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Salty Lake, Ponds Likely Underneath Mars' Frozen South Pole, Scientists Find
by [Gaby Arancibia](#)

A group of Italian scientists recently revealed that they discovered a “complex” network of salty bodies of water underneath the surface of Mars' South Pole, a finding which has given new energy to the possibility of life on the red planet.

The findings, which were published Monday in the [journal Nature Astronomy](#), offer additional insight into work done by the group of researchers two years prior that provided [evidence to support the presence of an underground saltwater lake](#) on the distant planet.

At the time, the 2018 study was initially met with skepticism by others in the scientific community - largely because the finding itself was only based on 29 observations that were made from 2012 to 2015.

However, the team's most recent findings are based on a much broader data set. In their second review of Mars, the researchers examined 134 radar observations conducted through [Mars Express](#) from 2010 to 2019.

The team, led by Sebastian Emanuel Laro of Roma Tre University, used the Mars Express orbiter's radar instrument to determine what kind of material might be present at an examined site, such as rock, ice or water. The technique is similar to how scientists identify subsurface glacial lakes on Earth.

Ultimately, the method proved a success for the team.

The latest study notes that the subterranean lake they previously identified is roughly 1 mile below Mars' icy surface and measures between 12 miles and 18 miles across. Additionally, researchers found evidence to support the presence of three small nearby ponds that vary in size and are separated from the lake by dry strips of land.

“We identified the same body of water, but we also found three other bodies of water around the main one,” Elena Pettinelli, a planetary scientist and one of the paper's co-authors, [said in a statement](#). “It's a complex system.”

Mars, which 4 billion years ago was a warm and wet planet similar to the current Earth, has long piqued the interest of scientists regarding the possibility of life on the red planet, with efforts from the Italian research team only bolstering that hypothesis even more.

The team noted that the hypersaline conditions of the bodies of water were likely what was keeping them from freezing, considering the surface temperature at Mars' South Pole is an estimated negative 172 degrees Fahrenheit.

The study states that the “possibility of extended hypersaline water bodies on Mars is particularly exciting because of the potential for the existence of microbial life.” However, the research ultimately calls for future missions to Mars to focus on the South Pole region so as to obtain more information on its habitability.

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Curious Deer Inspects US Golfer's Skills - Video Club

Professional golfer Jason Michael Dudzinski and his fiancée Katie Nolff recently had quite the surprise during a round of golf when a curious deer decided to invade the green and inspect Nolff's putting skills.

Video captured by Dudzinski over the weekend initially shows the pair enjoying a game at Indian Springs Metropark in White Lake, Michigan, when a deer suddenly strolls onto the green as Nolff gets ready to putt.

After successfully making the putt, Nolff and Dudzinski both calmly approach the inquisitive deer. "That was so cool," Nolff is heard saying as the video cuts off.

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Listen: FAA Audio Recording of 'Jetpack Man' Incident at LAX Only Deepens Mystery
by [Morgan Artyukhina](#)

The bizarre incident involving several reports of a person in a jetpack flying near airliners approaching Los Angeles International Airport last month continues to puzzle reporters and investigators alike, but recently released recordings from the incident shed new light on just what happened that day.

On August 30, [at least two airline pilot crews reported seeing "a guy in a jetpack"](#) flying at an altitude of roughly 3,000 feet near the flight path for aircraft on final approach to LAX. While a few brief exchanges between pilots and air traffic controllers [were released to Fox 11 Los Angeles at the time](#), the complete report by the US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) was only recently obtained by The Drive, which published it on The War Zone on Monday.

The documents obtained by a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request include an Air Traffic Mandatory Occurrence Report and [a 15-minute audio recording by air traffic controllers at LAX, which you can listen to here](#).

Much of the salient information in the report was already known, including the exchanges previously shared with Fox 11. However, the FOIA documents include some interesting new information, although it doesn't necessarily make the situation any clearer.

For example, the report notes that after reports of [the wannabe-Rocketeer](#) came in, the Los Angeles Police Department notified an "air support" asset - likely a helicopter crew - about the incident, and a notification went out to the FAA's Domestic Events Network, which is used to funnel information to the US Departments of Defense and Homeland Security, the Transportation Security Administration and other US government agencies.

The FBI has also been on the case, and many of the documents requested by The Drive were unavailable due to the FBI's ongoing investigation. However, just a few days after the alleged

incident, the FBI's Los Angeles office tweeted out a partial flight path in Cudahy, an LA neighborhood about 11 miles due east of the airport - and right in the flight path of aircraft preparing to land at one of LAX's two runways.

Interestingly, the tweet also notes that "anyone with info about activity on or above the ground at the location depicted here should call the FBI," a rare public plea for information.

One reply to the tweet by user @gabyisdope included a short video shot on a cellphone that seems to show a man flying in a jetpack several hundred feet in the air. The caption reads "Saw this in Huntington Park mid August," a neighborhood just west of Cudahy.

Another tweet posted on September 2 by Jeff LeBaron said "Near 110/105 freeway. Object heading north in to incoming LAX air traffic. Possible jetpack man?" LeBaron noted the video had been recorded on August 21, and a post with the same video on LeBaron's account on that day jokingly said "Imperial Probe Droid flying North through LA now," a reference to a small robot [seen in the 1980 film "Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back."](#)

While the FAA's recording contains no further references to a man using a jetpack, two other exchanges stand out as equally bizarre.

In one instance a few minutes after the initial sighting, an aircraft reports seeing "party balloons" at roughly 5,600 feet altitude - nearly 1 mile up, and 2,600 feet higher than the jetpack was reported. However, nothing further comes of the report.

A second exchange, between an air traffic controller and an offsite FAA employee, concerns another mystery object they can't identify.

"Did you call a helicopter in over there to help you out?" the FAA official asks the tower.

"No," the tower responds.

"I see a helico- there's something at 600 feet right up there, looks like a helicopter," the offsite official continues. "Right underneath that Southwest arrival. But that 10 mile final is literally north of me, and I've been scouring it. I don't see anything."

"I, I don't know," the tower replies.

Could any of these reports have been the mysterious "jetpack man" spotted by the airline pilots? It's impossible to say; they may be complete separate mysteries. This is certainly [far from the only time someone has reported](#) what seemed to be a man in a jetpack flying around, but the explanation could be far more mundane. Until the FBI completes its investigation or releases the materials it has collected, this puzzle may just have to remain unsolved.

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Hezbollah's Nasrallah Invites Media to Visit Sites Israeli PM Netanyahu Claims Are Missile Depots

by [Morgan Artyukhina](#)

After Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu claimed before the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on Tuesday to be revealing the location of a Hezbollah missile factory in Beirut, Lebanon, the militant group invited the media to tour the facility, which turned out to be a gas canister factory.

During [a recorded address to the UNGA in New York on Tuesday](#), Netanyahu accused Hezbollah of hiding a “missile depot” next to a series of gas facilities in the Lebanese capital, risking another explosion like that which devastated the city last month.

“I say to the people of Janah, you’ve got to act now. You’ve got to protest this. Because if this thing explodes, it’s another tragedy,” Netanyahu said. “I say to the people of Lebanon, Israel means you no harm. But Iran does.”

[An Israel Defense Forces \(IDF\) spokesperson told Reuters](#) following Netanyahu’s presentation that the IDF had reported the site “numerous times, both to the UN and additional diplomatic networks, as well as via various media channels.”

“The exposure of these sites today was made with the aim of calling the Lebanese government again, with the support of the international community, to intervene in the matter; and to allow Lebanese civilians to protect themselves,” the spokesperson said.

Jerusalem has often accused Hezbollah of plotting against Israel and Iran of using Hezbollah facilities as a forward staging area to also do so. However, Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah called Netanyahu’s bluff on Tuesday.

“This is incitement of the Lebanese people against Hezbollah,” [Nasrallah said, according to the Times of Israel](#).

“If there [were] missiles there placed by Hezbollah - even a single weapon - I would not waste a minute before informing you of this matter,” Nasrallah continued. “We don’t put rockets, not in the Beirut port, not by a gas station. We know very well where to put our weapons.”

In response, the official IDF Twitter account tweeted out the coordinates of the site, plus “two bonus sites to check afterward,” adding, “Let’s hope the journalists get there before Nasrallah’s moving trucks do.”

However, reporters quickly flocked to the site, which is located in the Jnah district of southwestern Beirut. A quick look inside revealed the building to be nothing more than a factory for gas canisters.

Muhammad Rammal, who owns the factory, told “The National” reporter Sunniva Rose that he was “surprised” by Netanyahu’s claim, as the factory has been open for five years, but added that he is proud of Hezbollah.

On August 4, a huge explosion equivalent to the power of 1,100 tons of TNT devastated the Port of Beirut and much of the city, killing at least 200 people, injuring thousands more and leaving at least 300,000 people homeless.

The source of the blast was found to be [severely decaying ammonium nitrate](#), a fertilizer improperly stored at the port for several years. However, [early reports claimed the explosion was a Hezbollah weapons cache](#), a claim soon [dismissed by Lebanese President Michel Aoun, who called it “impossible.”](#)

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US DNI Releases Russian Intel Report Rejected by Lawmakers That Claims Clinton Ordered Russiagate

by [Morgan Artyukhina](#)

US Director of National Intelligence (DNI) John Ratcliffe has released a Russian intelligence report dating to July 2016 that claimed then-Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton “approved” the spreading of a conspiracy theory linking then-Republican candidate Donald Trump to Moscow, which became the Russiagate scandal.

On Tuesday, Ratcliffe passed to Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Lindsey Graham (R-SC) a report compiled by Russian intelligence in July 2016 and then obtained by US intelligence agencies “alleging that US Presidential candidate Hillary Clinton had approved a campaign plan to stir up a scandal against US Presidential candidate Donald Trump by tying him to [Russian President Vladimir] Putin and the Russians' hacking of the Democratic National Committee,” [according to a letter from Ratcliffe to Graham which was published by the Senate](#). However, Ratcliffe adds that the intelligence committee whose information he compiles for the White House “does not know the accuracy of this allegation or the extent to which the Russian intelligence analysis may reflect exaggeration or fabrication.”

Ratcliffe notes that former CIA Director John Brennan had briefed then-US President Barack Obama and “other senior national security officials” on the report’s contents on July 26, 2016, including that one of Clinton’s foreign policy advisers had cooked up the idea.

The letter further notes that by September 7 of that year, FBI Director James Comey and Deputy Assistant Director of Counterintelligence Peter Strzok had received an investigative referral regarding “US Presidential candidate Hillary Clinton's approval of a plan concerning US Presidential candidate Donald Trump and Russian hackers hampering US elections as a means of distracting the public from her use of a private mail server.”

“This is Russian disinformation,” Rachel Cohen, a spokesperson for Senate Intelligence Committee Vice Chairman Mark Warner (D-VA), [tweeted on Tuesday, adding that it had been](#) “laundered by the Director Of National Intelligence and Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee.”

However, Ratcliffe shot back at criticism by Cohen and other Democratic figures, saying in a statement released by his office: “To be clear, this is not Russian disinformation and has not been assessed as such by the Intelligence Community. I’ll be briefing Congress on the sensitive sources and methods by which it was obtained in the coming days.”

Indeed, after Democratic National Committee (DNC) emails were hacked in June 2016, cybersecurity firm CrowdStrike, contracted by the FBI to examine the DNC server, [accused Russian intelligence operatives of being behind the break-in](#) - including hacker Guccifer 2.0, after that person claimed responsibility. Then, when WikiLeaks published the emails in the following months, the accusation of collusion with or control by Moscow [was extended to it and co-founder Julian Assange as well](#).

Those emails [revealed damning evidence the DNC had helped Clinton triumph](#) over rival Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-VT) in the primaries, that Clinton’s campaign had conspired to gain an unfair advantage over Trump in the presidential debates and [that the DNC was deeply indebted to the Clinton family](#).

The Kremlin has repeatedly denied the accusations, and the severe problems with the evidence behind the FBI’s [conclusions of a Russian operation have been extensively dissected](#). After Trump won the 2016 election that November, [Brennan presented a report short on evidence](#)

[concluding a "Russian influence campaign"](#) had swayed the vote, and [the "Steele dossier" appeared, supposedly proving Trump](#) was controlled by the Kremlin because Putin had compromising information about the real estate mogul which he was threatening to release. The credibility of former British spy Christopher Steele's report, paid for by Clinton's campaign and the FBI, [has also been severely undermined](#).

[According to Politico, the Senate Intelligence Committee](#) "was made aware of" the July 2016 Russian intelligence report "early on in its investigation, and quickly dismissed it."

"This latest information provided by DNI Ratcliffe shows there may have been a double standard by the FBI regarding allegations against the Clinton campaign and Russia," [Graham said in a Tuesday statement](#). "Whether these allegations are accurate is not the question. The question is did the FBI investigate the allegations against Clinton like they did Trump? If not, why not? If so, what was the scope of the investigation? If none, why was that?"

Comey is [expected to testify before the Senate Judiciary Committee](#) on Wednesday, followed by former Deputy FBI Director Andrew McCabe next week, both as part of a renewed probe into the FBI's investigation of the alleged Russian interference operation in 2016. However, former special counsel Robert Mueller, who as head of the Russiagate investigation was Strzok's boss, will not be testifying before the Senate committee.

'It's a Crisis': New York City Bankruptcies Spike 40% Amid COVID-19 Pandemic

Bankruptcies in the New York City region have spiked by 40% during the COVID-19 pandemic compared to the same time period last year, according to a new report by Bloomberg.

The pandemic has resulted in almost 6,000 business closures across all five New York City boroughs between March 1 and September 11. Around 4,000 of those businesses have closed permanently.

Between March 16 and September 27, more than 600 businesses filed for bankruptcy in the Southern and Eastern Districts of New York alone.

According to [Bloomberg](#), the city's Department of Small Business Services has also received around 35,000 calls since June from small businesses seeking help. The organization has already given out at least 4,000 grants and loans to struggling businesses.

"A third of our small businesses could be closed if we don't have a strong recovery," Jonnel Doris, the department's commissioner, told Bloomberg. "The fate of small businesses will determine the fate of the city."

"It's a crisis, and we need to act - our economy can't recover without saving small businesses," New York City Comptroller Scott Stringer added in an interview with Bloomberg. "When they close, we don't just lose our beloved Main Street businesses. We lose jobs, tax revenue and the economic backbone of our city."

The nonprofit organization Partnership for New York City predicts that the pandemic could end up permanently shuttering as many as a third of New York's 230,000 businesses.

Leslie Berkoff, a longtime bankruptcy attorney, told Bloomberg that some business owners don't even file for bankruptcy, since it can cost as much as \$25,000. Owners simply lock their businesses' doors and leave them closed.

"What's the point of bankruptcy? Nobody's going to chase you right now," Berkoff told Bloomberg. "A lot of your vendors probably aren't going to survive either."

In addition, Manhattan businesses that use the digital payment system Square are only making 62% of the income they earned before the pandemic.

New York City may have to brace itself for additional closures.

On Tuesday, officials announced an increase in the daily rate of positive COVID-19 tests in the city. New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio indicated at a news conference that the city's positive test rate had reached 3.25%, the highest mark [since June](#).

"That is cause for real concern," the mayor said, [the New York Times reported](#). "The goal is to be under 3% in a way that is consistent."

Many of the city's new cases in recent weeks have been linked to Borough Park, a predominantly Orthodox Jewish neighborhood where mask-wearing is nonroutine.

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Hacker Publishes Sensitive Info on US Students After District Officials Refuse to Pay Ransom

A hacker late last week published documents containing Social Security numbers, student grades and other private information from a large public school district in Las Vegas, Nevada, after officials refused to pay a ransom to unlock district computer servers.

According to a [Monday report](#) by the Wall Street Journal, which first reported the news, information on around 320,000 students was released from the Clark County School District (CCSD) in Las Vegas.

The report also notes that hackers have taken advantage of schools' reliance on online learning and technology during the pandemic.

"A big difference between this school year and last school year is they didn't steal data, and this year they do," Brett Callow, a threat analyst for cybersecurity company Emsisoft, told the Wall Street Journal, also noting that he was easily able to find and access the county's data through a hacker website.

"If there's no payment, they publish that stolen data online, and that has happened to multiple districts," Callow explained.

The hacker sent a warning to school officials on September 14 by releasing nonsensitive district information on their website, Callow explained. However, late last week, the hacker loaded more sensitive information that included employee addresses, retirement paperwork and Social Security numbers, as well as students' names, grades, addresses and schools attended.

In a [statement on Monday](#), the school district said it is working to determine the "full nature and scope of the incident" and will be "individually notifying affected individuals" as the investigation continues.

"CCSD values openness and transparency and will keep parents, employees and the public informed as new, verified information becomes available," the statement reads.

In a [previous release](#) on September 9, the district warned that on the morning of August 27, certain CCSD systems were infected with a virus that "prohibited access to certain files."

According to the district, it immediately notified law enforcement and started an investigation which involved collaborating with third-party forensic investigators.

"While the investigation into this incident is ongoing, it was determined that CCSD was the victim of a criminal ransomware attack and is working to restore all systems to secure, full functionality," the statement added.

The school district also acknowledged the data breach in a [September 27 Facebook post](#). The CCSD is not the only district to be impacted by hacking during the COVID-19 pandemic. Hartford Public Schools in Connecticut was forced to delay the district's first day of school earlier this month due to a ransomware attack.

"We have been informed by Metro Hartford Information Services (MHIS), our City of Hartford shared services team that manages our network infrastructure, that the ransomware virus caused an outage of critical systems and the restoration of those systems are not complete," an online message by the school district read, [according to NBC News](#).

According to an investigation by the Journal, US school districts have paid ransoms ranging from \$25,000 to more than \$250,000 to regain access to their data and systems after an attack. "The value of doing this has gone up," Evan Kohlmann, chief innovation officer at cybersecurity firm Flashpoint, told the Journal. "You have all remote employees, all remote students. How do you educate people entirely remotely if your whole system is down? The impact of these attacks have significantly increased."

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) does not support paying a ransom in response to a ransomware attack. "Paying a ransom doesn't guarantee you or your organization will get any data back. It also encourages perpetrators to target more victims and offers an incentive for others to get involved in this type of illegal activity," [the FBI explains on its website](#).

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Beijing Warns US Politicians Against 'Dragging' China Into US Election 'Drama' Ahead of First Debate

Ahead of the first US presidential debate on Tuesday, China warned American politicians not to use the "China problem [to] create drama," the South China Morning Post (SCMP) reported, citing commentary by the state-run People's Daily, the largest newspaper group in China.

"It is already an expected plot that the US presidential election will create talks about a 'China threat' in order to emphasise the need to 'protect US benefits.' It has been so since the Cold War ended," read a Tuesday People's Daily article [referenced by the SCMP](#).

"Some US politicians in office have shockingly expressed their hopes for clashes. They have put up a show to shift the focus and make conflicts [that the country faces] look like an external issue," the commentary said, without explicitly referring to US President Donald Trump's administration.

"This is not only unhelpful in solving the systemic risks that the US society is facing, but also creates destruction in the arena of international relations ... China will not give up its own benefits to play the game of the US elections; US politicians should stop dragging China in to their domestic issues," the article added.

Both Trump and Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden have promised to enact policies antagonistic to Beijing if elected. In addition to launching a trade war with China in 2018 and hiking tariffs on more than \$300 billion worth of Chinese exports, Trump has repeatedly accused China of covering up the COVID-19 pandemic when it first broke out in the country in late 2019. In addition, Trump has accused the country of engaging in unfair trade practices that include stealing American intellectual property.

During an election rally in Dayton, Ohio, on September 21, Trump claimed that if “Biden wins, China wins.”

“If we win, Ohio wins and most importantly, in all fairness, America wins,” the president stated, [Time reported](#).

Back in April, Trump [told Reuters](#) that China “will do anything they can to have [him] lose this race,” adding that he believes Beijing wants Biden to win, an assertion that the president has repeatedly reiterated.

Last Wednesday, Biden also confirmed that he will confront China in various ways if elected. “I will be firm on China’s violation of human rights, militarization in the South China Sea and a whole range of things. Recent analysis points out that China knows I will be straight, but they are also worried that I will be tough. I make no excuses for that, none whatsoever,” Biden [said last week](#).

Without specifically referring to the US, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said during a forum in Beijing on Monday that “some certain country turned the solemn international venue of the UN into a performance space for serving their own politics and self-interest,” the SCMP reported. During the virtual 75th session of the United Nations General Assembly last week, US President Donald Trump lashed out against China in a speech. “We have waged a fierce battle against the invisible enemy: the China virus ... We must hold accountable the nation which unleashed this plague onto the world,” [Trump said at the event](#).

Tensions between the US and China have also increased over the last month due to military drills and patrols in highly contested areas including the Taiwan Strait and the South China Sea. This week, China [conducted naval drills](#) near the South China Sea, for the third time this year.

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Graphic Video: Woman Aboard Detroit Flight Climbs on Seats, Threatens Passengers
by [Evan Craighead](#)

A woman was forcibly restrained by fellow passengers on a plane bound for Detroit, Michigan, after she appeared to be unstable and went on a profane, sexual rant.

The video, originally posted Sunday on content-aggregating site [WorldStarHipHop](#), shows the woman climbing and standing on the arms of the aircraft’s chairs and holding onto the overhead compartments as she repeatedly shouts, “We’re going to f**k all night, b***h.”

The woman thrusts her hips forward in a sexual motion as she continues to hurl expletives. Be advised, the footage below contains scenes some audiences may find offensive.

“Are you ready to go?” one man asks as he and two others forcibly escort the woman down the aisle and toward the front of the plane.

“I’m trying to go home, bruh,” another passenger says, as the woman puts up resistance to the men who intervened.

Another traveler can be overheard claiming that the woman “took something,” accusing her of having drugs on the plane.

It’s unclear what may have caused the woman’s outburst, but netizens have thrown out accusations ranging from alcohol abuse to crude comparisons likening her actions to the 1973 film “The Exorcist.”

Information about the airline that was operating the plane or when exactly the incident occurred also remains unavailable.

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North Korea Performing ‘Elaborate Evasion Practices’ to Flout Nuclear Sanctions - UNSC Experts
by [Evan Craighead](#)

Experts from the United Nations Security Council’s (UNSC) North Korea sanctions committee claim the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) is violating international sanctions regarding imports of refined petroleum products.

The UNSC committee argued on Monday that the DPRK had exceeded its annual 500,000-barrel import limit within the first five months of 2020. The panel also highlighted increased traffic at the Punggye-ri Nuclear Test Site.

“Satellite imagery provided by a member state and information shows that in this period multiple vessels of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea continued to conduct ship-to-ship transfers in waters of another member state and made deliveries of coal,” the panel said within the midterm report, [as reported by the Korea Herald](#). “The DPRK has continued to earn income from the illicit transfer of fishing rights.”

“Pursuant to paragraph 5 of resolution 2397 (2017), the total supply, sale or transfer of all refined petroleum products by Member States to the DPRK shall not exceed 500,000 barrels, during a period of 12 months beginning 1 January 2019, and for 12-month periods thereafter,” [the UNSC website notes](#).

“The Democratic People’s Republic of Korea and foreign-flagged vessels and their owners continued elaborate evasion practices” to illicitly import refined petroleum products, the UNSC said, [according to AFP](#).

The midterm report detailed that the Diamond 8, a Sierra Leone-flagged vessel, sailed north through the Yellow Sea in February and March and stopped at the DPRK’s Nampo to deliver refined petroleum both times. According to the data, the Diamond 8 spent 10 days or more without an automatic identification system signal on both occasions.

The panel concluded that North Korea was carrying out these alleged imports to continue its nuclear program, which includes producing highly enriched uranium and an experimental light-water reactor.

Representatives from Beijing and Moscow dismissed the midterm report, arguing its findings were “based on assumptions and estimations,” AFP reported.

According to Russia, the report compiled by the 43 UN member states “does not provide objective, accurate and verifiable information or have enough solid imagery evidence.”

China added that the report “is neither scientific nor prudent to reach a conclusion that the annual limit has been exceeded based on such estimations.

Earlier this month, the US State, Commerce and Treasury Departments warned that North Korea was using various tactics to work around economic sanctions imposed on the country.

The [advisory published](#) by the US departments identified “key North Korean procurement entities and deceptive techniques employed in the operation and support of the regime’s ballistic missile program.”

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Trump Authorizes \$22 Billion Alaska-Alberta Railway Construction
by [Evan Craighead](#)

US President Donald Trump has authorized the Alaska - Alberta Railway Development Corporation (A2A Rail) to “construct, connect operate and maintain railway facilities at the international boundary between the United States and Canada,” according to his Tuesday presidential permit.

“Permission is hereby granted to [A2A Rail] to construct, connect, operate, and maintain certain railway Border facilities, as described herein, at the international border of the United States and Canada at Southeast Fairbanks Census Area, Alaska, in the Ladue River Valley at 63°15'N and 141°W, approximately 45 miles due north over land from the Alcan Border Crossing on Alaska Route 2 (also known as the Alaska Highway) and approximately 60 miles due east over land from the town of Tok, Alaska,” read [Trump's presidential permit](#) issued by the White House Tuesday evening.

[#Trump](#) to approve \$22B railway between [#Alaska](#) and [#Alberta](#),

[#Canadapic.twitter.com/kwS0ew8lOl](#)

— GCN (@GCN7News) [September 28, 2020](#)

The document noted the “construction, connection and operation” of the facilities “shall be subject to inspection by the representatives of appropriate Federal, State, and local agencies.”

Trump took to Twitter over the weekend and tweeted his intent to grant approval to the \$22 billion railway connecting Alaska and Alberta.

“The Government of Alberta is glad to see the approval of the A2A rail project in the United States,” said Christine Myatt, spokesperson for Alberta Premier Jason Kenney, in an [emailed statement](#) to the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC).

The outlet noted the railway will be capable of carrying cargo ranging from oil to passengers.

"You can diversify a little bit ... you don't just have to haul crude oil. You can hold a lot of other commodities, too, as long as there's a market for it. So market access is big, not just for crude oil," said Kent Fellows, an economist at the University of Calgary's School of Public Policy, to the CBC.

A2A Rail [announced in early July](#) that it had commissioned Washington, DC, engineering firm HDR "to immediately commence with detailed land surveying along the Alberta segment of the railway's proposed route."

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Fowl-Mouthed: British Park Removes Parrots That Taught Each Other to Swear - Photos by [Evan Craighead](#)

Five African grey parrots have been relocated at a wildlife park in Friskney, England, after park officials learned the birds had been swearing and laughing at customers.

Steve Nichols, CEO of Lincolnshire Wildlife Park, [told the BBC on Tuesday](#) that the quintet of African grey parrots were adopted within the same week in August and later quarantined together.

However, issues arose when the quarantine was lifted and the birds were moved to the main outdoor aviary.

"With the five, one would swear, and another would laugh, and that would carry on," Nichols recounted, noting that they began doing this around visitors.

He explained to the BBC that parrots "swear to trigger [a] reaction or a response," meaning a surprised look or laugh from a human encourages them to repeat the word or phrase.

The birds, dubbed the "famous swearing parrots," have been moved to new colonies and away from public display, according to the park.

"Some visitors found it funny, but with kids visiting at weekends, we decided to move them," Nichols noted.

"I'm hoping they learn different words within colonies - but if they teach the others bad language and I end up with 250 swearing birds, I don't know what we'll do."

Chico, another parrot from the Lincolnshire Wildlife Park, has recently received online attention for his rendition of Beyoncé's "If I Were a Boy."

[The singing parrot](#) now has an Instagram page with nearly 7,000 followers.

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Resuming Sex After Suffering Heart Attack Linked to Higher Survival Rates - Study by [Victoria Teets](#)

Researchers in Israel have discovered that getting back into a regular sex routine after suffering a heart attack may actually be associated with greater survival rates among patients.

Although most survivors of heart attacks tend to be wary about being sexually active afterward, so as to not over exert themselves, new research published this week by the European Journal of Preventive Cardiology, a journal of the European Society of Cardiology (ESC), suggests that resuming sexual activity actually has more benefits than harms.

The Tel Aviv study “examined whether resumption of sexual activity shortly after hospitalization for a first heart attack was associated with survival over more than two decades,” [according to a news release from the ESC](#). The researchers analyzed data from 500 sexually active people aged 65 and younger who were hospitalized for a heart attack in 1992 or 1993.

According to the news release, the examined patients had a median age of 53 and were about 90% male. About 43% of patients died in the next 22 years, but those who maintained or increased their levels of sexual activity in the first six months of recovery had a 35% lower risk of death than those who reduced their frequency of sex or avoided it entirely.

The researchers noted that the association between sexual activity and improved survival was “mostly attributable to a reduction in non-cardiovascular mortality such as cancer.”

“Sexuality and sexual activity are the markers of well-being,” Yariv Gerber, lead researcher and head of the School of Public Health at Tel Aviv University, said in the release.

“Resumption of sexual activity soon after a heart attack may be a part of one’s self-perception as a healthy, functioning, young and energetic person. This may lead to a healthier lifestyle generally.”

Gerber “noted that the low proportion of women and relatively young age of participants may limit the generalizability of the results to females and older individuals,” the release said. “He added that this was an observational study and causation cannot be assumed.”

“Numerous physical and psychosocial health parameters are required for maintaining regular sexual activity,” he said. “In light of this, the net benefit of sexual activity itself is still a matter of debate.”

“These findings should serve to reduce patients’ concerns about returning to their usual level of sexual activity soon after a heart attack.”

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The bizarre incident involving several reports of a person in a jetpack flying near airliners approaching Los Angeles International Airport last month continues to puzzle reporters and investigators alike, but recently released recordings from the incident shed new light on just what happened that day.

On August 30, [at least two airline pilot crews reported seeing “a guy in a jetpack”](#) flying at an altitude of roughly 3,000 feet near the flight path for aircraft on final approach to LAX. While a few brief exchanges between pilots and air traffic controllers [were released to Fox 11 Los Angeles at the time](#), the complete report by the US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) was only recently obtained by The Drive, which published it on The War Zone on Monday.

The documents obtained by a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request include an Air Traffic Mandatory Occurrence Report and [a 15-minute audio recording by air traffic controllers at LAX, which you can listen to here](#).

Much of the salient information in the report was already known, including the exchanges previously shared with Fox 11. However, the FOIA documents include some interesting new information, although it doesn't necessarily make the situation any clearer.

For example, the report notes that after reports of [the wannabe-Rocketeer](#) came in, the Los Angeles Police Department notified an "air support" asset - likely a helicopter crew - about the incident, and a notification went out to the FAA's Domestic Events Network, which is used to funnel information to the US Departments of Defense and Homeland Security, the Transportation Security Administration and other US government agencies.

The FBI has also been on the case, and many of the documents requested by The Drive were unavailable due to the FBI's ongoing investigation. However, just a few days after the alleged incident, the FBI's Los Angeles office tweeted out a partial flight path in Cudahy, an LA neighborhood about 11 miles due east of the airport - and right in the flight path of aircraft preparing to land at one of LAX's two runways.

Interestingly, the tweet also notes that "anyone with info about activity on or above the ground at the location depicted here should call the FBI," a rare public plea for information.

One reply to the tweet by user [@gabyisdope](#) included a short video shot on a cellphone that seems to show a man flying in a jetpack several hundred feet in the air. The caption reads "Saw this in Huntington Park mid August," a neighborhood just west of Cudahy.

Another tweet posted on September 2 by Jeff LeBaron said "Near 110/105 freeway. Object heading north in to incoming LAX air traffic. Possible jetpack man?" LeBaron noted the video had been recorded on August 21, and a post with the same video on LeBaron's account on that day jokingly said "Imperial Probe Droid flying North through LA now," a reference to a small robot [seen in the 1980 film "Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back."](#)

While the FAA's recording contains no further references to a man using a