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## IN THE NEWS

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### Justice Dept. Investigating Former New York Gov. Cuomo Over Pandemic Testimony

The [New York Times](#) (05/20, Barrett) reported that the U.S. Justice Department has opened a criminal investigation into Andrew Cuomo, a leading candidate in the New York City mayoral race, over allegations that he lied to Congress about his decisions during the coronavirus pandemic. According to the article, the investigation, begun by the US attorney's office in Washington, was sparked by a referral from House Republicans and focuses on Cuomo's testimony about his role in a New York State Health Department report on nursing home deaths. The article noted that the inquiry has raised concerns that the Justice Department is being used as a political tool, with critics arguing that the Trump administration is targeting Cuomo, a potential rival to current Mayor Eric Adams, who had corruption charges against him dismissed in February. A spokesman for the Justice Department and a spokeswoman for the FBI declined to comment, citing a general policy of not confirming or denying investigations. Additional reporting on the story was provided by [Axios](#) (05/20, Falconer), [Bloomberg](#) (05/20, Nahmias), [CBS News](#) (05/20, Triay, Rosen), [CNN](#) (05/20, Perez), [New York Daily News](#) (05/20, Sommerfeldt), [New York Post](#) (05/20, Nava, Golden, Campanile), [Newsweek](#) (05/20, Sheth, Commander), [Reuters](#) (05/20, Lynch, Trotta), [The Hill](#) (05/20, Timotija), [UPI](#) (05/20, Walsh), [Washington Examiner](#) (05/20, Hallas), and the [Associated Press](#) (05/20, Richer, Tucker).

### U.S. Congresswoman Charged With Assault Outside Immigration Center

[Reuters](#) (05/20, Goudsward) reported that the U.S. Justice Department has charged Democratic Congresswoman LaMonica McIver with assault and impeding law enforcement over a scuffle at an immigration detention center. According to the article, McIver's lawyer claims the charges are politically motivated and that immigration agents mishandled the confrontation. The article noted that the case has raised concerns about the Justice Department's readiness to act against President Donald Trump's political rivals, with some arguing that the department is using its power to target Democrats. Additional reporting on the story was provided by [ABC News](#) (05/20, Barr), [Al Jazeera](#) (05/20, Staff Writer), [Axios](#) (05/20, Solender), [BBC](#) (05/20, Wendling, Epstein), [CNN](#) (05/20, Rabinowitz, Lybrand), [Fox News](#) (05/20, Schemmel), [Law & Crime](#) (05/20, Kalmbacher), [National Public Radio](#) (05/20, Lucas), [Newsweek](#) (05/20, Clark), [New York Magazine](#) (05/20, Prater), [The Atlantic](#) (05/20, Graham), [The Hill](#) (05/20, Beitsch, Schonfeld) (2), the [New York Times](#) (05/20, Tully, Ferre-Sadurni, Aleaziz), [Politico](#) (05/20, Gerstein, Rivard), the [Washington Examiner](#) (05/20, Green), the [Washington Post](#) (05/20, Stein, Roebuck, Goodwin), the [Washington Times](#) (05/20, Dinan), and [Time](#) (05/20, Lee).

### Arrested New Orleans Jail Worker Says He Helped Inmates Escape After Stabbing Threat

The [Associated Press](#) (05/20, Brook, Cline) reported that a New Orleans jail maintenance worker, Sterling Williams, has been arrested for helping 10 inmates escape by turning off the water to a toilet that covered a hole in a cell wall. Williams claimed he was threatened with a stabbing by one of the inmates, Antoine Massey, if he didn't assist in the escape. According to the article, five of the escapees, including Corey Boyd, have been recaptured, but five others, including Massey, remain at large, prompting a large-scale search effort by law enforcement. [Fox News](#) (05/20, D'Abrosca) added that a former FBI agent, Scott Duffey, believes a massive 10-person jail break in New Orleans is "impossible" without staff involvement. Duffey, who spent 10 years hunting fugitives, says at least double the number of escapees must have known about the planned escape, indicating a significant intel breach. The article explained that authorities are investigating whether the inmates had help from jail staff, with three employees already suspended, and Duffey suggests that a romantic relationship between a corrections officer and an inmate could be a plausible motive for assistance. Additional reporting on the story was provided by [ABC News](#) (05/20, Hutchinson, Abubey, Stewart), [BBC](#) (05/20, Ahmadi), [CBS News](#) (05/20, Sundby), [CNN](#) (05/20, Quednow, Riess, Morris), [Fox News](#) (05/20, Casiano) (2) (3), [NBC News](#) (05/20, Burke), [NewsNation](#) (05/20, Powell, Oler, Hayes), [Newsweek](#) (05/20, Gooding, Whisnant), [New York Times](#) (05/20, Levenson), [NOLA](#) (05/20, Mitchell, Simerman, Bubnash), [NPR](#) (05/20, Treisman), [The Guardian](#) (05/20, Staff Writer), the [Washington Post](#) (05/20, Wu, Kaur), [USA Today](#) (05/20, Bragg, Collins), [WWL \(CBS-4\)](#) (05/20, Staff Writer), and [WVUE \(Fox-8\)](#) (05/20, Killett).

## **Continued Reporting: Director Patel Confirms FBI Investigating New York Attorney General Over Real Estate Transactions**

[Spectrum Local News](#) (05/20, Staff Writer) reported that Director Patel over the weekend confirmed that the FBI is investigating New York Attorney General Letitia James over her real estate transactions. The probe is focused on whether James committed fraud on a mortgage application. The article noted that James won a civil case last year against the Trump Organization and Trump himself over allegations of faulty business practices. She is now the first public official who investigated the president to face potential criminal prosecutions herself. [CBS News](#) (05/20, Kramer) also reported on the story.

## **Continued Reporting: Director Patel Says He Will Pledge More Agents To Kansas, Topeka**

[KSNT \(NBC-27\)](#) (05/20, Robinson) reported that Director Patel plans to pledge additional agents to Kansas, specifically to field offices in areas with high violent crime rates. He mentioned that 33 positions would be allocated to Kansas, with an extra agent assigned to Topeka, Wichita, and other locations identified as having a high proportion of violent crime per capita. The move is part of the FBI's effort to reorient assets from Washington to field offices across the country, with Director Patel emphasizing the need for increased budget to support the agency's mission. [CJOnline](#) (05/20, Alatidd) also reported on the story.

## **Continued Reporting: People Ponder Impact of Director Patel's Label for Memphis**

[WHBQ \(Fox-13\)](#) (05/20, Staunton) reported that Director Patel labeled Memphis as "the homicide capital of America" and announced a task force to help local law enforcement deal with the homicide rate. According to the article, the task force is the second federal intervention in less than five years, following "Operation LeGenD" in 2020, which aimed to reduce violent crimes. [Hoodline](#) (05/20, Norris) added that Memphis Mayor Paul Young expressed his readiness to collaborate with federal agencies, highlighting the success of strategic operations like the Fugitive Task Force in disrupting gang activity and capturing fugitives; meanwhile, Tennessee Senator Brent Taylor supports Director Patel's reassessment of Memphis, calling attention to the city's crime issues. The [Tennessee Conservative](#) (05/20, Gomes) also reported on the story.

## **Continued Reporting: FBI Officials Rip Through Conspiracy Theories About Epstein's Death**

The [New York Post](#) (05/20, Reilly) reported that Jeffrey Epstein's brother, Mark Epstein, refuses to accept that his brother died by suicide, contradicting Director Patel's statement. Mark Epstein criticized Director Patel for dismissing conspiracy theories surrounding Jeffrey Epstein's death, saying he has "no idea what the f—k he's talking about". The article explained that Epstein's fiery comments come after FBI leadership declared the sexual predator had taken his own life in 2019, putting a lid on conspiracy theorists who have long claimed he was murdered. "Listen, they have a right to their opinion," Director Patel told Fox News' "Sunday Morning Futures" about skeptics of his assessment. "As someone who has worked as a public defender, as a prosecutor, who's been in that prison system, who's been in the Metropolitan Detention Center, who's been in segregated housing, you know a suicide when you see one, and that's what that was." Deputy Director Bongino backed up Director Patel during a joint interview with Maria Bartiromo. "He killed himself," he said. "I have seen the whole file. He killed himself." Additional reporting on the story was provided by [iHeart](#) (05/20, Beck), [MassLive](#) (05/20, Wasylak), and [The Independent](#) (05/20, Baragona).

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## **COUNTERTERRORISM**

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### **Flight At San Diego Airport Evacuated And One Arrested Following Reports Of A Bomb Threat**

The [Associated Press](#) (05/20, Staff Writer) reported that a Hawaiian Airlines flight at San Diego International Airport was evacuated due to a reported bomb threat. According to the article, a 35-year-old man was arrested for making a false bomb threat after allegedly telling a flight attendant that another passenger had a bomb. The article highlighted that police, SWAT officers, and the FBI responded to search the aircraft. Nothing suspicious was found, and there was no threat to travelers, the police statement said. The [New York Post](#) (05/20, Propper) reported that the FBI said it can't disclose more information because the probe is ongoing. "We continue to urge the public to remain vigilant and report all suspicious activity to law enforcement immediately," an FBI spokesperson said in an email. [Fox News](#) (05/20, Butler) and [USA TODAY](#) (05/20, Wong) also reported on the story.

### **Official Pushed to Rewrite Intelligence So It Could Not Be 'Used Against' Trump**

[Reuters](#) (05/20, Banco) and the [New York Times](#) (05/20, Savage, Barnes, Haberman) reported that Joe Kent, chief of staff to the Director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard, ordered analysts to rewrite an intelligence assessment to protect President Trump and Gabbard from criticism. According to the articles, the assessment contradicted Trump's claim that Venezuela's government controls a criminal gang, and Kent's emails show he pushed for changes to support the administration's policy agenda. Despite Kent's efforts, the final memo still contradicts Trump's claim, and its release has been a problem for the Trump administration, leading to the firing of National Intelligence Council officials by Gabbard. The articles noted that the removal of top intelligence analysts, including Michael Collins and Maria Langan-Riekhof, has sparked worry in the intelligence community, with some accusing the administration of politicizing intelligence. The articles highlighted that the intelligence community broadly thinks, according to the publicly released assessment, that Venezuela's government "probably does not have a policy of cooperating with TDA and is not directing TDA movement to and operations in the United States." FBI analysts agree with that assessment, but also think that "some Venezuelan government officials facilitate TDA members' migration" and use them as proxies to destabilize the United States and undermine public safety. The basis for the FBI's partial dissent comes from statements made in custody by migrants who were arrested in the United States, and "most of the intelligence community judges that intelligence indicating that regime leaders are directing or enabling TDA migration to the United States is not credible," the memo said.

### **Continued Reporting: Latest On Investigation Into Palm Springs Bombing**

[Desert Sun](#) (05/20, Morgen) reported that the FBI has identified 25-year-old Guy Edward Bartkus as the suspect in the Palm Springs bombing, and confirmed his death in the explosion through DNA matching. According to the article, investigators believe Bartkus acted alone, but are scrutinizing his online communication to determine if others knew of his plans, including discussions of explosives in online chat rooms and YouTube channels. The article noted that Bartkus was found to have radicalized online, developing nihilistic and anti-life beliefs, including a promortalist worldview that views death as preferable to life due to suffering and eventual death. The article quoted FBI Assistant Director Akil Davis: "We are receiving hundreds of tips per day, and we are following all of them. As you guys can imagine, how large this scene is, there is evidence strewn all about in a 360-degree perimeter, several hundred feet in diameter." The [Associated Press](#) (05/20, Fernando) reported that the Trump administration is reviewing recommendations to expand access to in vitro fertilization (IVF) as promised in an executive order signed by President Donald Trump in February. The article noted that the move comes after a bombing outside a Southern California fertility clinic and amid renewed attention to IVF as a major political talking point during the 2024 U.S. presidential race. [CNN](#) (05/20, Wolfe, Galeana) highlighted that a car exploded outside the fertility clinic in Palm Springs, severing the power supply and putting thousands of embryos at risk. According to the article, Deputy Fire Chief Greg Lyle hatched a plan to enter the damaged building with FBI Agent Chris Meltzer to assess the status of the embryos and found that the backup generators had failed. Lyle and a team of firefighters, police, and bomb squad personnel were able to restore power, likely saving the incubating embryos, in an effort that clinic director Dr. Maher Abdallah said was heroic and prevented tragic consequences. Additional reporting on the story was provided by [CBS News](#) (05/20, Gutierrez), [KABC \(ABC-7\)](#) (05/20, Cruz, McMillan), [MyNorthwest](#) (05/20, Sumrall), and [Rolling Stone](#) (05/20, Klee).

### **Homeless Man Admits Threatening to Blow Up Montana County Courthouse**

[Flathead Beacon](#) (05/20, Dresser) reported that Kermit "Ty" Poulson, a 46-year-old homeless man, pleaded guilty to threatening to blow up the Flathead County courthouse with Molotov cocktails. According to the article, Poulson admitted to sending an email with the threats, which were made in reference to his own innocence and included anti-law enforcement statements. The article explained that a Flathead County attorney received an email from a Gmail account. In the email, the author made threats to blow up the courthouse in Kalispell. The attorney reported receiving the email to the FBI, disclosed representing Poulson in a matter in Kalispell, and said the defendant had historically made similar threats. Using subscriber information from Google, the FBI connected the sender to another account belonging to Poulson. The article noted that Criminal record checks show Poulson was previously the subject of an FBI investigation in Portland, Oregon, where he was arrested and convicted of threatening to set the Portland mayor's house on fire with Molotov cocktails. He also claimed in the case that he had ties to Antifa. Additional reporting on the story was provided by [KECI \(NBC-6\)](#) (05/20, Staff Writer) and [KPAX \(CBS-8\)](#) (05/20, Staff Writer).

### **Officials Investigate Suspicious Package Report At Tampa FBI Office**

[WFLA \(NBC-8\)](#) (05/20, Tucker) and [WTSP \(CBS-10\)](#) (05/20, Video) reported that there was a report of a suspicious package at the Tampa FBI office on Tuesday. The Tampa Police Department was called to the 5500 block of West

Gray Street to assist the FBI. "The FBI has requested the assistance from Tampa Police Department and other local partners to assess the contents of a package that was delivered to our office," the FBI said in a statement. The FBI said the agency is "not aware of any threats to public safety."

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## COUNTERINTELLIGENCE

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### Continued Reporting: Director Patel Scraps FBI Unit Monitoring Surveillance Rules Compliance

[The Guardian](#) (05/20, Tait) reported that Director Patel has scrapped the FBI's office of internal auditing, a unit set up to monitor compliance with surveillance rules under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA). The office was established in 2020 by William Barr to uncover misuses of FISA's section 702, which allows for the electronic tracking of foreign nationals. The article noted that the closure of the office may renew calls for FISA to be scrapped when it comes up for renewal in 2026, amid concerns that it violates Americans' constitutional right to privacy. Additional reporting on the story was provided by the [Daily Caller](#) (05/20, VanBuskirk), [The Independent](#) (05/20, Kilander), and [Raw Story](#) (05/20, Gettys).

### Drone Videos Of U.S. Military Bases Were Posted On YouTube, FBI Says

[Forbes](#) (05/20, Brewster) reported that the FBI found YouTube videos posted by a user named Billy Cruz, showing aerial footage of restricted U.S. military bases, including Camp Blaz and Andersen Air Force Base in Guam, taken with a drone. According to the article, Cruz has been indicted for violating national defense airspace and failing to register his drone, despite previously agreeing not to take footage over a Defense Department facility after a similar incident in 2021. The article noted that the incidents raise concerns about the lack of anti-drone measures at these strategically important bases, particularly in relation to national security and surveillance.

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## CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS

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### Comey Claims He Had No 'Dark Intention' With '86 47' Seashell Post

[Fox News](#) (05/20, Guidice) reported that former FBI Director James Comey told MSNBC Monday that he had no ill intent with his controversial "86 47" Instagram post and that he is not intimidated by President Donald Trump's administration. The article noted that Comey posted a photo of shells on Thursday that were configured to say "86 47." The number "86" generally means to get rid of something or someone and "47" refers to Trump being the 47th president. Some saw this as a threat, but Comey maintained he thought it was a clever political statement against Trump and didn't have any violent intentions. According to the article, MSNBC's Nicolle Wallace asked Comey, "Between posting the picture and getting a call from the Secret Service, did you have any sort of gut check of like, 'Well, they've audited me in an extraordinary way. I was under investigation for years after he fired me.' ... Did you have any regret about posting the picture?" "I regret the distraction and the controversy around it," Comey replied. "But again, it's hard to have regret about something that, even in hindsight, looks to me to be totally innocent." The article mentioned that the U.S. Secret Service has already interviewed Comey about the situation, and Director Patel said in an X post on Thursday, "We are aware of the recent social media post by former FBI Director James Comey, directed at President Trump. We are in communication with the Secret Service and Director Curran. Primary jurisdiction is with SS on these matters and we, the FBI, will provide all necessary support." The [Daily Signal](#) (05/20, Crozier), [New York Post](#) (05/20, Nava), [NBC News](#) (05/20, Rohde), [MSNBC](#) (05/20, Wiley), [CNN](#) (05/20, Video), [AA](#) (05/20, Oguc, Celik), and the [Epoch Times](#) (05/20, Phillips) also reported on the story.

### FBI Agent Facing Gun Charges In Death Of Good Samaritan

[WTTG \(Fox-5\)](#) (05/20, Salamy) reported that an FBI agent is facing gun charges, two of which are in connection to the fatal shooting of a good samaritan in February. The article noted that Benjamin Spinale has been charged with four Counts of Brandishing a Firearm. Only two of those charges are connected to the death on February 28 of a 61-year-old man who was shot and killed while trying to help deputies involved in an altercation. The other two charges stem from incidents that occurred on October 11, 2024 and February 10, 2025. The article stated that according to the Stafford County Sheriff's Office, deputies responded to a reckless driver on an off-road motorcycle on February 28. Spinale, who was off-duty at the time, confronted the motorcyclist and the motorcyclist fled the scene. The article mentioned that authorities say the motorcyclist returned a short time later with family members

and deputies conducted a traffic stop. During the traffic stop, the family members refused to comply with the deputies' instructions and engaged in a physical altercation with both the deputies and Spinale, who remained in the area. 61-year-old Harold Chamberlain, Jr., a Stafford resident, heard the commotion in front of his home and witnessed deputies attempting to get control of several suspects in the roadway. Chamberlain rushed from his yard onto the scene in an attempt to help the deputies. The article added that authorities say during the altercation the off-duty FBI agent discharged his firearm, striking Chamberlain in the chest. Despite life-saving efforts of deputies and members of Stafford County Fire and Rescue, Chamberlain succumbed to his injuries at the hospital later that night. [WJLA \(ABC-7\)](#) (05/20, Staff Writer) also reported on the story.

### **Social Media Creator Says FBI Knocked On Her Grandmother's Door After Failed Crypto Launch**

[Forbes](#) (05/20, Murray) reported that Haliey Welch, the internet creator best known for her viral meme, addressed her controversial failed cryptocurrency coin launch for the first time on an episode of her podcast Tuesday, stating the FBI and SEC both approached her to investigate after the value of her coin inflated and immediately crashed, though she denied wrongdoing. According to the article, Welch denied responsibility in the sudden crash of her Hawk Tuah coin and denied she intended to scam her followers, stating she "trusted the wrong people." The article added that once the coin crashed in December after reaching a high of \$500 million in market capitalization value, Welch said the FBI knocked on the door of her grandmother's house, asked Welch questions and investigated her phone, after which Welch said the investigation was picked up by the Securities and Exchange Commission, which she says also examined her phone. Welch said the agencies cleared her of wrongdoing, and she said she was not named in any lawsuits in the aftermath of the coin crash. The [New York Post](#) (05/20, Kaplan), and [Hollywood Reporter](#) (05/20, Gajewski) also reported on the story.

### **Three White Supremacists Sentenced to Prison for Racketeering Conspiracy; Two to Serve Life In Prison for Murder**

[CBS News](#) (05/20, Castaneda) reported that three white supremacists and members of the Aryan Brotherhood prison gang were sentenced to federal prison Monday after being convicted of ordering multiple murders while serving time in the California prison system, authorities said. According to the article, a federal judge in Fresno sentenced Francis Clement, 58, to life in prison for a racketeering conspiracy that included five murders, drug trafficking, fraud, and robbery, according to a press statement from the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of California. The article added that each of the murders in Los Angeles County occurred when Clement was in state prison, the U.S. Attorney's Office said. Clement was convicted in February along with Kenneth Johnson, 63, who was convicted of two of the murders in the aid of racketeering, along with conspiracy. Johnson was also sentenced to life in federal prison, where there is no parole. The article mentioned that in addition, John Stinson, 70, who was also serving a lengthy sentence in the California state prison system, was sentenced to 20 years in federal custody, the press statement said. He was already serving a life sentence for a 1979 murder, and court documents indicated Clement and Johnson held leadership roles in the Aryan Brotherhood and directed crimes by gang members inside and outside of prison using smuggled cellphones. Prosecutors said Johnson and Clement together ordered the killings between 2020 and 2022 because they believed their victims either violated gang rules or owed the gang money. A DOJ [press release](#) noted that the case was investigated under the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Forces (OCDETF). OCDETF identifies, disrupts, and dismantles the highest-level criminal organizations that threaten the United States using a prosecutor-led, intelligence-driven, multi-agency approach.

### **Continued Reporting: FBI's 'Operation Restore Justice' Nets Over 200 Arrests, Rescues 100 Children From Child Exploitation**

The [Dallas Express](#) (05/20, Edwards) reported that federal authorities have arrested more than 200 child abusers and rescued over 100 children as part of a new FBI initiative dubbed "Operation Restore Justice." According to the article, the operations' effort are a coordinated strike across all FBI field offices targeting predators involved in the production, distribution, and possession of child sexual abuse "material". The initiative also targets anyone who engages in "online enticement" of children or any form of child sex trafficking. The initiative coincided with National Child Abuse Prevention Month in April. The article quoted Akil Davis, assistant director of the FBI's Los Angeles Office, who said, "The amount of child predators arrested during Operation Restore Justice should shock the conscience of any law-abiding citizen and parents or guardians. Each day, our agents are tackling criminal allegations involving children, whether it be online dangers like sextortion, emerging nihilist extremist networks like 764, or children being groomed by someone close to them." The [Eagle \(FM-100.9\)](#) (05/20, Holliday) also reported on the story.

### **New York Man Accused of Making Violent Threats Against President Trump and Elon Musk**

The [Times Union](#) (05/20, Mishanec) reported that the FBI is investigating an Ulster County man accused of making violent threats against President Donald Trump and Elon Musk in social media posts that included illustrations of Trump's head exploding. FBI agents sought permission to raid the man's High Point home in a legal filing earlier this month, after identifying him as the person posting from an X account that allegedly made "numerous references" to firing a rifle at Trump and Musk. The article added that investigators interviewed the man at his home last week, where he allegedly admitted to making the posts from an account under his son's name, the filing said.

Investigators tracked him down using identifying information from the public account, which described the poster as a Hudson Valley resident who is the primary caretaker of children with special needs, according to the FBI. The [Hudson Valley Post](#) (05/20, Welber) also reported on the story.

### **Head of Commercial Real Estate Investment Firm Sentenced to 87 Months for \$62.8M Investment Fraud Scheme**

[WAGA \(Fox-5\)](#) (05/20, Staff Writer) reported that a New York man has been sentenced to more than seven years in federal prison for defrauding hundreds of investors out of nearly \$63 million, including funds intended for a major commercial real estate project in Atlanta. According to the article, Elchonon "Elie" Schwartz, 46, was sentenced on May 19 by U.S. District Judge Steven D. Grimberg to 87 months in prison, followed by three years of supervised release. Schwartz was also ordered to pay over \$45 million in restitution after pleading guilty to one count of wire fraud earlier this year. The article noted that prosecutors say Schwartz raised approximately \$62.8 million from more than 800 investors through the crowdfunding platform CrowdStreet Marketplace. The bulk of those funds—around \$54 million—was earmarked for the Atlanta Financial Center, a planned large-scale commercial real estate complex. Another \$9 million was raised for a mixed-use development in Miami Beach. A DOJ [press release](#) quoted Paul Brown, Special Agent in Charge of the FBI Atlanta Field Office, who said, "This sentencing underscores that those who exploit the trust of investors for personal gain will be held accountable. Mr. Schwartz's actions caused significant financial harm to hundreds of individuals, and hopefully today's outcome delivers a measure of justice for the victims." [Atlanta News First](#) (05/20, Staff Writer) also reported on the story.

### **Some Victims of Georgia Bar Shooting in Stable Condition. FBI, DEA, More Aid Investigation**

The [Telegraph](#) (05/20, Chisenhall, Fraga) reported that five of the six people who survived being shot at Midtown Daiquiri Bar & Grill Sunday morning were reported to be in stable condition at a hospital Monday evening, the Bibb County Sheriff's Office announced. A sixth surviving victim has been released from the hospital, the sheriff's office said. The article added that the shooting was reported to the sheriff's office around midnight Sunday morning. Three victims were pronounced dead on the scene by the Bibb County Coroner's Office. The sheriff's office also announced Monday that the FBI, the Drug Enforcement Administration; and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives were aiding the investigation into the shooting. The Georgia Bureau of Investigation and the Macon Judicial Circuit District Attorney's Office also were assisting. The Bibb County Sheriff's Office hasn't identified a suspect or provided any information on arrests as of Tuesday morning.

### **Oklahoma Homicide Investigation Turned Over to the FBI**

[KXII \(CBS-12\)](#) (05/20, Staff Writer) reported that the homicide investigation into a man's death in Lane has been turned over to the FBI. The Atoka County Sheriff's Office shared Tuesday that the investigation into the death of Alva Boyd Fortenberry, 63, had been turned over. Fortenberry's body was found in a woman's yard in an area known as "The Crow's Nest."

### **Man Fatally Shot on Sidewalk Near D.C. Elementary School Track Meet**

The [Washington Post](#) (05/20, Uber) reported that a man was fatally shot Tuesday on a sidewalk in Northeast Washington close to where hundreds of elementary school students were taking part in a track-and-field meet, prompting officials to halt the competition and hurry the youngsters to safety. No students were injured. According to the article the victim, whom police did not publicly identify, was walking in the 800 block of 26th Street NE just before 2 p.m. when three men jumped out of a car and at least one of them opened fire, D.C. Police Chief Pamela A. Smith said in a news conference. He died on the scene, she said. The article noted that the shooting occurred next to bleachers on the grounds of the city's former Spingarn High School, where the D.C. Interscholastic Athletic Association Elementary School Track and Field Championship was underway. The suspects fled and the vehicle they used was later found in flames in the Fort Lincoln neighborhood. D.C. police, the FBI, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives were working to find the suspects, Smith said.

## **Man Convicted Of Washington Murder Sentenced To 30 Years In Prison For Separate Drug Trafficking Operation**

The [Spokesman-Review](#) (05/20, Cabeza) reported that a 33-year-old man already convicted of a Spokane Valley murder was sentenced Monday to 30 years in federal prison for running a drug trafficking operation while jailed for the murder charge, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office of Eastern Washington. The state and federal sentences will run at the same time, according to Rob Curry, spokesman for the attorney's office. According to the article, Besides Alexandro Aguilar's 30-year prison sentence, U.S. District Judge Mary K. Dimke sentenced Cassandra M. Montelongo, 27, and Luis Lara, 25, to 10 years in prison on drug trafficking charges, according to an attorney's office news release. Aguilar was sentenced in 2023 for shooting into a crowded Spokane Valley bar, Ichabod's East, killing his friend, 42-year-old Daniel Martinez, and injuring three others in 2021. A DOJ [press release](#) quoted W. Mike Herrington, Special Agent in Charge of the FBI's Seattle field office, who said, "Dangerous drugs, such as those circulated by this trafficking organization, have the potential to destroy lives and devastate entire populations whether by the pill or by the pound. Mr. Aguilar ran the conspiracy from behind bars and I am thankful for the work of our investigators and local partners putting an end to it. The FBI remains committed to holding accountable all those responsible for enabling, supporting, and profiting from the distribution of these poisons within our community."

## **Continued Reporting: Retired Four-Star Admiral Convicted in Bribery Scheme**

[CBS News](#) (05/20, Staff Writer) reported that a jury on Monday convicted a retired four-star admiral who served as the U.S. Navy's second-highest-ranking officer on corruption charges for steering contracts to a company in exchange for a lucrative job. Robert Burke ordered staff to award a \$355,000 contract to a company, and then began working there at a \$500,000-a-year job after his 2022 retirement from the Navy, the Department of Justice said. According to the article, he also unsuccessfully attempted to convince a top officer to give the firm a separate contract. A jury found him guilty of offenses including bribery, performing acts affecting a personal financial interest, and concealment of material facts, court records show. A grand jury in Washington, D.C., indicted Burke in May 2024. Monday's verdict makes Burke the most senior officer to be convicted in recent years for crimes committed while serving in the U.S. military.

## **Man Who Fled FBI on Underwater Scooter Pleads Guilty in \$35 Million Ponzi Scheme**

[Barron's](#) (05/20, Corbin) reported that a California man who marketed himself as an investment advisor has pleaded guilty to 27 counts of wire fraud, money laundering, and witness tampering related to a Ponzi scheme that cost investors more than \$26 million. [People](#) (05/20, Torres) reported that Matthew Piercey, 48, pleaded guilty to wire fraud, concealment money laundering and witness tampering after prosecutors said he solicited investor funds and used the money for personal expenses, according to a news release from the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of California. According to the article, between July 2015 and August 2020, Piercey used the money he stole for various business and personal expenses, including paying a criminal defense firm and the purchase of two residential properties, according to the U.S. Attorney's office. When FBI agents tried to arrest Piercey in November 2020, he evaded arrest and led agents on a vehicle chase through a residential neighborhood and onto the highway before abandoning the vehicle and entering a lake with a scooter, prosecutors said. The underwater device was later identified as a Yamaha 350LI underwater submersible device.

## **FBI Questions Rhode Island Fire Officials About Concrete Project**

[WPRI \(CBS-12\)](#) (05/20, Sherman, Nesi, White) reported that FBI agents visited a North Providence firehouse twice last week, asking questions about concrete work conducted under Mayor Charlie Lombardi's administration. Fire Chief John Horan confirmed Tuesday multiple FBI agents visited his department last week, asking questions about concrete work that happened three to four years ago at the firehouse on Fruit Hill Avenue. "They just showed up at the firehouse," Horan said about the FBI agents. "My members at the firehouse let me know they were there." The article noted that Lombardi said he'd been briefed about the inquiries but didn't think the FBI agents were asking questions about him specifically. The mayor said he's not concerned about the inquiry, but hasn't looked into what they were doing there. An FBI spokesperson would neither confirm nor deny the existence of an investigation. [WJAR \(NBC-10\)](#) (05/20, Crandall) also reported on the story.

## **FBI, Florida Police Break Up Prostitution Operation at Spa**

[Tamarac Talk](#) (05/20, Yousif) reported that a spa owner faces felony charges after investigators discovered the business was operating as a front for a prostitution ring. Arrest records show that authorities from the Lauderhill Police Department and the FBI Human Trafficking Task Force arrested Saixiong Ye, 55, of Margate, on May 15, after

executing a human-trafficking investigation at Cure Spa—legally registered as Luck Spa Inc. According to the article, the investigation details how the operation, initiated after online advertisements on adultsearch.com and skipthegames.com depicting nude women soliciting sex services, uncovered evidence that the facility was being used to profit from prostitution. According to a Lauderhill PD affidavit, law enforcement officers responded to Cure Spa and found Ye inside the business. An FBI-provided Chinese translator conducted an interview and confirmed that Ye owned and operated the establishment. Investigators determined that Ye paid a third party \$500 per month to place ads offering commercial sex services, and that her photograph and alias “Lisa Baby” were used in text messages negotiating prices with clients.

### **Police Considering Charges Against Sister of Missing Denton Woman Found Safe in Michigan**

[CBS News](#) (05/20, Myers) reported that authorities are considering charges against the sister of a 76-year-old North Texas woman who was found safe Tuesday morning in Michigan, more than a week after being taken without legal consent from an assisted living facility, according to the Denton Police Department. The article noted that Karen May Taube, the subject of a statewide Silver Alert, was located at a hotel in Houghton Lake, Michigan, with her sister, Eva Haron. Police say Haron allegedly removed Taube from Willow Bend Assisted Living & Memory Care on May 12 — violating a court order and taking her more than 1,000 miles away. Authorities said Taube is under guardianship that prohibits contact with Haron. The article mentioned that Taube was positively identified at the Michigan hotel by the Roscommon County Sheriff's Department. Investigators had previously believed the two were traveling in a white Ford F-150, though Taube was not considered in immediate danger. As a precaution, Taube was taken to a hospital for evaluation and is expected to return to Denton under her guardian's supervision, police said. The Dallas office of the FBI assisted in the search.

### **Man Taken Into Custody At Buffalo Airport After Crashing Pickup Truck Into Gate**

The [Associated Press](#) (05/20, Staff Writer) reported that a man in a pickup truck drove through a roadside gate at the Buffalo Niagara International Airport and crossed a runway before being taken into custody Tuesday morning, according to police. According to the article, the unidentified man was apprehended at the western New York airport without incident about 6 minutes after breaching the gate, which was damaged. The incident, which occurred at about 7:30 a.m., did not disrupt air traffic, said Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority Police Chief Brian Patterson. It was not clear why the man breached the gate, but Patterson told reporters at a briefing that “we’ve come to the conclusion that this was intentional.” The pickup truck crossed a taxiway and a runway before the man was taken into custody on an inactive runway outside a plane that is used for training, the chief said. The FBI was assisting with the investigation. [ABC News](#) (05/20, Video) also reported on the story.

### **Utah Man Arrested In FBI Child Exploitation Sting**

[KSL](#) (05/20, Reavy) reported that an American Fork man was arrested Monday after police say he traveled to Lehi to meet up with a father he thought would allow him to sexually abuse his two young sons. But when George Washington Paulin III, 64, arrived at the designated meeting location, he was met by members of the FBI's Child Exploitation and Human Trafficking Task Force and was arrested. Starting in April, Paulin used an undisclosed app and “was communicating with someone who was believed to be the father of the 7- and 9-year-old boys,” a police booking affidavit states. In reality, he was messaging an undercover agent. The article noted that Paulin also sent the undercover agent “numerous videos” of child sex abuse material, investigators say. The two agreed to meet Monday in Lehi so Paulin could abuse the two children, according to the affidavit. He was arrested shortly after arriving. Investigators learned after taking Paulin into custody that he had sexually abused an actual child in the past, the affidavit alleges. He was booked into the Utah County Jail for investigation of three counts of aggravated sexual exploitation of a minor, two counts of enticing a minor and two counts of sodomy on a child.

### **New Jersey Man Facing Child Porn Charge after FBI Raids House**

[WPG \(95.5-FM\)](#) (05/20, Coleman) reported that the Cape May County Prosecutor's Office says 25-year-old Brandon M. Nicolosi of Woodbine has been charged with third-degree possession of child sexual abuse material (CSAM). According to the article, authorities began an investigation after they received a tip from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children that revealed an unknown person, later identified as Nicolosi, allegedly “downloaded and shared various images of CSAM. Last Thursday, May 15th, several law enforcement agencies, including the Cape May County Regional SWAT Team, the Cape May County Prosecutor's Office, the Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force, U.S. Department of Homeland Security Investigations, New Jersey State Police, and the FBI, executed a search warrant at Nicolosi's home where multiple cell phones and computers were seized.

## CYBER DIVISION

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### **FBI, Oregon Police Investigate Rise In 'Gore Group' Crimes Targeting Teens Online**

[KPTV \(Fox-12\)](#) (05/20, Thomas) reported that the FBI and Oregon police are investigating a rise in "gore group" crimes, where online communities lure and exploit vulnerable teens with violence and psychological manipulation. According to the article, a recent case involved a 14-year-old girl in the Portland metro area who was groomed by a man, Juan Sebastian Perez, through social media apps, leading to his arrest and a 30-year prison sentence. The article explained that with the victim's parents' consent, FBI agents posed as the teen online to gather more evidence and locate the suspect. The article noted that FBI Portland Special Agent in Charge Doug Olsen said that these crimes are becoming more common and difficult to track, with multiple active cases currently being worked on in Oregon.

### **FBI Warns of Cyber Actors Exploiting End-Of-Life Routers**

[American Hospital Association](#) (05/20, Staff Writer) reported that the FBI warned of cyber actors exploiting vulnerabilities in end-of-life routers, particularly those dated 2010 or earlier that no longer receive software updates. According to the article, the FBI has received reports of obsolete routers being breached by individuals using variants of TheMoon malware, which can infect routers without a password. The article noted that Scott Gee, AHA deputy national advisor for cybersecurity and risk, advises users, especially remote workers, to maintain and update their home routers to prevent cyber threats.

### **FBI Agents in North Carolina Warn of New Scams Using AI**

[WFMY \(CBS-2\)](#) (05/20, Rivera) reported that the FBI warned that scammers are using AI to make themselves more believable. "And so AI is obviously very useful for us and maybe our daily lives. We use it because it makes things easier for us. They're using it for the exact same reason. It's making the job of the scammer easier in these particular cases. So, for those scammers that are coming from overseas, this allows them to use proper grammar to portray themselves as somebody who speaks English as a first language. It's a very effective use of AI," said Phil VanWyngarden, FBI Assistant Special Agent In Charge in Charlotte. The article noted that VanWyngarden said scammers are not calling, texting, and emailing simply to get money from you; now the focus is on information, which is why you should never click on a link or log in to your account from a message sent to you.

## INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

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### **Dstl and FBI Collaborate on HME Manufacturing Training**

[Advance](#) (05/20, Staff Writer) reported that the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (Dstl) has enabled the FBI to deliver training on homemade explosives (HME) manufacturing for the UK and other partner nations in early 2025, at Cranfield Ordnance Test and Evaluation Centre (COTEC). The FBI was supported by Dstl's Forensic Explosives Laboratory (FEL) to successfully carry out the practical course. The article stated that this course is important for the explosives' community because it has helped develop participants' knowledge and understanding of homemade explosives. It also enhanced knowledge of how to safely handle these materials. For Dstl's FEL, the course has been instrumental in enhancing professional credibility when supporting the UK criminal justice system with expert witness testimonies. The Dstl team worked for about a year to refine the training content and develop safe working practices so the FBI could undertake this essential training within the UK.

### **Man on FBI's Most Wanted List Found Living in Sydney**

[ABC](#) (05/20, Greenbank) reported that a fugitive on the FBI's most wanted list has been quietly living in Sydney for almost two decades. Geoffrey John Busch is wanted over an alleged investment scam in Florida in the early 2000s. The 78-year-old is accused of taking part in a \$12.3 million get-rich-quick scheme between 2002 and 2006, according to US court documents. Investors were allegedly told their funds would be placed in a non-existent "high-yield trading program", but the cash was siphoned into personal bank accounts. The article mentioned that Busch was indicted by a grand jury in Florida in 2007, charged with conspiracy to commit wire fraud, wire fraud and money laundering. The maximum sentence for wire fraud alone is 20 years in prison. In December, the FBI issued a new alert asking for public tip-offs about his whereabouts. The ABC tracked Busch down to a red brick

home on a quiet cul-de-sac in the Sutherland Shire in southern Sydney. He denied he had been evading international authorities for almost 20 years.

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## OTHER FBI NEWS

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### **Sean Combs Hired Former FBI Agent To Polygraph Staff, Ex-Assistant Testifies**

The [Rolling Stone](#) (05/20, Roundtree, Blistein) reported that Sean Combs hired a former FBI agent to give lie-detector tests to his staff after some of his money and possessions went missing, his former assistant testified Tuesday in the mogul's sex-trafficking trial. According to the article, in his second day of testimony, David James alleged that he took a polygraph test multiple times, administered by a man who claimed to have worked for the FBI. "It was very intimidating," he said. He said the results showed that he did not lie. He testified that a member of Combs' security also told him that Combs' former employee, Capricorn Clark, also took a lie-detector test. James worked for Combs from 2007 to 2009. On Monday, he became emotional when recalling his introduction to the working environment that Combs fostered during the interview process. A senior human resource official pointed to a photo of Combs on the wall; James testified and said, "This is Mr. Combs' kingdom. We're all here to serve in it." [People](#) (05/20, Brown, Bacher) also reported that

### **FBI CJIS Division in Clarksburg Pays Tribute to Fallen West Virginia Law Enforcement, Agents**

[WVNews](#) (05/20, Staff Writer) reported that the FBI's Criminal Justice Information Services Division honored fallen law enforcement officers and FBI agents during its annual memorial ceremony Tuesday. During the solemn event, the FBI and local law enforcement agencies paid tribute to all West Virginia law enforcement officers and FBI agents who have given their lives in the line of duty. "Despite no West Virginia law enforcement officers being killed in the line of duty in 2024, it was important for the CJIS Division to continue the tradition," said CJIS Division Assistant Director Timothy A. Ferguson. According to the article, FBI Police placed an American flag and a wreath near a memorial bearing names of the fallen. Local police officers and FBI agents read the names of 243 West Virginia law enforcement officers and 90 FBI agents during the roll call ceremony. [WDTV \(CBS-5\)](#) (05/20, Pittman) also reported on the story.

### **DOGE Loses Fight to Take Control of U.S. Institute of Peace**

The [Washington Examiner](#) (05/20, O'Keefe) reported that the Department of Government Efficiency has lost its battle to take full control of the U.S. Institute of Peace. A judge ruled that staff and board members who were removed during a DOGE takeover of the agency must be reinstated and blasted the federal government for its role in the case. The agency's board and staff sued the government to regain their jobs. "The purported removal of members of the Board of Directors of the United States Institute of Peace ("USIP") ... was unlawful," U.S. district court judge Beryl Howell wrote in the order, "and therefore null, void, and without legal effect." According to the article, the USIP is an independent agency established and funded by Congress. It exerts influence on foreign countries by promoting "research, policy analysis, education, and training on international peace and conflict resolution in an effort to prevent and resolve violent conflicts, and to promote post-conflict stability." Federal government lawyers said that the president selects USIP's board of directors, and its mission is "to extend the United States' soft power internationally." USIP said it doesn't perform "any executive functions," which should exempt it from executive authority. The judge in the case believes the Trump administration overreached in its attempts to take over the agency's headquarters and dissolve it. Washington D.C. police and the FBI had helped DOGE enter the building after they were locked out. "The president's efforts here to take over an organization ... contrary to statute established by Congress and by acts of force and threat using local and federal law enforcement officers," Howell wrote, "represented a gross usurpation of power."

### **Notre Dame Grad Becomes FBI Special Agent in Charge of Indianapolis Field Office**

[WTWO/WAWV](#) (NBC-2) (05/20, Boyll) reported that Timothy O'Malley, a graduate of Notre Dame and DePaul University, was just named Special Agent in Charge of the FBI's Indianapolis Field Office. Before being promoted to the new position, O'Malley was the Section Chief in the Lab Division at the FBI Headquarters, as Chief of the Forensic Response Section since October 2023. According to the article, O'Malley began his career as a special agent in March 2001, where he was assigned to the Honolulu Field Office investigating organized crime, gangs, and public corruption. While in Honolulu, O'Malley was also a member of the Hawaii HIDTA Task Force and the Honolulu SWAT team.

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## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

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[Reuters](#), [New York Times](#), [Associated Press](#), [Washington Post](#), [NBC News](#)

### **Airstrikes Kill Dozens In Gaza, International Criticism Of Israel Grows**

[Reuters](#), [Associated Press](#), [Time](#), [BBC](#), [NBC News](#)

### **North Korean Defectors Urge The UN To Hold The Country's Leader Accountable For Rights Abuses**

[Associated Press](#)

### **Venezuela Frees U.S. Air Force Veteran in Overture to Trump**

[Wall Street Journal](#)

### **Netanyahu Confronts New Political Dilemma as Allies Push for End to Gaza War**

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### **To Combat China, U.S. Wants Its Friends to Do More**

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### **An Island Called Hope Is Standing Up To Beijing In The South China Sea**

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### **Sudan Rebels Entirely Pushed Out Of Khartoum State, Army Says**

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### **Rubio Warns Syria Could Be Weeks Away From 'Full-scale Civil War'**

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### **U.S. Says It Wants Trade, Not Aid, in Africa. Cuts Threaten Both.**

[New York Times](#)

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[Reuters](#), [Associated Press](#), [Wall Street Journal](#), [Washington Post](#), [BBC](#)

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

### **Trump Selects Concept For \$175 Billion 'Golden Dome' Missile Defense System**

[Associated Press](#), [Washington Post](#), [Fox News](#), [New York Times](#), [NPR](#)

### **Trump's Approval Rating Ticks Lower, Economic Concerns Weigh, Reuters/Ipsos Poll Finds**

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### **Musk, Republican Party's Biggest Donor, Says He Will Cut Political Spending**

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### **Rubio May Have Revoked Thousands Of Visas As Crackdown Continues**

[Reuters](#), [Time](#)

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### **Trump's Mass Layoff Threat Drives U.S. Government Workers To Resign**

[Reuters](#)

### **Inside Kristi Noem's Polygraph Operation**

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## **U.S. Debt Is on Pace to Set a Record High, Going All the Way Back to 1790**

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