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Caton: Welcome to another edition of YPN News bringing you news as it relates to Bible Prophecy and foretold by Yisrayl Hawkins. Well video gaming is now being classified as an addiction, by the World Health Organization, China is performing military drills and T'rumps thoughts on national security are just a few of the things that we're going to cover in this broadcast.

Caton: But first, Cook County in Illinois is a part of a lawsuit along with 5 other counties alleging that opioid manufacturers have conducted unlawful marketing and have put profit before public health. In South Carolina the governor there has declared a public health emergency. These moves come as the opioid overdose rates have continued to take its toll on the U.S. Overdose deaths in the US have increased from 20,000 per year in 2010 to just over 35,000 per year in 2016. According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse 90 Americans die every day due to opioid overdose. Everyday...that's a lot.

Jeff: What occurs when it's discovered that there's food on the market that could pose a public health risk? It's immediately pulled off the shelves, right? Well the Inspector General with the Department of Health and Human Services, revealed that's not always the case. The office of the Inspector General reviewed 30 voluntary recalls overseen by the FDA, most of them high risk. They found that the FDA couldn't always ensure that firms initiated recalls promptly.

Caton: George Neder who headed up the investigation found that 23 of the 30 recalls that were looked at were class 1. Class 1 by definition can cause a serious or irreversible medical condition or potentially can cause death. For an example auditors found a recall of cheese products with a listeria outbreak took 81 days to complete. As a result, an infant died and two pregnant women lost fetuses.

Jeff: Well, regarding an adulterated dietary supplement that was recalled, the firm did not recall the product until 303 days after receiving a warning letter from the FDA. Which means that after almost a year that contaminated product was still on the shelf for consumers to buy and could have created a health threat to those who used it.

Caton: Well when you think about these middle organizations that have oversight for the safety of our food really aren't pushing these issues a little more to see to it that the food and drinks that we

consumer are actually safe for us.

Jeff: Right and 303 days? You know how quickly you can order products and get products shipped in, but 303 days to pull them off the shelves?

Caton: Yeah and it's surprising that those products have stayed on the shelf that long. Very old. Well The WHO, world health organization is set to label video gaming as a health condition early 2018, calling it gaming disorder. The term has been added to a draft of 2018 classification of diseases and is being described as a pattern of recurrent gaming behavior both on and offline. The listing according to the WHO doesn't include any treatment or prevention methods but just a clinical description of what constitutes a gaming disorder.

Jeff: Well you think you could just stop playing.

Caton: You'd think self-control, but apparently not.

Jeff: This past holiday season created record breaking sales of over \$598 billion as consumers spent more on Christmas gifts with all the disposable income they had in 2017. That \$598 billion was recorded between November 1st and December 24th, up \$33 billion from 2016. Craig Johnson has a company called Customer Growth Partners and analyzes everything retail and attributes this year's retail numbers to low unemployment and a surging stock market.

Caton: Mr. Johnson also said that the single biggest driver in holiday sales is the growth in disposable income. When income goes up people have more money in their pockets and are ready to spend it. Now Jeff, as for sale of gift cards, which people occasionally buy to give as gifts to people during the holidays; those numbers don't count until the people actually go and redeemed them. So as a result \$598 billion could go above \$600 billion after a short period of time.

Jeff: Since early November, Saudi Arabia has been blockading Yemen which has plunged the war torn country into an even greater humanitarian crisis. Take a look at this next video and see for yourself the suffering the people of Yemen have been enduring... **(COULD NOT FIND LINK FOR VIDEO, but it shows Yemenis rummaging through waste dumps to get by)**

Caton: Yemen is not the only place that is suffering the results of war. Globally, children have been one of the main target in wars, often used as human shields, killed, maimed or recruited to fight. Also rape forced marriage and abduction along with enforced enslavement. These things have become the norm in conflicts in Syria,

Iraq, in Yemen, to Nigeria, South Sudan and Myanmar. Others suffer from disease, and malnutrition as basic medical services are denied, damaged or destroyed in the fighting.

Jeff: Japan is beginning to build up its military, they say to counter the threat from North Korea. They're converting a warship into an aircraft carrier, the first since WWII. Now the carrier will be capable of hosting F-35 jets that were recently bought from the U.S. and will be used for defense purposes only according to Japan. Earlier in the month the Japanese Defense Ministry said that they were considering acquiring missiles that were capable of striking North Korea with a range of 500 kilometers.

Caton: Japan is also conducting a study to determine if the new jets are capable of carrying missiles with a range of 900 km. Japanese law prohibits the country from possessing missiles with a range of over 300 km. Japan's latest moves have been criticized by China. China said that when Japan makes move to build up its military defenses it causes concerns amongst its Asian neighbors and international community. Such moves may violate Article 9 of the Japanese constitution.

Jeff: Article 9 in the Japanese constitution prohibits the country from owning any means that can be used for warfare. But the country can have self-defense forces which can engage in conflict only in response to aggression and whose military arsenal is limited.

Caton: Well, The build-up for war is also evident in other places as well, Larry McGee has more details for us on the storm brewing over Asia, along with several other stories. Larry...

Larry: The atmosphere on the Korean Peninsula is very tense these days, and in addition now, China is conducting its own aerial drills in the West and East China Sea. This is reportedly in response to the recent joint exercises carried out by the U.S. and its allies in the region. According to Chinese military spokesmen, the drills were designed to improve combat readiness and protect national security interests. The activities included coordination between fighter jets, early warning aircraft, and surface-to-air missiles forces...

Larry: China has always felt like Taiwan is rightfully hers- and is being kept away by force; and so for years it has been viewed by Beijing, as one of the most important and sensitive matters in U.S.-China relations. Recently the conflict was escalated, after China dispatched several bombers to patrol the Island nation, while also issuing the threat of invasion if the small country allowed U.S. warships to make port visits there. Washington is bound by the Taiwan Relations Act to intervene in the event of any Chinese use of force,

which pretty much insures that continued aggression against the island will provoke U.S. action. The question that analysts have, is why is Beijing attempting to push the US' buttons, and will it eventually lead to President Trump pushing a button as well?

Larry: After China was implicated this week in selling oil to the DPRK in violation of international law, President Trump tweeted "caught red-handed", and "that there will never be a friendly solution to the North Korea problem if this continues to happen".

Larry: Secretary of State Rex Tillerson continues to advocate for diplomacy concerning the Korean conflict. The high level official is defending diplomatic efforts with Pyongyang, despite its immense challenges. The Secretary said, "Americans should be encouraged by the progress that the U.S. State Department and United States Agency for International Development have made in pushing for global peace and stability". In the featured article, the Secretary went on to say that: "[the U.S.] peaceful pressure campaign has cut off nearly 90% of North Korea's export revenue, much of which is used to fund illegal weapons development." Secretary Tillerson believes a key component of that strategy is continued pressure on China, but the recent evidence of China still selling oil to North Korea despite prohibitions, shows that one of America's strongest competitors, is very far from being on a leash.

Larry: The U.N. Security Council assembled to prohibit international port access to four North Korean ships, believed to have transported and carried ban items outlawed in sanctions against North Korea. Diplomats conveyed on condition anonymity, that the move was initiated by the U.S. who also submitted a list of additional ships to be targeted, including ones flying the flags of Belize, China, Hong Kong, Palou, and Panama. Beijing however, only agreed to four.

American is obviously for having its way in world politics, and it does not take very kindly to opposition. The current administration is apparently attempting to deliver on its threats to the U.N. for not supporting its plans in Israel. Please have a look this video; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U9NYQVeaTdw>

Larry: The Spokesman for the world's leading governing body had a word to speak on the matter as well. Pope Francis used his December address to once again call for a two state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The Vatican's call came just days after the U.N. denounced the U.S.'s position on Jerusalem, with the Pontiff reportedly praying for the peace of the city. The Vatican's support for a two state solution is said to trace all the way back to the United Nations

Partition Plan for Palestine...

Larry: With the recent cold spell in certain parts of nation, the current President is throwing jabs of unbelief over the blatantly obvious issue of climate change. President Trump tweeted this week: "In the East, it could be the coldest New Year's Eve on record. Perhaps, we could use a little bit of that good old global warming, that our country- but not other countries, was going to pay trillions of dollars to protect against." Much to the dismay of those laboring to raise the leader's awareness concerning the current state of the atmosphere, the President concluded by joking that everyone should "Bundle up"...For YPN News I'm Larry McGee. Caton, Jeff...back to you.

Jeff: Well ironically Caton, President Trump making fun of the global warming. Really the scientist have shown that as a result of the microorganisms in the firmament there, what scientists call global warming or the atmosphere, that is a result of bringing about this cold weather that he is talking about.

Caton: Yes, we have extremes in both hot and cold, rain and drought. So...

Jeff: Well U.S. Ambassador to the U.N., Nikki Haley, began 2018 with a speech sharing the United States focus on foreign countries. She encouraged the protests going on in Iran, adamantly discouraged North Korea from becoming a nuclear state and told of aid being withheld from Pakistan among other things. Let's hear what she had to say...
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mhHbobJnLM0>

Caton: Well while some may be partying with Nikki Haley and the U.S. not everyone is smiling at Ambassador Hailey's proposal for the U.S. to get involved with the Protests going on in Iran. The Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Ryabkov criticized it as, quote, "harmful and destructive". Ryabkov also warned the U.S. not to interfere in the Islamic Republics Internal affairs. He feels sure, the Iranians will work out their own difficulties.

Jeff: Turkey's spokesman for the President, Ibrahim Kalin, also voiced support for Iran's stability and rejected any foreign interference due to the protests taking place there. He said, "We hope that this problem will be overcome lawfully. Peace in Iran is of great importance to us."

Caton: President Trump recently unveiled his national security strategy to the country for 2018. In it he restated the White House's goal to denuclearize North Korea, which he continues to label it as a

rogue regime.

Jeff: While it may come as no surprise Caton, President Trump also called China and Russia, quote, "Rival Powers" and said they, "seek to challenge American influence values and wealth." He continued, "We will attempt to build a great partnership with those and other countries, but in a manner that always protects our national interests."

Caton: Sounds like he doesn't want any of these other countries, particularly China and Russia to hurt the American life style.

Jeff: Absolutely.

Caton: Analysts have said the President's rhetoric is in unity with national security strategies of prior administrations. His comment about China and Russia as rival powers shouldn't be a surprise to the two countries because they understand they have been in a competition with the U.S. for quite a while now.

Jeff: As Russia and China have asserted themselves on land and in the sea in their respective regions, over the past few years- which Russia in Ukraine and China with the South China Sea- both countries can see the United States is not going to back down when it comes to defending its own interest and those of its allies.

Caton: While the Obama Administration did not verbalized this idea of rival powers on the Asian continent the Trump Administration is making a point to do just that. This actually may create a greater sense of competition between the countries.

Jeff: What is China's National Strategy right now? Well if you ask President Xi Jinping – who just told a large group of Chinese soldiers – he wants to, "strengthen military training and war preparedness." Let's listen to part of his recent speech... <https://www.theguardian.com/world/video/2018/jan/04/xi-jinping-chinese-army-to-strengthen-war-preparedness-video>

Caton: According to analysts North Korea feels it is experiencing a time of progress so much so that it is willing to send a delegation of athletes to Pyeongchang, South Korea next month for the Olympic Winter games. Talks will be held this coming week between the two countries in the demilitarized zone concerning the North's participation in the Winter Games. But the Olympics aside, when it comes to North Korea's relationship with the outside world, things look rather unstable.

Jeff: We see the U.S. and its allies are applying pressure on the North through their military strength. Then there is the "Freeze for Freeze" plan proposed by the Chinese and Russians. In it the North would agree to freeze its nuclear weapons program and in turn the United States and South Korea would freeze their military exercises.

Caton: Well that sounds great, but very unlikely to take place as neither side wants to back down. It is more likely according to analysts that North Korea will take it to the next level of mass producing nuclear weapons to put into operation and deploy throughout their country, as Kim Jong-un mentioned in his New Year's address. Neither side wants to back down

Jeff: And that's really Caton, what the problem is. It seems like no side is willing to give in. they just won't compromise or look to find a peaceful solution to the situation. It's just 'if you don't do this, then this is what's coming.'

Caton: Well the leaders have the mindset and have for a very long time that it's a competition and only one person can be at the top. So they're willing to knock others out of the way in quest to reach the top and really as a global community we should all be looking to work together because there's plenty enough resources; as many researchers and global food agencies have said, there's plenty, enough for everybody to have more than they need.

Jeff: Right and when leaders choose to take that route it's really the people that suffer the most.

Caton: That's right, especially the children.

Jeff: Well if you would like to find out more about these articles and more, you can contact The House of Yahweh. And when you do don't forget to request your free Prophetic Word Magazine and Monthly Newsletter. Here's how.

Caton: To contact The House of Yahweh you can write them at:

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Jeff: Well don't go anywhere after this a few encouraging messages from the House of Yahweh. For all of us here at YPN News, I'm Jeffrey Heimerman...

Caton: And I'm Caton Alexander.

Jeff: Thanks for watching.