|  |
| --- |
| Jihad Report Jun 10, 2017 -Jun 16, 2017  |
| Attacks | 39  |
| Killed | 165  |
| Injured | 175  |
| Suicide Blasts | 8  |
| Countries | 15 |

**1977 Message May Have Been Aliens**

A mysterious radio signal detected in deep space 40 years ago was not from a comet and might have been from alien life, according to a new theory.

Dubbed the "Wow! signal because of a note scribbled on a printout of the signal by the man who detected it, the cosmic sound lasted 72 seconds and has puzzled astronomers for years. A [**new paper**](http://earthsky.org/space/wow-signal-explained-comets-antonio-paris) claims it was from a comet, but that insistence is being debunked by another expert.

Senior astronomer Seth Shostak of the SETI Institute told [**Live Science**](https://www.livescience.com/59442-astronomers-skeptical-about-wow-signal.html) the frequency of the transmission detected by astronomer Dr. Jerry Ehman is telling.

"I don't think anyone ever found such emission from comets," Shostak told Live Science.

What the signal might have been, according to experts, was some sort of transmission from an extraterrestrial life form.

Ehman also disputes the claim that a comet was the source of the transmission, telling Live Science, "We should have seen the source come through twice in about 3 minutes: one response lasting 72 seconds and a second response for 72 seconds following within about a minute and a half. We didn't see the second one."

Tesla: The Real Story

Elon Musk bills Tesla as the pinnacle of "lean" manufacturing.  Just search for pictures of Tesla's manufacturing plant and you'll undoubtedly be served up futuristic looking images, like the one below, depicting 100's of red robots building vehicles without a single employee.



But, if Tesla is truly the lean manufacturing powerhouse that it purports itself to be then **we do wonder why it continues to burn through ~$600 million of cash every single quarter**, or roughly $30,000 for every car that it sales?



Perhaps this 'anomaly' has something to do with the fact that, as [Automotive News](http://www.autonews.com/article/20170611/OEM01/170619951/teslas-real-capacity-problem-too-many-people?utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=twitter) points out, **Tesla's real 'capacity problem' has nothing to do with the size of their manufacturing facility but rather the staggering number of people they're using to build their cars.**

The 5.3 million square feet of manufacturing space that Tesla now occupies started off as a joint operation between General Motors and Toyota which began in 1984 and was intended to help the Japanese automaker learn about doing business in America and teach GM the principles of lean manufacturing.  **20 years ago the plant pumped out over 350,000 new cars each year or roughly 74 vehicles per worker.**  Meanwhile, **Tesla**, the 'pinnacle' of lean manufacturing with 20 years worth of technology advantages, **somehow only manages to build somewhere between 8-14 cars per employee.**

It's because in this temple of lean manufacturing, Tesla uses far more workers than NUMMI employed to build far fewer cars. In 1985, its first full year of production, NUMMI had 2,470 employees and produced 64,764 vehicles — about 26 vehicles per worker per year. **By 1997, it had 4,844 ? workers and produced 357,809 vehicles — about 74 vehicles per worker per year.**

**Tesla, on the other hand, had between 6,000 and 10,000 workers in 2016 and manufactured 83,922 vehicles. That puts its vehicle-per-worker number between 8 and 14, about one-seventh the efficiency of NUMMI at its peak.**

"The number of people Musk's got in there has a great deal to do with why he doesn't make money building vehicles," said automotive manufacturing consultant Michael Tracy of Agile Group in Howell, Mich. "Toyota's numbers reflect the number of people you expect to have if you were going to efficiently build vehicles for a profit."

Of course, given that Musk intends to go from manufacturing 100,000 cars a year to 500,000 with the launch of the Model 3, one has to wonder whether or not that is actually possible.

The Fremont factory assembles the Model S sedan, Model X crossover and the soon-to-launch Model 3. Musk said the upcoming Model Y will be built in a separate factory.

In Tesla's fourth-quarter earnings call in February, Musk said that once the Model 3 launches, he plans to begin producing 5,000 vehicles per week in the fourth quarter, and ramp up to 10,000 vehicles per week by 2018.

**"Going from 100,000 to 500,000 units is a huge leap for any company,"** said Sam Fiorani, vice president of global vehicle forecasting at AutoForecast Solutions. "For them to build a half a million units next year, it would be an amazing ramp-up for what is still a startup company. There's all kinds of red flags."

But, as we pointed out earlier this month when Tesla's market cap surpassed that of BMW, Ford and GM, the market doesn't seem to care much about Tesla's manufacturing inefficiencies and will undoubtedly underwrite however many billions of additional dollars needed to build more manufacturing capacity.

**Drone Wars Update**

A Pentagon effort to incubate businesses in Silicon Valley may be bearing some of its first fruit, as a San Diego company rolls out a set of new drones it says could accompany human-piloted fighters into combat.

On Tuesday, Kratos Defense and Security Solutions officially announced two new classes of drones designed to function as robotic wingmen for fighter pilots. Development of the UTAP-22 Mako has been funded by the Defense Department’s Silicon Valley laboratory, dubbed DIUx. Separately, the company showed off a larger, 30-foot-long drone backed by the Air Force called the XQ-222 Valkyrie, with a range of more than 4,000 nautical miles. Kratos is promoting the pilotless planes at the Paris Air Show next week in preparation for a new round of testing.

Aviation experts say the speed and altitude capacities published by Kratos suggest the drones could fly in tandem with an F-16 or F-35 fighter. The company says it has already successfully flown the drones alongside manned aircraft and that it will soon embark on an advanced round of testing above California’s Mojave Desert employing a more sophisticated array of sensing technology to determine just how autonomous the drones can be.

In those tests, a pilot in an accompanying airplane is preparing to monitor the drones from a small Android tablet. For most of the flight, the drone will attempt to maneuver without the help of a human, relying on artificial intelligence technology and sensors to mimic the nearby plane’s movements.

That test scheduled for July is to be followed by a “demonstrated military exercise” sometime in the second half of this year, the company said.

“In order to exploit the maneuverability of one of these aircraft, you need to have the sensing ability of when to exploit it,” said Dave Deptula, a retired Air Force general who now serves as dean of the Mitchell Institute for Aerospace Studies, an Arlington think tank.

The effort comes as the military explores what role robotics might play in the wars of the future; some argue that unmanned systems are more likely to accompany — but not replace — manned systems like the F-35 Joint Strike fighter. The Navy is [exploring](https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/economy/drone-warfare-heads-under-the-seas-as-us-seeks-advantage-over-rivals/2016/11/24/9f756572-9c61-11e6-b3c9-f662adaa0048_story.html?utm_term=.6faa5de11ba3) similar options in using autonomous submarines that can scout the ocean floor and seek out mines.

The use of robotic systems to augment manned aircraft could theoretically make air combat safer if, for example, autonomous aircraft can be sent ahead to absorb an enemy’s attacks first. The aircraft are also less expensive to deploy than manned aircraft; the reusable drones cost between $2 million and $3 million.

The Mako represents a step forward from the unmanned Predator and Reaper drones now largely used for aerial surveillance and for targeted attacks in places like Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan.

“These systems can conduct fully autonomous missions,” said Steven Fenley, president of the company’s unmanned systems division.

Officials at DIUx did not respond to requests for comment on the new Kratos drones. Former defense secretary Ashton B. Carter helped launch the Silicon Valley outpost in 2015, tasking the Defense Innovation Unit Experimental with finding and funding innovative technologies outside greater Washington. The effort had its early stumbles: Carter [reshuffled its leadership team](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/checkpoint/wp/2016/05/11/pentagon-chief-overhauls-silicon-valley-office-will-open-similar-unit-in-boston/?utm_term=.8a6bb761eceb#comments) and members of Congress [took steps to limited the agency’s funding](https://federalnewsradio.com/defense/2016/12/lawmakers-demand-answers-diux-plan/), saying it lacked direction.

Kratos’ $12.6 million contract with DIUx to explore the autonomous use of high-speed drones is tiny compared with larger military hardware development contracts, which can reach into the billions of dollars. Still, observers see the successful testing of an autonomous drone as step forward for the agency.

“This is an example of where DIUx went out and find innovative ideas and are funding them, and it’s an excellent way to reinforce companies that are not already fully established,” said Deptula, the retired Air Force general.

**Dirty Bomb Suspected in South Carolina**

MOUNT PLEASANT, SC (WCSC) -

Officials with the Coast Guard say federal and state authorities are continuing to investigate a potential threat which was reported at the Wando Terminal Wednesday night.

Coast Guard officials say the FBI is investigating a report of a "dirty bomb" aboard a vessel.

A dirty bomb is composed of conventional explosives and radioactive material.

According to emergency officials, no radiation has been found at this time.

A report by the Coast Guard states that at 8 p.m. authorities were made aware of a potential threat in a container aboard the vessel Maersk Memphis.

"The Maersk Memphis is currently moored at Charleston's Wando terminal which has been evacuated while bomb detection units from federal, state and local law enforcement agencies investigate the threat," Coast Guard officials said.

The Coast Guard says a unified command has been established to oversee the coordinated response.

Witnesses say the terminal was evacuated, and authorities were seen taping off a ship.

The Charleston County Sheriff's Office, Hazmat and EMS crews are also on scene.

Workers say they have since been sent home, and were told to leave the terminal around 9 p.m.

Boaters say they were also escorted off the water due to the situation.

**The Case for a Smaller Government**

**We need to fundamentally redefine the relationship between government and the people in this country.** Today, we have become so accustomed to big government that most of us can’t even imagine another way of doing things. And I am not just talking about the federal government either. Even in a red state like Idaho, the state government has become a sprawling bureaucracy that requires [3.5 billion dollars a year](http://www.idahostatesman.com/news/politics-government/state-politics/article125872789.html) to keep going. And all over the country many local governments are “supersized” as well. **But this isn’t the way that our Founding Fathers intended for things to work. They intended to create a society where government is very limited and where liberty and freedom are maximized.**



**Back in 2015, U.S. Senator Rand Paul made headlines all over the country when he tweeted that he wanted** [**“a government so small I can barely see it!”**](https://twitter.com/randpaul/status/663814975299956736?lang=en)

In my opinion, we need 99 more senators that see things the exact same way.

The reason why we want the federal government to be so limited is because **there is an inverse correlation between the size of government and the level of freedom and liberty that we are able to enjoy.** In other words, every time government gets bigger, we lose more freedom and liberty. And when government becomes the center of virtually everything (like in North Korea), the result is nightmarish tyranny.

**We have been trained to believe that government should be working to solve all of our problems,** but the truth is that much of the time government **is** the problem.

Those that are constantly advocating big government solutions to everything are actually promoting [an anti-liberty agenda](http://themostimportantnews.com/archives/julius-caesar-antifa-and-kathy-griffin-all-show-that-the-left-has-absolutely-no-positive-message-to-offer). If we can get people to start understanding this, it will result in an enormous political shift in this country.

**We need to start having more conversations about the proper role of government in our society.** Government does have a role, but that role should be very limited. I really like how [Idaho State Representative Karey Hanks](https://redoubtnews.com/2017/06/proper-function-government/) made this point just recently…

What is the “proper function” of government? It is debated on TV, social media and election campaigns. Many people don’t care much, as long as they have gas in the car, a paycheck, food to eat and a little spare time. Life is good! How many people actually take the time to vote in any given election?

Laws were established by our Founding Fathers to preserve freedom–not restrict it. They believed laws should be enacted only to protect against physical harm, theft and involuntary bondage. Government should not be a means of compelling citizens to perform acts of charity against their will—“redistribution of wealth” in current terminology.

**“Redistribution of wealth” is one of my pet peeves.** The federal government should not be taking trillions of dollars away from some Americans and giving that money to other Americans.

But that is precisely what is happening, and if our Founding Fathers could see what is happening today they would be rolling over in their graves.

**Of course the centerpiece of the system is the income tax.** In 1913, a very basic income tax was introduced and most Americans were taxed at a rate of only one percent. But of course once the progressives get their feet in the door they are never satisfied, and so our tax system has just gotten bigger and more complicated with each passing year.

According to [Forbes](https://www.forbes.com/sites/kellyphillipserb/2013/01/10/tax-code-hits-nearly-4-million-words-taxpayer-advocate-calls-it-too-complicated/#5bcea5c26e24), **Congress has made more than a change a day to the tax code since 2001, and at this point it is nearly four million words long…**

How complicated? Since 2001, Congress has made nearly 5,000 changes to the Tax Code. That’s more than a change per day. The Tax Code is now **about four million words**, nearly as long as seven versions of War and Peace or the novel version of Les Miserables and just under four times the number of words in all of the Harry Potter books put together.

Americans spend [approximately six billion hours](https://www.forbes.com/sites/kellyphillipserb/2013/01/10/tax-code-hits-nearly-4-million-words-taxpayer-advocate-calls-it-too-complicated/#5bcea5c26e24) complying with the tax code every year.

That breaks down to 8,758 lifetimes spent on taxes every 12 months.

***How much better would our society be if the American people could spend all of that time on more productive matters?***

If I run for Congress, and if I end up winning, one of my long-term goals will be to completely eliminate the income tax. But we will need a lot more liberty-minded people to win seats in Congress in order for that to happen, and so I am encouraging as many as possible to consider running in 2018.

We also need to dramatically reduce the red tape that is [absolutely killing entrepreneurs and small businesses all over the nation](http://theeconomiccollapseblog.com/archives/they-are-killing-small-business-the-number-of-self-employed-americans-is-lower-than-it-was-in-1990).

And it isn’t just the federal government that is doing this. **Sometimes it is state and local governments that are the worst offenders,** and I want to share one example with you [from right here in Idaho](http://hearmeidaho.com/issues/good-idaho-jobs/?utm_source=Facebook&utm_medium=Facebook_boosted&utm_campaign=Good_jobs&utm_content=IFF_boosted_fb_MNM_beauty_ads)…

Miranda Hale, Nadia Saakyan and Micalah Howard are three innovative women who launched a mobile makeup-application business that fits today’s busy lifestyles. The trio came up with an original idea: Bring the make-up studio to help brides feel just a little more beautiful on their special day, no matter the location.

Yet, senseless state regulations ruined the trio’s dream. Idaho rules don’t allow the three to apply makeup anywhere outside of a licensed and inspected beauty salon.

This regulation, and hundreds more like it, were not built for the modern economy. Outdated regulations stifle innovation and kill jobs.

**This is the sort of thing that I would expect to see** [**in California**](http://themostimportantnews.com/archives/they-want-to-make-the-rest-of-the-country-just-like-california)**, but unfortunately it is happening right here in my state.**

**If we sit back and do nothing, then nothing is going to change**. The reason why we have so many rules and regulations is because control freaks tend to be greatly attracted to the world of politics. And once they get into positions of power, they love to lord it over the rest of us and impose as many rules and regulations as they possibly can.

**It is time for those of us that believe in constitutional values to rise up and take our country back.** It won’t be easy, but if we want this nation to have any sort of a future at all we have no choice but to act.

The sword and pen go together. Without one, no action is possible. Without the other, no action can be planned or understood.

Thieves Emporium isn't about the sword, but about how we organize to use it.

If the government knows you have money, what is to stop them from taking it all away?

If they know you have weapons, what is to stop them from taking them away?

If they know all your words and actions, what is to stop them from taking those away from you, too?

Trust? Trust them to behave according to a set of agreed-upon common restrictions?

Sorry. The days of Father Knows Best and Fresh Prince are gone forever.

Now your only protection is in anonymity.

That's what Thieves Emporium is about.

How to get it. How to protect it. And how to use it to strike back against the oppressors.

**The Real Scalise Gunman**

According to former Alexandria, Virginia Mayor Bill Euille (D), the gunman in the [Scalise shooting](https://bearingarms.com/beth-b/2017/06/14/latest-scalise-shooting/) was living out of his gym bag. Over the past six weeks, Euille walked past the man every day and even offered to help him find a job.

“After the first or second week, he asked about good places to eat … within walking distance,” Euille [told the Washington Post.](https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/2017/live-updates/public-safety/updates-shooting-at-congressional-baseball-practice-in-virginia/gunman-was-living-out-of-the-gym-bag-former-alexandria-mayor-says/?utm_term=.782f864eae33) “ A long weekend was coming up and he asked what was going on in town. …. That was the type of conversation we had.”

Euille saw the gunman on a daily basis when he went to workout at the local YMCA between 7 and 7:30 a.m. At times, when political news, especially about President Trump came on TV, “he indicated he agreed with us,” Euille said.

Euille, a general contractor, learned that the gunman was a home inspector. When the former mayor attempted to help the gunman obtain a job, he admitted he had no college degree.

“He was a very friendly person,” Euille told the Washington Post. “But what I did notice about this gentleman is he’d open up his gym bag and in it, he had everything he owned. He was living out of the gym bag. That, and he sat in the Y’s lobby for hours and hours. Outside of myself, I don’t think he knew anyone else in town.”

**Loretta Lynch Close to being Indicted**

## In the course of the investigation into alleged Russian interference in the 2016 presidential election, serious questions have been raised about the possibility that former Attorney General Loretta Lynch may have engaged in wrongdoing with regard to the FBI’s criminal investigation into Hillary Clinton’s emails.

There are three main issues surrounding Lynch’s possible misdeeds in the Clinton email probe.

One is Lynch’s infamous tarmac meeting last June at the Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport in which former President Bill Clinton, the husband of the FBI’s main subject in a criminal probe — Hillary’s email case — boarded the attorney general’s plane and reportedly stayed there for about thirty minutes for a private chat.

The second concern is Lynch’s reported directive for then-FBI Director James Comey to publically refer to the FBI’s criminal investigation into Clinton’s email as a “matter” instead of an investigation or a criminal probe. The language [matched](http://dailycaller.com/2016/06/14/so-when-will-hillary-clinton-acknowledge-her-email-server-is-subject-of-a-criminal-investigation/) the specific rhetoric used at the time by Clinton’s 2016 presidential campaign, which referred to the criminal investigation as a “matter.”

The third issue relates to testimony and questions surrounding reports claiming that Comey was in possession of a document purportedly indicating that Lynch would ensure the Clinton email probe didn’t go too far.

Largely unreported by the news media, these questions surrounding Lynch are so serious that, in his testimony before the Senate Intelligence Committee this month, Comey conceded that the appointment of a special counsel in the Clinton email case would have been appropriate due to his concerns about Lynch.

Referring to Lynch’s directive for Comey to call the criminal email probe a “matter” as well as her private tarmac meeting with Bill Clinton, Senate Majority Whip John Cornyn [asked](https://www.nytimes.com/2017/06/08/us/politics/senate-hearing-transcript.html%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank) the ex-FBI chief the following pointed question:

And under Department of Justice and FBI norms, wouldn’t it have been appropriate for the attorney general, or, if she had recused herself — which she did not do — for the deputy attorney general to appoint a special counsel?

That’s essentially what’s happened now with Director Mueller. Would that have been an appropriate step in the Clinton e-mail investigation, in your opinion?

“Yes, certainly a possible step,” replied Comey. “Yes, sir.”

And in [testimony](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/post-politics/wp/2017/05/03/read-the-full-testimony-of-fbi-director-james-comey-in-which-he-discusses-clinton-email-investigation/?utm_term=.94d1ead4bdc5) in May, Comey expressed his concern that the “[Justice Department leadership could not credibly complete the investigation and declined prosecution without grievous damage to the American people’s confidence in the — in the justice system.”

In a tweet on Thursday, President Trump brought up the issue of possible “obstruction” with Lynch’s tarmac episode.

**Tarmac Trouble**

The tarmac meeting was first [reported](http://www.abc15.com/news/region-phoenix-metro/central-phoenix/loretta-lynch-bill-clinton-meet-privately-in-phoenix) by a local ABC affiliate in Phoenix, which asked Lynch about the incident at a pre-scheduled news conference at the Phoenix Police Department.

Lynch confirmed to ABC15 in Phoenix that she “did see President Clinton at the Phoenix airport as he was leaving and spoke to myself and my husband on the plane.”

The local station quoted sources saying the meeting lasted about thirty minutes.

Lynch [claimed](http://www.abc15.com/news/region-phoenix-metro/central-phoenix/loretta-lynch-bill-clinton-meet-privately-in-phoenix) there was “no discussion of State Department emails” or any other matter pending before the Justice Department.

She maintained that the conversation was “a great deal about grandchildren, it was primarily social about our travels and he mentioned golf he played in Phoenix.”

The tarmac meeting was first revealed by ABC15’s Christopher Sign, who said that he was tipped off about the event by a “trusted source.”

Sign described a scene in which the FBI reportedly asked people at the tarmac not to take photographs.

“The FBI there on the tarmac instructed everybody: no photos, no pictures, no cell phones,” Sign [stated](http://insider.foxnews.com/2016/07/01/how-was-local-reporter-tipped-clinton-lynch-meeting).

The Obama White House postured to explain the meeting. Following the disclosure of the tarmac episode, President Obama’s press secretary, Josh Earnest, felt the need to [iterate](http://www.cnn.com/2016/06/29/politics/bill-clinton-loretta-lynch/) Obama’s stated commitment to avoiding “political interference” in Justice Department investigations.

Judicial Watch raised the possibility of ethical and legal problems for Lynch.

“Attorney General Lynch’s meeting with President Clinton creates the appearance of a violation of law, ethical standards and good judgment,” the conservative government watchdog group [said](http://www.cnn.com/2016/06/29/politics/bill-clinton-loretta-lynch/) in a statement:

Attorney General Lynch’s decision to breach the well-defined ethical standards of the Department of Justice and the American legal profession is an outrageous abuse of the public’s trust. Her conduct and statements undermine confidence in her ability to objectively investigate and prosecute possible violations of law associated with President Clinton and Secretary Clinton.

The New York Times in April first [reported](https://www.nytimes.com/2017/04/22/us/politics/james-comey-election.html?_r=1) that the tarmac incident solidified Comey’s decision to go rogue, bypass the Justice Department and violate FBI tradition by holding a July 5, 2016, press conference to make conclusions on Clinton’s email case  At the gripping press event, which took place in the heat of the presidential campaign, Comey criticized Clinton’s private email server as “extremely careless” before finally [stating](https://www.fbi.gov/news/pressrel/press-releases/statement-by-fbi-director-james-b-comey-on-the-investigation-of-secretary-hillary-clinton2019s-use-of-a-personal-e-mail-system) that “no charges are appropriate in this case.”

Comey was widely criticized for going rogue instead of failing to seek Lynch’s recusal on the Clinton case. His actions were cited in a [letter](https://www.axios.com/the-letters-that-got-comey-fired-2400524900.html) from Deputy Attorney General Rod J. Rosenstein recommending that Comey be fired.

In his Senate testimony this month, Comey confirmed Lynch’s tarmac meeting with Clinton “capped” his decision to make public the results of the FBI probe into Clinton’s emails.

Referring to the tarmac meet, Comey [stated](https://www.nytimes.com/2017/06/08/us/politics/senate-hearing-transcript.html), “In an ultimately conclusive way, that’s the thing that capped it for me that I had to do something separately to protect the credibility of the investigation which meant both the FBI and the justice department.”

**The “Matter”**

The statement that the tarmac meeting served as a cap to Comey’s decision to bypass Lynch’s Justice Department in the email investigation indicates Comey had other concerns about Lynch.

Indeed, in the same hearing, the next question posed to him by Republican Senator Richard Burr, chair of the Senate Intelligence Committee, focused precisely on that.

“Were there other things that contributed to that that you can describe in an open session?” asked Burr.

Comey replied:

There were other things that contributed to that. One significant item I can’t. I know the committee’s been briefed on. There’s been public accounts of it which are nonsense. But I understand the committee has been briefed on the classified facts. The only other consideration I can talk about in an open session, she told me to call it matter, which confused me and concerned me. But that was one of the bricks in the load that led me to conclude I have to step away from the department if we’re to close this case credibly.

Comey’s “one significant item” seems to be a clear reference to the issue of a reported document allegedly indicating Lynch would interfere in the email probe to ensure it didn’t go too far.

Meanwhile, Comey’s admission that Lynch “told me to call it matter” — a directive that “confused” and “concerned” him — serves as a significant public accusation against Lynch, possibly highlighting her intentions in the email probe.

It is instrumental to recall that at the time, Clinton’s 2016 presidential campaign not only referred to the criminal email probe as a “matter,” Clinton’s official campaign website [claimed](http://dailycaller.com/2016/06/14/so-when-will-hillary-clinton-acknowledge-her-email-server-is-subject-of-a-criminal-investigation/) the investigation was not a criminal inquiry.

Lynch allegedly issued the “matter” directive to Comey despite the Justice Department knowing the FBI probe was not only an official investigation but a criminal probe.

In spite of Comey’s stated concerns, he [did](http://www.breitbart.com/big-government/2017/05/19/seven-problems-james-comeys-credibility/) call the investigation a “matter” in his public statements about the Clinton email case.

The alleged Lynch directive was first revealed in the same extensive April 22 [report](https://www.nytimes.com/2017/04/22/us/politics/james-comey-election.html?_r=0) in The New York Times.

The Times reported on a meeting between FBI and Justice officials at which, according to the newspaper’s characterization, “Lynch told him (Comey) to be even more circumspect: Do not even call it an investigation, she said, according to three people who attended the meeting. Call it a ‘matter.’”

The Times’ report continued:

Ms. Lynch reasoned that the word “investigation” would raise other questions: What charges were being investigated? Who was the target? But most important, she believed that the department should stick by its policy of not confirming investigations.

It was a by-the-book decision. But Mr. Comey and other F.B.I. officials regarded it as disingenuous in an investigation that was so widely known. And Mr. Comey was concerned that a Democratic attorney general was asking him to be misleading and line up his talking points with Mrs. Clinton’s campaign, according to people who spoke with him afterward.

As the meeting broke up, George Z. Toscas, a national security prosecutor, ribbed Mr. Comey. “I guess you’re the Federal Bureau of Matters now,” Mr. Toscas said, according to two people who were there.

Even though Comey reportedly had concerns about Lynch’s motivations, he went along and did not call it a criminal investigation.

“I am confident we have the resources and the personnel assigned to the matter,” Comey [stated](https://www.nytimes.com/2017/04/22/us/politics/james-comey-election.html?_r=0" \t "_blank) mere days after the meeting with Lynch.

Further raising questions about Lynch, in his Senate [testimony](https://www.nytimes.com/2017/06/08/us/politics/senate-hearing-transcript.html) this month, Comey lobbed a serious accusation about Lynch’s intentions in the ordeal (emphasis added):

He stated:

And — and again, I don’t know whether it was intentional or not, but it **gave the impression that the attorney general was looking to align the way we talked about our work with the way a political campaign was describing the same activity**, which was inaccurate.

We had a criminal investigation open with — as I said before, the Federal Bureau of Investigation. We had an investigation open at the time, and so that gave me a queasy feeling.

Sen. Diane Feinstein (D-CA), the top Democrat on the Senate’s Judiciary Committee, [commented](http://www.politico.com/story/2017/06/11/feinstein-lynch-clinton-emails-239391) on the seriousness of the alleged Lynch “matter” directive, speaking this past Sunday on CNN’s State of the Union.

“I would have a queasy feeling too, though, to be candid with you,” she told CNN about the issue. “I think we need to know more about that, and there’s only one way to know about it, and that’s to have the Judiciary Committee take a look at that.”

On Wednesday, Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Chuck Grassley (R-IA) [sent](http://thehill.com/blogs/floor-action/senate/337767-key-gop-senator-panel-must-probe-political-interference-at-fbi) Feinstein a letter formally requesting that the committee probe any attempts to influence the FBI’s investigations under the Trump and Obama administrations. It is not immediately clear whether the Judiciary Committee has taken any action on the matter.

At a Tuesday press conference, Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) [stated](http://www.cnsnews.com/news/article/annabel-scott/schumer-wants-hear-lynchs-side-story-requesting-investigation) that he wants to “hear what Loretta Lynch’s side of the story is” before making any move regarding Lynch.

However, at a House Judiciary Committee hearing on Thursday, Rep. Jim Jordan (R-OH) grilled Acting Deputy Assistant Attorney General Richard Downing about Lynch’s alleged “matter” directive.

“Mr. Comey testified that former AG Loretta Lynch told him to, when he discussed the Clinton investigation, to call it a matter not an investigation,” Jordan [explained](http://dailycaller.com/2017/06/15/jim-jordan-grills-doj-official-on-lynchs-actions-video/). “Do you agree with that decision that was made?”

Downing replied, “I don’t have an opinion one way or another on that.”

“Do you think it’s wise for the Justice Department to mislead the American people?” Jordan shot back.

“Of course, the Justice Department should do its best not to mislead anyone,” Downing retorted.

“I think what the American people would appreciate is their highest officials at the DOJ should be straight with the American people,” Jordan added during the course of the exchange. “And that did not happen.”

**Alleged Lynch Document**

The issue of a possible document implicating Lynch is shrouded in conflicting news media reports and testimony implying that the matter has been presented in closed session before the Senate Intelligence Committee.

The alleged document was first reported by The New York Times in the same extensive April report on Comey. According to that [report](https://www.nytimes.com/2017/04/22/us/politics/james-comey-election.html?_r=0), the FBI possessed information that the alleged Lynch document had been hacked by Russian intelligence, leading Comey to fear that Moscow could leak the document to call into question the independence of the Clinton email probe.

The newspaper described “a document written by a Democratic operative that seemed — at least in the eyes of Mr. Comey and his aides — to raise questions about [Lynch’s] independence.”

The newspaper further described the reported document:

During Russia’s hacking campaign against the United States, intelligence agencies could peer, at times, into Russian networks and see what had been taken. Early last year, F.B.I. agents received a batch of hacked documents, and one caught their attention.

The document, which has been described as both a memo and an email, was written by a Democratic operative who expressed confidence that Ms. Lynch would keep the Clinton investigation from going too far, according to several former officials familiar with the document.

Read one way, it was standard Washington political chatter. Read another way, it suggested that a political operative might have insight into Ms. Lynch’s thinking.

While he was still FBI director, Comey was [asked](http://www.breitbart.com/big-government/2017/05/05/james-comey-avoids-testifying-on-dem-doc-reportedly-showing-ag-lynch-protecting-hillary/) at a Senate hearing on FBI oversight in May about the about the purported Lynch document, and he refused to publicly address the matter, explaining it was an issue for a classified setting and not a public hearing.

After the issue of the purported document was raised at that hearing, the Washington Post released a [story](https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/how-a-dubious-russian-document-influenced-the-fbis-handling-of-the-clinton-probe/2017/05/24/f375c07c-3a95-11e7-9e48-c4f199710b69_story.html?utm_term=.20aa8d034e71) with an entirely different narrative on the alleged document. According to the Post report, the document — reportedly central to Comey’s actions on the Clinton email probe — was assessed by Comey’s own FBI to be unreliable and possibly fake.

Comey seems to have pushed back against the Post report when he [stated](https://www.nytimes.com/2017/06/08/us/politics/senate-hearing-transcript.html) in his testimony this month (also referred to earlier in this article):

One significant item I can’t. I know the committee’s been briefed on. There’s been public accounts of it which are nonsense. But I understand the committee has been briefed on the classified facts.

And Sen. Lindsay Graham, who would have been present for classified testimony on the Russia probe, has publically stated that he doubted the purported Lynch document was fake.

Regarding the Post’s story on the alleged document, Graham [stated](https://www.realclearpolitics.com/video/2017/06/11/graham_on_document_proving_clinton-lynch_collusion_comey_never_mentioned_it_was_a_fake.html) on Face the Nation: “I saw the Washington Post story. I doubt if it’s fake. Maybe it is. But I don’t want to be briefed by myself. I want Democrats and Republicans on the judiciary to be briefed together. Our committee has been together and we’re going to stay together.”

Graham further discussed the alleged document:

And I want Comey to come to our committee, because I know on two separate occasions, he has told members of the House and the Senate that the main reason he jumped into the election last year and took over the job of attorney general is because he believed there were emails between the Democratic National Committee and the Department of Justice that compromised the Department of Justice, and he thought the Russians were going to release these emails. That’s why he jumped in and took over Loretta Lynch’s job. I want to know, is that true?

According to the Post’s account, the document in question was not a note written by a Democratic operative about Lynch’s alleged loyalties to Clinton, as The Times reported. Instead, the Post claimed the memo was a “Russian intelligence document” that itself quoted secondhand from a purported email describing how Lynch told someone within the Clinton campaign that she would help to ensure that the Clinton email probe did not go too far.

The document, according to the Post, cited an email said to have been written by Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-FL), who at the time was chair of the Democratic National Committee. The alleged correspondence cited in the purported document was sent by Schultz to Leonard Benardo, who works at billionaire George Soros’s Open Society Foundations.

The Post reported that the alleged Russian intelligence document merely cited some of the contents of the supposed Wasserman Schultz email to Benardo but did not actually contain a copy of the alleged message.

According to the Post’s characterization of the alleged document, “Wasserman Schultz claimed Lynch had been in private communication with a senior Clinton campaign staffer named Amanda Renteria during the campaign. The document indicated Lynch had told Renteria that she would not let the FBI investigation into Clinton go too far, according to people familiar with it.”

Contacted by the Post, Wasserman Schultz and Benardo both said they do not know each other and never communicated.

Wasserman Schultz, Benardo, and Renteria told the Post that they were never interviewed by the FBI on the matter.

The Post claimed that the FBI provided Lynch with a “defensive briefing” on the alleged document in which she was reportedly cooperative, in contrast to a report from this week describing a very different kind of meeting with Lynch.

The Post reported:

About a month after Comey’s announcement, FBI officials asked to meet privately with the attorney general. At the meeting, they told Lynch about a foreign source suggesting she had told Renteria that Clinton did not have to worry about the email probe, because she would keep the FBI in check, according to people familiar with the matter.

“Just so you know, I don’t know this person and have never communicated with her,’’ Lynch told the FBI officials, according to a person familiar with the discussion. The FBI officials assured her the conversation was not a formal interview and said the document “didn’t have investigative value,’’ the person said.

Nevertheless, the officials said, they wanted to give the attorney general what is sometimes referred to as a “defensive briefing’’ — advising someone of a potential intelligence issue that could come up at some future point.

Adding further intrigue to the Lynch document issue, this week Circa cited “sources who were directly briefed on the matter,” revealing that Comey briefed Congress on a “frosty” exchange that he says he had with Lynch centering on the purported document.

Circa’s John Solomon and Sara A. Carter [reported](http://circa.com/politics/comey-privately-told-congress-about-second-confrontation-with-the-former-attorney-general):

During the conversation, Comey told lawmakers he confronted Lynch with a highly sensitive piece of evidence, a communication between two political figures that suggested Lynch had agreed to put the kibosh on any prosecution of Clinton.

Comey said “the attorney general looked at the document then looked up with a steely silence that lasted for some time, then asked him if he had any other business with her and if not that he should leave her office,” said one source who was briefed.

Comey “took that interaction and the fact she had met with Bill Clinton as enough reason to decide he would not allow the Justice Department to decide the fate of the case and instead would go public” with his own assessment that the FBI could not prove Mrs. Clinton intended to violate the law when she transmitted classified information through her private email and therefore should not be criminally charged.

**Ships in the Night**

The search for seven U.S. Navy sailors missing after their destroyer collided with a container ship off Japan was called off Sunday after several bodies were found in the ship's flooded compartments, including sleeping quarters.

Vice Adm. Joseph Aucoin, the commander of the Navy's 7th Fleet, described the damage and flooding as extensive, including a big puncture under the waterline. The crew had to fight to keep the ship afloat, he said, and the ship's captain is lucky to have survived.

"The damage was significant, this was not a small collision," he said.

Navy divers found "a number of" bodies in the ship Sunday, a day after it returned to the 7th Fleet's home base in Yokosuka, Japan, with the help of tug boats. Aucoin, speaking at a news conference at the base, wouldn't say how many bodies were recovered, pending notification of next of kin.

He said much of the crew of about 300 was asleep when the collision happened at 2:20 a.m. Saturday, and that one machinery room and two berthing areas for 116 crew members were severely damaged.

"You can't see most of the damage, the damage is mostly underneath the waterline, and it's a large gash near the keel of the ship," he said. "So the water flow was tremendous, and so there wasn't a lot of time in those spaces that were open to the sea. And as you can see now the ship is still listing, so they had to fight the ship to keep it above the surface. It was traumatic."

The Fitzgerald's captain, Cmdr. Bryce Benson, was airlifted from the ship's deck after daybreak Saturday to the U.S. Naval Hospital in Yokosuka with a head injury. Two other crew members suffered cuts and bruises and were also flown out by helicopter.

"His cabin was destroyed, he is lucky to be alive," Aucoin said of Benson.

The container ship ACX Crystal weighs 29,060 tons and is 222 meters (730 feet) long, much larger than the 8,315-ton Navy destroyer. The container ship's left bow was dented and scraped, but it did not appear to have sustained any major structural damage.

All of the ACX Crystal's 20-member Filipino crew were safe, said Japanese shipping company Nippon Yusen K.K., which operates the Philippine-flagged ship.

The Japanese coast guard questioned crew members of the ACX Crystal, and is treating the incident as a case of possible professional negligence, said Masayuki Obara, a regional coast guard official.

Conditions were clear at the time of the collision, though the area is particularly busy with sea traffic.

The victims might have been killed by the impact of the crash or drowned in the flooding, said Navy spokesman Lt. Paul Newell, who led news media on a visit to get a first-hand look at the mangled vessel.

Aucoin wouldn't speculate on the cause of the collision. He said he would order a full and thorough investigation.

**The Resistance Goes Live Fire**

James T. Hodgkinson, the shooter who opened fire on dozens of Republican congressmen and staffers at a baseball practice in Alexandria, Virginia, on Wednesday, had a list of Republican names in his pocket that was recovered by the FBI, The Daily Caller has learned.

The news that the shooter had a list of names suggests the shooting was not a random outburst, but instead appears to be a premeditated political assassination.

The list was written out on notepad paper and found in the shooter’s pocket, according to multiple sources with intimate knowledge of the situation, who spoke on condition of anonymity, citing the sensitivity of the investigation. The list of names included Alabama Rep. Mo Brooks, South Carolina Rep. Jeff Duncan and Arizona Rep. Trent Franks, TheDC has confirmed. Fox News [reported](https://twitter.com/ChadPergram/status/875862941194649603) after this story that Ohio Rep. Jim Jordan, Tennessee Rep. Scott DesJarlais and Virginia Rep. Morgan Griffith are also on the list. All six congressmen are members of the House Freedom Caucus, which contains the lower chamber’s most conservative members.

The FBI has contacted the congressmen to inform them of their inclusion on the list. Rep. Franks [confirmed to Fox News](http://www.foxnews.com/us/2017/06/16/scalise-shooter-had-list-lawmakers-names-in-his-pocket.html) that law enforcement officials have told him he is on the list.

“For those still wondering, he didn’t hate baseball or beautiful summer mornings in June,” White House counselor Kellyanne Conway [said](https://twitter.com/KellyannePolls/status/875822289648062464) in reference to this article. “He hated Republicans.”

The FBI’s Washington field office, which is handling the investigation, provided no comment, citing the ongoing investigation.

Both Duncan and Brooks attended Wednesday’s baseball practice.



U.S. Rep. Mo Brooks (R-AL) talks to reporters after a gunman opened fire on Republican members of Congress during a baseball practice near Washington in Alexandria, Virginia, U.S., June 14, 2017. REUTERS/Joshua Roberts – RTS172FJ

Duncan said he spoke with Hodgkinson briefly before the shooting, when the would-be assassin asked him in the parking lot if the players on the field were Republicans or Democrats. Duncan said he answered that the players were Republicans, before leaving the field. Brooks was still present on the field when Hodgkinson began shooting with a rifle, wounding four people including House Majority Whip Steve Scalise. The gunman died after being shot by a member of Scalise’s security detail.

Rep. Jeff Duncan (R-SC) rolls up his pant leg to reveal a Trump sock at an event where U.S. President Donald Trump signed an executive order to expand drilling for oil at the White House in Washington, U.S., April 28, 2017. REUTERS/Kevin Lamarque – RTS14D12

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### Do You Think All Members Of Congress Should Have Capitol Police Protection?

  Yes         No

#### Login with your social identity to vote

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The FBI also recovered a cell phone, a computer and a camera in the shooter’s van and is [processing the items](https://www.fbi.gov/contact-us/field-offices/washingtondc/news/press-releases/joint-statement-update-on-status-of-shooting-in-alexandria-virginia), according to a statement the agency issued on Thursday.

A 66-year-old progressive who volunteered on Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders’ campaign, Hodgkinson’s social media profile was filled with violent-sounding rhetoric against the Republican Party. “It’s Time to Destroy Trump & Co,” Hodgkinson wrote in one post. He also belonged to several anti-GOP groups on Facebook, including one called “Terminate The Republican Party.” The members of that group [celebrated](http://dailycaller.com/2017/06/14/shooters-facebook-group-celebrates-attack/) Hodgkinson’s mass assassination attempt. [**(RELATED: Shooting At GOP Baseball Practice Latest In Pattern Of Violence Against Republicans)**](http://dailycaller.com/2017/06/14/shooting-at-gop-baseball-practice-latest-in-pattern-of-violence-against-republicans/)

He spewed left-wing talking points on Facebook, consistently railing against Republicans and the wealthy.

“We all know that the rich don’t pay enough taxes,” he wrote in one letter to the editor of his local paper. “I have never said ‘life sucks,’ only the policies of the Republicans,” he wrote in another.

Police investigate a shooting scene after a gunman opened fire on Republican members of Congress during a baseball practice near Washington in Alexandria, Virginia, June 14, 2017. REUTERS/Joshua Roberts

Hodgkinson’s widow, Suzanne Hodgkinson, [said](http://www.bnd.com/news/local/article156422829.html) Thursday afternoon that she had “no idea” he was going to carry out the murders. James told her that he was going to Washington, D.C. to “work on taxes” and “change the tax brackets,” she said.

Hodgkinson’s time spent volunteering on Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders’ campaign compelled the socialist senator to disavow the shooter the same day.

“I have just been informed that the alleged shooter at the Republican baseball practice is someone who apparently volunteered on my presidential campaign. I am sickened by this despicable act,” Sanders said in a [prepared statement](http://dailycaller.com/2017/06/14/bernie-sanders-says-gop-baseball-practice-shooter-was-campaign-volunteer/) on Wednesday. “Let me be as clear as I can be. Violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society and I condemn this action in the strongest possible terms.”

**MSNBC Still Attacking Scalise**

“There’s a whole country out there and a lot of people, at least in my Twitter timeline, and it’s a delicate thing, because everybody is wishing the congressman well and hoping that he recovers, but Steve Scalise has a history that we’ve all been forced to sort of ignore on race,” Reid claimed.

“He did come to leadership after some controversy over attending a white nationalist event, which he says he didn’t know what it was,” Reid said.

The liberal host appeared to be referencing the fact that Scalise allegedly spoke to a white nationalist group as part a series of talks he gave about tax legislation in 2002. “I didn’t know who all of these groups were and I detest any kind of hate group,” Scalise said [three years ago](http://www.nola.com/politics/index.ssf/2014/12/steve_scalise_i_dont_support_a.html), adding at the time that “as a Catholic, I think some of the things they profess target people like me.” Democratic Rep. Cedric Richmond, who is black, [dismissed the accusations of racism](http://www.rollcall.com/news/home/cedric-richmond-defends-steve-scalise) and said: “I don’t think Steve Scalise has a racist bone in his body.” Reid did not note that Scalise has repeatedly condemned the group.

“He also co-sponsored a bill to amend the Constitution to define marriage as between a man and a woman. He co-sponsored the House healthcare bill, which as you said would gut healthcare for millions of people including three million children and he cosponsored a bill to repeal the ban on semiautomatic weapons,” Reid continued, bashing Scalise for holding mainstream Republican positions. “Because he is in jeopardy and everybody is pulling for him, are we required in a moral sense to put that aside in the moment?”

Carter answered that they’re required to hope Scalise recovers but that the Republican “should not go forward being homophobic” because one of the Capitol police officers who saved his life was a lesbian. Neither Carter nor Reid noted that the officer was a member of Scalise’s security detail.

Carter also asserted that “the only way you can get to civility, is you must start with the establishment of justice. you must provide for the common good and you must provide the general welfare” and that Republicans “have to have a change in the trajectory of policy.”

Reid promoted the segment in a Twitter post that said Scalise “was shot by a white man with a violent background, and saved by a black lesbian police officer, and yet…” and included a screenshot of a one-sided MSNBC graphic on Scalise’s record.

**Resistance Doesn’t Stop at the DEMS**

GOP establishment consultant [Rick Wilson](https://twitter.com/therickwilson), one of the most vile “Never Trumpers” who once said the donor class should [“put a bullet in”](http://www.breitbart.com/big-government/2015/10/28/gop-establishments-rick-wilson-donor-class-must-put-a-bullet-in-donald-trump/) Donald Trump, thinks supporters of President Trump saw the assassination attempt on House Majority Whip Steve Scalise (R-LA) as a “blessing.”

“A lot of clickservatives saw yesterday as a grim blessing,” Wilson tweeted the morning after a gunman who hated Trump and Republicans opened fire on Republicans who were practicing for the Congressional Baseball Game.

After saying that Trump supporters were “dead right” about the “media double standard,” Wilson claimed “the thing they really loved… even at the cost of a lunatic Bernie Bro almost committing mass murder was… the chance to try to blame opposition to Trump on the shooting.”

Most Americans were praying for Scalise, staffers, and the heroic Capitol Police officers who were shot in the line of duty the morning after the assassination attempt. But this apparently was apparently the first thing on Wilson’s unhinged mind when he woke up.

Wilson, though, seems to be doing a bit of projecting since he once politicized, out of all things, [a rape threat against his daughter](http://www.breitbart.com/big-government/2015/08/17/meltdown-top-gop-consultant-rick-wilson-uses-rape-threat-against-child-to-attack-breitbart/) to try to score political points against Breitbart News. John Nolte wrote at the time that “in all the years I’ve been on social media, I have never seen anyone — not even the lowest Leftist — use a threat of rape against their own child as a political talking point or debating point against a political opponent.” After he politicized the rape threat against his daughter, Wilson was immediately asked if he had gone to law enforcement and whether law enforcement officials asked him not to publicize the rape threat on social media.

During the 2016 election cycle, Wilson, who constantly bemoans what he deems is crass behavior by anyone who is not a fellow “Never Trumper,” went on national television and said the donor class needed to “put a bullet in Donald Trump.”

“They’re still going to have to go out and put a bullet in Donald Trump,” Wilson [told MSNBC’s left-wing audience](http://www.breitbart.com/big-government/2015/10/28/gop-establishments-rick-wilson-donor-class-must-put-a-bullet-in-donald-trump/). “And that’s a fact.”

Wilson also likened Ann Coulter to a prostitute and publicly asked Coulter if Trump paid her more for anal.

**Democrats Strategize to Keep Legal Ball and Chain Around Trump’s Ankle for the Duration**

## Several Democrats in Congress warned President Trump on Friday that he will face consequences if he fires special counsel Robert Mueller and Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein.

“All Americans, regardless of party, agree on the fundamental principle that no one is above the law,” Rep. Ted Lieu (D-CA) told MSNBC Friday. “And if President Trump were to fire Deputy Attorney General Rosenstein, and then [get] special counsel Mueller fired, I believe Congress would begin impeachment proceedings.”

Rep. Adam Schiff (D-CA) echoed Lieu’s sentiments, saying that Congress would come together to make sure they overrule Trump’s authority on the matter.

“Congress will not allow the president to so egregiously overstep his authority,” Schiff [said](http://thehill.com/homenews/house/338244-dem-lawmaker-congress-would-begin-impeachment-if-trump-fired-mueller) in a statement.

“If President Trump were to try to replicate [former President Richard] Nixon’s Saturday Night Massacre by firing Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein in addition to Mueller, Congress must unite to stop him–without respect to party, and for the sake of the nation,” he added.

Trump [claimed](https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump/status/875701471999864833) on Twitter that he was “being investigated” for his decision to fire former FBI Director James Comey, insinuating that “the man who told [him] to fire the FBI Director” is also the one investigating him, referencing the deputy attorney general. He concluded the tweet by saying that the investigation is a “witch hunt” against him:

In his Tuesday testimony before the Senate, Rosenstein [said](http://www.breitbart.com/video/2017/06/13/rosenstein-potentially-firing-mueller-will-follow-lawful-appropriate-orders/) he would only fire Mueller under “lawful and appropriate orders” to prove Mueller’s firing is for a “good cause.”

Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) saw Trump’s tweet as evidence that the president would fire the deputy attorney general.

“The message the president is sending through his tweets is that he believes the rule of law doesn’t apply to him and that anyone who thinks otherwise will be fired. That’s undemocratic on its face and a blatant violation of the president’s oath of office,” Feinstein said in a statement.

**Yellowstone Quake Swarm Worrying Scientists**

The small earthquake that struck Yellowstone National Park on Thursday night was part of a swarm that has been hitting the area since Monday, scientists say.

The quake was centered near West Yellowstone, but was also felt by people in Gardiner and Bozeman.

“As of 10 a.m. this morning we had located a total of 235 earthquakes in the area,” said Jamie Farrell, University of Utah research professor of seismology.

Yellowstone gets about 1,500 to 2,000 earthquakes every year. About half of those come in earthquake swarms — lots of earthquakes in a small area in a short amount of time.

So this activity is fairly normal, Farrell said.

Most of the earthquakes in this swarm have been small — only four above magnitude 3. Thursday’s 4.5 magnitude earthquake was the only one reported to the U.S. Geological Survey website, meaning people actually felt it.

Not only was Thursday’s quake the largest in the current swarm, it was the largest in the area since March 30, 2014, when a 4.8 magnitude earthquake hit near Norris Geyser Basin, according to a news release from the University of Utah Seismograph Station.

Farrell said the swarm is the effect of normal tectonic stress in the Earth’s crust. As of Friday morning, his the University of Utah seismologists weren’t seeing anything volcanic in nature. Yellowstone National Park is home to a large volcano and the site of the largest and most diverse collection of natural thermal features in the world.

Follow the Chronicle on Facebook and join the most active news conversation in Bozeman.

It’s impossible to predict when this current earthquake storm will end.

“These things could turn off in a heartbeat, or could last for months. Most go for a week or two,” Farrell said.

Farrell urges people to report any activity they feel to the USGS’s “Did you feel it” website, which help scientists record and understand shaking. People can also watch earthquake activity live at [www.quake.utah.edu.](http://www.quake.utah.edu)

**The Resistance “A” Team**

After the Washington Post-New York Times-CNN axis got the public worked into a lather by effectively trying President Donald Trump and his administration in the court of public opinion, Americans are desperate to see somebody held accountable for…wait…what is it again? Collusion? Obstruction? The narrative changes so quickly, it's difficult keeping track.

Enter Former Speaker Newt Gingrich, who told [Fox’s Sean Hannity on Friday](http://www.hannity.com/articles/shows-472046/radio-show-recap-jun-16-15919697/) that the **investigators who’ve been hired by Special Counsel Robert Mueller won’t quit until they’ve found their own Scooter Libby-type figure to play the role of political pariah**.

"Somebody" will likely go to jail following the FBI's investigation into Russian election meddling, but said it won't be President Trump.

**“There are too many lawyers who are high powered to go home without a scalp. They're going to get somebody. I don't think they're going to get the president, but they're going to get somebody, and they're going to get him for something. And they're probably going to go to jail,"** Gingrich told Fox News's Sean Hannity.

 Investigators smell blood in the water, Gingrich said. And it’s making them desperately hungry for what will likely be a historic bust.

"This is like watching an old-fashioned Western movie. This is an Indian hunting party," Gingrich said. **"They're out looking for a couple scalps, and they're not going to go home until they get some."**

The hypocrisy of the investigation into Trump’s inner circle is staggering, as Gingrich rightfully pointed out. Even high-ranking Democrats are now questioning whether one of their own, former Attorney General Loretta Lynch, illegally tried to influence the outcome of the FBI’s investigation into Hillary Clinton’s mishandling of classified information. Former FBI Director James Comey admitted as much during his testimony before the Senate Judiciary Committee in May that the suspicious “impromptu” meeting inspired him to unilaterally announce the end of the Clinton investigation because he was worried about the optics.

As Gingrich noted, following Comey’s testimony, California Senator Dianne Feinstein suggested that “something stinks” with that situation.

“What’s amazing to me about the Republican passivity here is that Senator Dianne Feinstein, the ranking Democrat on the intelligence committee, said last week after Comey’s testimony ‘you know we really have to look into exactly what’s going on with Loretta lynch and with president Obama.' **Now I was waiting for one of the intel chairmen in the House and Senate to get up and say they’re opening a new investigation into exactly what Loretta lynch said to Comey”**

**“They said we have to look into it. Fine: Let’s look into it.**

The conversation then turned to a discussion of the relationship between Special Counsel Robert Mueller and Comey, who have shared a long-time, well-documented friendship.

“Mueller has a legal obligation to recuse himself from anything involving Comey. Why would they have picked a guy who’s close friends with him to investigate anything involving Comey?”

**Mueller has reportedly**[**hired 13 lawyers**](http://thehill.com/blogs/blog-briefing-room/news/338105-mueller-hires-more-than-a-dozen-lawyers-for-russia-probe-plans)**for the federal investigation into possible ties between the Trump campaign and Russia, and plans to hire more. The roster looks like a who’s who of Clinton Crime Syndicate consiglieri gearing up for malicious prosecution to last for the next 8 years.**

Gingrich took to twitter on Thursday to criticized the special counsel for intentionally undermining the Trump presidency, eliciting an amusing response from none other than NBC’s very own Chuck Todd. 120 million Americas, who unwaveringly support Trump and believe in his America First policies recognize a Coup D Etat when they see it. A bloodless revolution led from the festering bowels of the Democrat Party.

Conspiratorial? The only thing conspiratorial here is the seeming agreement between lawmakers of both parties to let Lynch slide, while continuing to stomach the Congressional and FBI “witch hunts” into the conduct of Trump and his associates – even though not a shred of evidence to back up their claims has been made public.

**The Crypto-Currency Greenback Revolution**

In 1861, Lincoln wanted to go to war with the 13 States that had seceded from the Union. He did not have the diplomatic skills to heal America, and Congress has taxed the nation into oblivion. Sound familiar?

One thing was missing though. Money. In order to conduct the war, Lincoln needed money, and lots of it. The Central Banks were willing to loan it to him at 16% interest, and Lincoln told them to go pound sand. Instead, he formed his own crytocurrrency called the greenback. It acted like a dollar, in that you could buy, sell, and trade with it, but it was backed by nothing but faith. That sounds familiar too.

**Two years ago, Bitcoin was considered a fringe technology for libertarians and computer geeks. A rapid succession of lawsuits and arrests tried to stop it from ever attracting investors. After all, it was based on the rarity of prime numbers, and the computer that was searching for them in the universe of numbers, had already printed the easy ones like 1, 2, 3, 5, 7 and so on.**

Now, Bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies, such as Ethereum, are gaining mainstream adoption, because investors are looking for a way to make enormous returns in very short time spans. This mainstream adoption has been propelled purely by financial speculation instead of by demand for a privately minted and deflationary medium of exchange. The Agency government and the institutional investors like Citigroup have been hunting and destroying small businesses and startups for 10 years without retribution, making it impossible for investors to make a return by investing in things like manufacturing.

After the Fed’s rate hike this week, 98% of investors began looking at Bitcoin and alternative cryptocurrencies, such as Ethereum and Dash. Why? Because the rate hike forced the crypto-industry to drop in value instantly. **Bitcoin, for example, dropped by approximately 16% in value while other coins dropped by approximately 25%. However, Bitcoin’s price recovered to the previous high within 18 hours. This is the perfect chum for vulture capitalists who don’t care one whit about America first. Their motto is “me first.”**



**The reaction of the cryptomarket to the Federal Reserve announcement provides evidence that cryptocurrencies are seen as the juiciest steak in town during times of significant fiat currency dilution.**

**What does this mean for real businesses? What does it mean for the American business startup? It means that the audience for their executive summary is empty. There is a strip show just down the street. The ticket sales are off the charts, and the price is going up fast. That’s seen as inflation by the Fed, so they are raising rates to try to slow it down. That action chokes small businesses and startups even more. It does it two ways.**

**First, the crypto-cons are buying sex, and fast cars to try to outrun the notorious slow driving fed. They are also speeding past the roadside pitch points used by small business to show off their newest inventions. Bitcoin allows investors to hedge the expansionary monetary policies adhered to by central banks is because the demand for Bitcoin is growing at a pace that is higher than the increase in the supply of Bitcoin.** **Second, the holographic superbanks of the crypto-cons have vacuumed up every single stack of cash in the country like a high stakes poker game.**

**If the original definition is applied, then Bitcoin is an inflationary currency. However, as I discussed in the 2017 edition of** [**In Gold We Trust**](https://ingoldwetrust.report/en/gold-report/)**, the supply of newly minted Bitcoin follows a predictable inflation rate that diminishes over time.** Satoshi modeled the flow of new Bitcoin as a Poisson process, which will result in a discernible inflation rate compared to the stock of existing Bitcoin by 2020. Every four years, the amount of Bitcoin minted annually is halved. The last programmed “halving” occurred in June of 2016. Therefore, the next halving will occur in 2020. The inverse of the inflation rate, the StFR, also indicates the decreasing flow of newly minted coins into the Bitcoin economy. The stock to flow ratio (StFR) of Bitcoin is currently 25 years; however, the StFR ratio will increase to approximately 56 years. This means that the StFR of Bitcoin should surpass gold’s during the next five years. Prior to January 3, 2009, no Bitcoin existed. Therefore, Bitcoin’s StFR was effectively zero. However, the rapid reduction in the amount of Bitcoin mining over time results in an increasing StFR over time. By 2024, only 3.125 Bitcoin will be mined every ten minutes resulting in a StFR of approximately 119 years.

**If the new meaning of inflation is applied, then Bitcoin is deflationary because the purchasing power of each unit increases overtime.**

When I began investing in Bitcoin in 2014, a Model S Tesla worth $70,000 cost 230 Bitcoin. Today, a Model S Tesla worth $70,000 costs 28 Bitcoin. On June 11 of this year, the price of Bitcoin reached a new all-time high above $3,000 after trading at approximately $2,300 two weeks ago. **Furthermore, Bitcoin’s market capitalization of $40 billion is expected to rise further as the uncertainty surrounding this technology decreases.** Bitcoin’s price data only covers the past six years, which means there is basically no data available for statistical analysis.

#### Risk Assessments

The [Ellsberg paradox](https://academic.oup.com/qje/article-abstract/75/4/643/1913802/Risk-Ambiguity-and-the-Savage-Axioms?redirectedFrom=fulltext) shows that people prefer outcomes with known probability distributions compared to outcomes where the probabilities are unknown. **The estimation error associated with forecasts of Bitcoin’s risks and returns may be negatively biasing the price downward.** As time passes, people will become more “experienced” with Bitcoin, which may reduce uncertainty and the subsequent discount it wields on the price of Bitcoin.

An economic downturn occurs approximately once every ten years in the US, and it has been a decade since the 2007/2008 financial meltdown. If the economy cannot handle the increase in rates, and the Fed is forced to reverse their decision, the price of Bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies are likely to respond positively. Although the cryptocurrency market took a steep plunge after Janet Yellen’s second rate hike of 2017, prices fully recovered within a day. The quick rebound underscores the lack of assets that allow investors to accumulate wealth safely.

**Negative interest rates in Europe and fiat demonetization in developing countries are both ancillary reasons why investors want Bitcoin and alternative cryptocurrencies. Although Bitcoin was initially ridiculed as money for computer nerds and a conduit for illegal activity, investors are beginning to see the potential for this technology to be an integral part of wealth management from the perspective of portfolio diversification. If Bitcoin is too expensive, then there are now 800 new crypto-coins for them to buy into. If you get in on the ground floor, even with something as small as a rolled-over 401k, you can walk away with hundreds of millions in profits in a few months. If you have millions to invest, you can actually create the frenzy yourself, and choose the time to get out with hundreds or even thousands of other investors come in, making it possible for you to exit by selling out to the homesteader stampede. Oh, this has a name in legal terms. It’s called a Ponzi scheme.**

**Charmed**

## President Trump is a political rock star.

**He’s impervious to “crap bullets” the Left shoots at him daily. In fact, the man proves routinely that he can survive the nuclear “crap blasts” of the Left.**

Policy after policy decision by the president yield good results.

The debt is less and unemployment at decades-low levels. The jobs being created by President Trump make Obama’s handful of bean-picking jobs look anemic.

President Trump’s foreign policy weaves in domestic policy with the skill of a master seamstress.

Thousands of jobs were created at home and in Saudi Arabia with our new arms deal. Then again, Trump negotiated a deal that will keep high-paid workers hard at it for years with the deal in Qatar.

The president addresses our trade imbalance with laser focus, and will soon have Americans shipping billions more American-made products abroad. Coal mines have reopened, and miners report back to work. Our lumber industry got a boost with the president’s recent trade deal with Canada.

By relieving businesses of onerous bureaucracy, the economy received an estimated boost of over $2 trillion.

### To put this mildly, everything Trump touches turns to gold.

**So, it’s no wonder leftists get more desperate daily, as the legacy of Obama thankfully disappears in the rear-view mirror.**

Leftists can no longer rely on Trump to fail of his own accord, thus they invoke sorcery.

According to [The Gateway Pundit](http://www.thegatewaypundit.com/2017/06/video-far-left-trans-witch-casts-spells-trump-thinks-isis-ok/):

[The Rebel](https://www.therebel.media/witch_casting_anti_trump_spells_asked_to_hex_isis_too_this_happened) journalist Laura Loomer visited a Brooklyn “metaphysical boutique” to interview the anti-Trump trans witch owner.

The manager of “Catland” is holding group meetings to cast spells on President Donald Trump.

But when Laura asked him to cast a spell on the Islamic State killers who throw gays from rooftops and sell women as sex slaves he refused.

That would be offensive and Islamophobic.

Proving yet again how crazy leftists are, this leftist moron refuses to cast spells against marauding Muslims. But he will use witchcraft against President Trump.

**New Worlds Found**

NASA will announce the latest crop of planet discoveries from the [Kepler Space Telescope](https://www.space.com/24903-kepler-space-telescope.html) during a briefing Monday morning (June 19).

The briefing will be at 11 a.m. EDT (1500 GMT) during the Kepler Science Conference at NASA's Ames Research Center in California. [You can watch the exoplanet announcement here](https://www.space.com/17933-nasa-television-webcasts-live-space-tv.html), courtesy of NASA TV. NASA will livestream the conference here: <http://www.nasa.gov/live>.

The briefing will include a panel of four experts, [according to a statement](https://www.nasa.gov/press-release/nasa-hosts-briefing-on-latest-results-of-exoplanet-hunting-mission/) by NASA: Mario Perez, Kepler program scientist in the Astrophysics Division of NASA's Science Mission Directorate in Washington; Susan Thompson, Kepler research scientist at the SETI Institute in Mountain View, California; Benjamin Fulton, doctoral candidate at the University of Hawaii at Manoa and the California Institute of Technology; and Courtney Dressing, NASA Sagan Fellow at the California Institute of Technology. A question-and-answer session will follow. [[Gallery: A World of Kepler Planets](https://www.space.com/13834-images-kepler-alien-planets.html)]

Kepler has been hunting for extrasolar planets since its launch in 2009. This latest set of exoplanet candidates will use a more complete data set than ever before, with analysis of greater sophistication. The spacecraft started [a new mission, called K2](https://www.space.com/25913-nasa-kepler-telescope-new-mission.html), after the failure of two reaction wheels that stabilized the spacecraft in 2013. The K2 mission was a modified version of the original planet-hunting mandate, seeking worlds around relatively nearby red dwarf stars.

Newfound exoplanets are often listed as candidates because it can take time to verify that they are actually there. Kepler finds planets by observing the light of stars over a period of time, using a process called the transit method. If the light dims, then it's possible a planet passed in front of it. The evidence for an exoplanet is considered stronger if the light dims more than once on a predictable schedule, indicating that something is in orbit around the star.

Kepler was the first mission capable of seeing planets the size of Earth around other stars in the "[habitable zone](https://www.space.com/23910-habitable-zones-alien-planets-stars-infographic.html)" — the region at a distance from a star where liquid water could exist without freezing or boiling away immediately.

According to NASA, thus far Kepler has found 4,496 exoplanet candidates. Some 2,335 have been confirmed and 21 are Earth-size planets in the habitable zone. Since the mission was renamed K2, an additional 520 exoplanet candidates have been found, with 148 confirmed.