

NBC stated that investors lack trust in the government de-escalating tension enough to figure things out. Many online sources such as the Herald have shared information for federal employees on how to best prepare for a future shutdown, and focusing on safeguarding what's left of their finances. With nationwide plans already rolled out, banks, phone companies, and other bill collectors have also given federal workers support on what steps to take if push comes to shove and a long-term recovery plan is needed for them to be somewhat assured that their credit and life are not crushed by due dates if this historic event repeats itself. †

Jayme Closs Abducted and Found

BY ZACK MOELLER

JAYME CLOSS, A 13-YEAR-OLD GIRL FROM BARRON, WISCONSIN (a small town just two hours north of St. Paul) was declared missing on October 15th, 2018 after her parents, Denise and James Closs, were found shot to death in their home. Not long after, authorities issued an Amber Alert for Jayme and the nation's search for the young girl began.

Over 2,000 volunteers joined in ground searches to find any clue that might lead to Jayme. Although items were recovered and tips were sent in from all over the U.S., nothing helped lead authorities to her location. On October 24th, a \$25,000 reward was offered by the FBI for any useful information. Soon after, the Jennie-O Turkey Store, where Denise and James Closs worked, doubled the reward amount to \$50,000 to find their late co-worker's beloved daughter.

While the search for Jayme continued, her location still unknown, a funeral for her parent's was held. Her family celebrated Thanksgiving and Christmas without her, and the City of Barron held a "Tree of Hope" lighting ceremony in honor of their young friend and neighbor. The nation searched and prayed for the seventh grader's safe return.

On January 10th, 2019, 88 days after her disappearance, Jayme Closs saved herself after escaping from her abductors home and running through the woods to a neighbor's house. Wearing a long sleeve t-shirt and giant sneakers on the wrong feet, she ran to a woman walking her dog who led her to safety and alerted authorities. Approximately twenty minutes after the initial 911 call, police found and arrested her abductor 21-year-old Jake Patterson, who was found driving around the area looking for Jayme after discovering her missing from his isolated home in Gordon, Wisconsin. Patterson was charged with two counts of homicide and one count each of kidnapping and armed burglary.

Patterson claimed he saw Jayme get on a school bus near her home one day and decided that he was going to take her. After two failed attempts at kidnapping Jayme due to there being cars in the driveway, as Patterson recalled, he approached the Closs home on October 15th with terrible intentions.

At approximately one o'clock in the morning, Jayme woke up to her dog barking and noticed car lights in her driveway. After she alerted her parents, her dad took guard at the front door and Jayme and her mother hid in the bathroom in a bear hug. Patterson shot through the front door, killing James Closs. He went to the bathroom where he told Denise to put tape over Jayme's mouth. Patterson then shot Denise and tied up Jayme and took her to his remote cabin in the woods. After witnessing a horrific tragedy Jayme was held hostage underneath a twin sized bed in the basement of Patterson's cabin. Patterson barricaded the bed with heavy boxes so Jayme could not escape.

After 88 days, Jayme found the strength to save herself when Patterson told her he was going to be gone for a long period of time. That's when Jayme pushed the heavy boxes away from the bed, put on a pair of Patterson's shoes, and ran through the brisk January air until she found help. After an examination and brief questioning, the brave young girl was reunited with her family and her dog. Nearly a month after her return, her hometown is still celebrating her return as Jayme is adapting to her new life. †

An Attack On Jussie Smollett, An Attack On Many

BY VICTORIA TURCIOS

IN THE EARLY HOURS OF JANUARY 29TH, Jussie Smollett, the American singer, photographer, director, and actor of the critically acclaimed TV show *Empire* was the victim of an alleged attack fueled by hate crime in the streets of Chicago near his home. According to various news sources such as CNN, CBS Chicago, and Fox, the case is still undergoing investigation but the police are still lacking street footage of the attack. While more footage is still being reviewed, CBS Chicago reported that what authorities do have at this time is a video of Smollett walking into an apartment building with what looks like a noose around his neck.

Smollett spoke out to ET, an entertainment and celebrity news source, about the attack for those who were skeptical to make clear that it was in fact a hate crime, and also assured fans that some details about the attack had been over exaggerated such as his ribs being broken.

Through a FOIA request (Freedom of Information Act), CNN obtained a redacted report stating that Smollett told police officers, "As he was walking to his residence, two unknown males approached him and gained his attention by saying verbatim "Empire Fa***t n***er." Although the report states that Smollett didn't remember any specific features or where they ran off to after the attack, it raises awareness of the fact that hate crimes investigated by the FBI rose seventeen percent in 2018 from previous years, according to the Human Rights Campaign (HRC). The effects of hate crimes trickle down further than just the victim that is targeted, this affects their friends and family as well as the entire community that the individual is a part of or identifies with.

According to the HRC the attack on Jussie Smollett has ignited a conversation nationwide on the disproportionate violence that targets black people, religious minorities, and LGBTQ people. In attempts to confront this epidemic of violence, the HRC is asking people to "explicitly name racism's impact on this country and the ways that intersecting oppressions deprive LGBTQ people of color of their fundamental rights to safely and authentically live, love and thrive."

As a source for anyone who is a victim or knows anyone who is a victim of hate crimes, the HRC is also sharing tips on things to keep in mind when faced with a situation like this. These include 1) Get medical help, if necessary 2) Write down all of the details of the crime as soon as possible after the incident 3) File reports 4) Reach out for support.

While the star, Jussie Smollett, stated that he was fine and recuperating, the case is far from over. The police have mentioned to Fox that they will go through all the footage they've confiscated to try and reconstruct what happened to Smollett on the early hours of January 29th, and are withholding information from the public until they're certain of what they have.

In an exclusive interview with Out in 2016, Smollett shared a few words that were powerful then and even more so now after his attack with the current state of our nation, "I don't believe that we were created to hate. I believe that we were created only to love. Love is the root of the happiest of times and of wars. Love, or lack of love— but love is the root of everything." †

Minnesota DHS Reports Major Data Breach

BY ZACK MOELLER

THE PERSONAL DATA OF MORE THAN 21,000 MINNESOTANS may have been compromised following a data breach affecting the Minnesota Department of Human Services. The breach happened during the summer at the end of June and beginning of July when two employees of the DHS clicked on a link in a phony email that gave hackers access to patient