that national news coverage of these incidents is rare, leading to a minimized perception of the public benefits of legal gun access.

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Israel Hits Gaza Hospital, Killing at Least 20 People, Including Five Journalists

[Reuters](#), [Wall Street Journal](#), [New York Times](#), [BBC](#), [Washington Post](#)

Hunting Russian Drones in a Prop Plane With Shotguns and Rifles

[Wall Street Journal](#)

Frustrated by Lack of Results From His Putin Summit, Trump Again Hints of Abandoning Ukraine

[Washington Examiner](#)

Australian Police Hunt Gunman Who Shot Dead Two Officers in Rural Town, Media Report

[Reuters](#)

Top Chinese Trade Negotiator Set to Head to U.S. as Talks Resume

[Wall Street Journal](#)

Australia Accuses Iran of Organizing Antisemitic Attacks and Expels Ambassador

[Associated Press](#)

Trump's Initial Warning to South Korea's Lee Turns Into Warm Welcome After Flattery

[Associated Press](#)

Philippine President Fires Police Chief, Who Led the Arrests of Duterte and Televangelist Quiboloy

[Associated Press](#)

Indian Factories Hit Hard by Trump's 50% Tariffs

[BBC](#)

How Taiwan Is Preparing for Chinese Attack With Acting, Fake Blood and Mock Missile Strikes

[BBC](#)

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OTHER WASHINGTON NEWS

Kilmar Abrego Garcia Is Set for Deportation After ICE Arrests Him

[Wall Street Journal](#), [CBS News](#), [ABC News](#), [NBC News](#), [Newsweek](#)

Trump Says DOJ Will Sue California Over Redistricting As He Celebrates Texas Effort

[Washington Post](#), [Los Angeles Times](#), [CNBC](#), [Forbes](#), [The Hill](#)

Inside Intel's Tricky Dance With Trump

[Wall Street Journal](#)

Florida Cops Turn Traffic Stops Into Deportations

[Wall Street Journal](#)

Trump Once Praised the Black History Museum That He Is Now Attacking

[New York Times](#)

Feds Fight To Keep 'Alligator Alcatraz' Open Amid Legal Battle As Third Challenge Is Filed

[Associated Press](#)

After Texas Deal, Trump Seeks To Widen Ban On In-State Tuition For Noncitizens

[Washington Post](#)

DOJ Fires And Reassigns Civil Rights Lawyers As New Hires Arrive

[Bloomberg](#)

Justice Department To Appeal Ruling Disqualifying Trump Lawyer Habba As New Jersey Prosecutor

[Reuters](#)

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WASHINGTON SCHEDULE

White House

President Trump

- 9:00 AM: In-Town Pool Call Time

- 11:00 AM: The President participates in a Cabinet Meeting

Vice President Vance

- No official presidential schedule has been released or announced.

US Senate

- No events scheduled.

US House of Representatives

- No events scheduled.

Cabinet Members

- **Secretary of State Rubio** attends a Cabinet meeting at the White House.

Visitors

- No events scheduled.

General Events

- [CSIS: The Future of Naval Aviation: A Conversation with VADM Cheever](#) – Tuesday, August 26, 2025. Location: Online event, 10:00 AM. Please join the CSIS Defense and Security Department (DSD) and the U.S. Naval Institute (USNI) for a Maritime Security Dialogue event featuring VADM Daniel L. Cheever, USN, Commander, Naval Air Forces/Commander, Naval Air Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet. RADM Raymond A. Spicer, USN (Ret.), chief executive officer and publisher, U.S. Naval Institute, will moderate the conversation. The pair will discuss how the Navy is preparing for the future of naval aviation and what steps the service needs to take to remain competitive in the changing landscape of 21st-century warfare. Kari A. Bingen, director, Aerospace Security Project, will offer opening remarks.
- [Atlantic Council: Accountability now: Liability for spyware harms](#) – Tuesday, August 26, 2025. Location: Online event, 10:00 AM. A virtual event to explore existing avenues to pursue accountability for past and ongoing spyware abuses.
- [INSA: Coffee & Conversation with James Shappell](#) – Tuesday, August 26, 2025. Location: Online event, 9:00 AM. With insider threat incidents continuing to rise across the Defense Industrial Base, staying ahead of the risk has never been more critical.

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