



INTERNATIONAL

Russia's 'Fancy Bear' Reportedly Hacks German Government Network

Germany says it managed to fend off a cyberattack against key ministries, but declined to confirm media reports that the culprit was the Russian intelligence operation blamed for interference in U.S. elections. "We can confirm that the Federal Office for Information Security (BSI) and intelligence services are investigating a cybersecurity incident concerning the federal government's information technology and networks," an Interior Ministry spokesman said Wednesday. "The attack was isolated and brought under control within the federal administration," which manages government computer networks, the spokesman said in a statement, Reuters reports. According to Reuters: "Western governments and security experts have linked the hacker group known as APT28 or Fancy Bear to a Russian spy agency, and have blamed it for an attack on the Democratic National Committee ahead of the 2016 U.S. elections. Germany's Deutsche Presse-Agentur news agency cites anonymous security officials as saying that the hackers "likely placed a piece of malware in a key government network. The malware could have remained in the government's networks for as long as a year." Deutsche Welle adds: "The hackers reportedly infiltrated the government's 'Informationsverbund Berlin-Bonn' (IVBB) network, a specially designed communications platform that sits separate from other public networks for supposed added security. It's used exclusively by the Chancellery, the German parliament, federal ministries, the Federal Audit Office and several security institutions in Berlin and Bonn, the former German capital where some ministries still have offices." German officials blamed Fancy Bear for a May 2015 hack of Germany's lower house of parliament, the Bundestag, and other cyberattacks aimed at Chancellor Angela Merkel as well as others. German security sources quoted by Reuters denied media reports that the attack had penetrated the country's defense ministry and military establishment. "News of the attack on German government computers comes after repeated warnings by German intelligence officials about possible meddling by Russia in last year's federal election. The head of the German domestic intelligence agency last year said such attacks had not occurred, but the risk of interference remained until a new government is in place." As NPR's David Welna reported earlier this week, National Security Agency and U.S. Cyber Command chief Adm. Michael Rogers told the Senate Armed Services Committee that he believes that Russian hacking and disinformation has shown no sign of slowing since the election. "Everything, both as the director of the NSA and what I see on the Cyber Command side, leads me to believe that if we don't change the dynamic here, this is going to continue and 2016 won't be viewed as something isolated," Rogers said. "This is something that will be sustained over time."

UN official: Pauses in Syria suburb unilateral, 'not enough'

BEIRUT (AP) — The five-hour daily pauses in fighting in Syria's embattled eastern suburbs of the capital Damascus — laid out under a "unilateral" plan by Russia — are not enough to take in aid or evacuate civilians, a top U.N. aid official said Thursday. Jan Egeland also said the U.N. Security Council resolution over the weekend calling for a 30-day cease-fire has done little to improve the situation in the rebel-held region east of Damascus. "Since it was adopted, it did not get better — it got worse," he said. Eastern Ghouta was among the first areas to rise up against President

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Bashar Assad's rule in 2011. The area was taken over by rebels as unrest turned into an armed insurgency, then a full-blown civil war now seven years old. Egeland's comments came after the Russian military accused Syria's rebels of shelling a humanitarian corridor that Moscow set up with the Syrian government, offering residents of Damascus' besieged eastern suburbs a way out of the embattled enclave. Later on Thursday, Maj.-Gen. Yuri Yevtushenko, chief of the Russian center for reconciliation of conflicting sides in Syria, said militants in Ghouta were carrying out public executions of people who want to leave the area. He said "the hotline of the Russian reconciliation center has begun receiving calls about public executions of those who are trying to flee from the enclave." Russian President Vladimir Putin had ordered a five-hour daily humanitarian pause to allow civilians to exit the region. The daily pauses began on Tuesday but so far, no humanitarian aid has gone in — and no civilians have left the area, except for an elderly Pakistani man and his wife who were evacuated from the town of Douma on Thursday. The Syrian Red Crescent confirmed it managed to evacuate the family to Damascus, handing them over to the Pakistani embassy. The Kumait news agency, close to the Army of Islam rebel group headquartered in Douma, reported that the man and his wife had been living in Syria for more than 40 years and were evacuated after months of negotiations. Egeland, who heads humanitarian aid matters in the office of the U.N. Syria envoy, said the Russian plan for the five-hour pauses was "positive" but insufficient. He said that no aid has been sent to eastern Ghouta because "we did not get a single facilitation letter by the government." "I know of no humanitarian actor ... who thinks that five hours is enough for us to be able to deliver relief into eastern Ghouta and to organize orderly medical evacuations out," he said. He said a meeting of the U.N.'s humanitarian task force for Syria earlier Thursday discussed the issue of: "Can we sit down now with Russia and others and see whether we can help make this pause/initiative meet humanitarian standards for a pause and a corridor."

Australian amnesty nets 57,000 firearms and rocket launcher

More than 57,000 illegal firearms including a rocket launcher and machine guns were handed in during a recent Australian amnesty in which gun owners could surrender such weapons without penalty. The government and some gun policy analysts were surprised by the large number of weapons that were surrendered in the first nationwide amnesty since 1996, when a lone gunman killed 35 people in Tasmania state and galvanized popular support for tough national gun controls. A virtual ban on private ownership of semi-automatic rifles and a government-funded gun buyback cut the size of Australia's civilian arsenal by almost a third. The government said Thursday the three-month amnesty that ended in September collected 57,324 firearms, including almost 2,500 semi-automatic and fully-automatic guns — the rapid-fire categories particularly targeted after the 1996 Port Arthur massacre. "It was a very, very good result," Law Enforcement Minister Angus Taylor told The Associated Press. "This is another step in the process of making sure that we keep firearms out of the hands of criminals and gangs, and we keep Australians safe and secure," he added.



NATIONAL

Trump to impose tariffs on imports of steel and aluminum

Determined to protect vital American industries, President Donald Trump declared Thursday that he will impose tariffs on steel and aluminum imports, dramatically raising the possibility of a trade showdown with China and other key trading partners. The announcement roiled financial markets and stoked fears on Wall Street that other countries could retaliate with trade barriers of their own. At one point Thursday afternoon the Dow Jones industrial average was down more than 500 points, or about 2 percent. The decision also disappointed Republican lawmakers, who warned that it would hurt a range of industries. Trump summoned steel and aluminum executives to the White House and told them that next week he would levy penalties of 25 percent on steel and 10 percent on aluminum imports. Those tariffs, he said, will remain for "a long period of time." But it was not immediately clear if the tariffs would exempt certain trading partners. "What's been allowed to go on for decades is disgraceful. It's disgraceful," Trump told them in the Cabinet Room. "You will have protection for the first time in a long while and you're going to regrow your industries." Increased foreign production, especially by China, has driven down prices and hurt U.S. producers, creating a situation the Commerce Department calls a national security threat. Any action to impose tariffs is likely to escalate simmering tensions with China and other U.S. trading partners. Critics of such a move fear that other countries will retaliate or use national security as a pretext to impose trade penalties of their own. They also argue that sanctions on imports will drive up prices and hurt U.S. automakers and other companies that use steel or aluminum. "This is going to have fallout on our downstream suppliers, particularly in the automotive, machinery and aircraft sectors," said Wendy Cutler, a former U.S. trade official who is now vice president of the Asia Society Policy Institute. "What benefits one industry can hurt another. What saves one job can jeopardize another." Plans for Trump to make an announcement were thrown into doubt earlier because of internal wrangling over the decision. Some White House officials, including chief of staff John Kelly, were not fully briefed on the Commerce Department's plans, according to a senior administration official familiar with the process. This official was not authorized to discuss the internal deliberations publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

House Oversight Panel Asks HUD For Documents Amid Accusations Of Lavish Spending

The chairman of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform sent a letter to Housing and Urban Development Secretary Ben Carson Wednesday requesting "all documents and communications" related to the redecorating of his office and HUD's handling of a whistleblower. In a four-and-a-half page letter, Rep. Trey Gowdy, R-S.C., said he wants the documents in order for the committee to "determine whether HUD adhered to the applicable spending limitations" that apply to office makeovers. Gowdy is also requesting documentation involving the HUD employee who claims she was the subject of retaliation after refusing to exceed spending caps set for office redecorating. He set a deadline of March 14 for the documents to be handed over to the committee. Gowdy's letter to Carson comes a day after reports surfaced that

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the agency approved more than \$31,000 on a new office suite dining room set. Additional allegations were brought by a former HUD official claiming she was told by her superiors that "\$5,000 will not even buy a decent chair." According to the New York Times, a "custom hardwood table, chairs and hutch" were purchased a month after a whistleblower complaint was filed alleging Candy Carson, the wife and informal adviser to the HUD secretary, was pushing for elaborate modifications to the drab decor of the department's offices. The whistleblower, Helen Foster, was a career HUD employee. She filed a complaint in November alleging she was demoted and replaced after refusing to exceed the legal \$5,000 limit on redecoration. The existence of the complaint was first reported Tuesday by The Guardian.

'I Live Paycheck to Paycheck': A West Virginia Teacher Explains Why She's on Strike

Public schools in West Virginia were closed for a sixth day on Thursday, as teachers striking over health care costs and pay largely rebuffed a deal this week between Gov. James C. Justice and union leadership aimed at getting them back to school. Mr. Justice has ordered a task force to examine health care costs and the State House passed a bill raising wages by 5 percent. But with the bill's fate in doubt in the Senate and scant details on health care funding, many teachers remained angry, and they flooded back to the Capitol, wearing red and black, to protest on Wednesday and Thursday. We spoke on Wednesday night with Katie Endicott, 31, a high school English teacher from Gilbert, W.Va., about why she and many other teachers are not yet prepared to return to school. The interview has been edited and condensed. "They told us that essentially if you weren't a single person, if you had a family plan, your health insurance was going to rise substantially. As a West Virginia teacher — and I've been teaching 10 years — I only clear right under \$1,300 every two weeks, and they're wanting to take \$300 more away for me. But they tell me it's O.K., because we're going to give you a 1 percent pay raise. That equals out to 88 cents every two days. They implemented Go365, which is an app that I'm supposed to download on my phone, to track my steps, to earn points through this app. If I don't earn enough points, and if I choose not to use the app, then I'm penalized \$500 at the end of the year. People felt that was very invasive, to have to download that app and to be forced into turning over sensitive information. Go365 was thrown out. Of course they decided to give a freeze [on insurance rates], and I think people thought that might be enough. But we understand that this is an election year. They can freeze it right now, but what happens after the election? The feeling is, we have to get this fixed, and we have to get it fixed now.

The Cost of Life in America

Since the late 1990s, inflation — or average prices — has increased by 55.6 percent. But while things like televisions and smartphones have gotten much cheaper in that time, certain other things have gotten much more expensive. So while some people may be able to afford the latest gadget, certain other things remain out of reach. Today on the show we look at what that tells us about the true cost of living in America in the 21st century.



STATE

Emails Show UW-Superior Leaders Ignored Shared Governance

A University of Wisconsin System attorney recommended UW-Superior leaders consult with faculty and staff over its plans to suspend 25 programs last fall, but the administration didn't heed that advice. In an email dated Oct. 30, UW-Superior Provost Jackie Weissenburger reached out to UW System's legal counsel to confirm that Chancellor Renee Wachter could suspend programs without faculty and staff approval, according to emails obtained and published by the Wisconsin Federation of Teachers. "It was my impression that our chancellor could make that call without governance approval IF we were not intending to issue layoffs or terminate faculty or instructional academic staff," wrote Weissenburger in an email. Tomas Stafford, general counsel for the UW System, replied back the same day with an explanation of the state's shared governance statutes. "(T)he chancellor shared governance provision, states that the chancellors 'in consultation with their faculties shall be responsible for designing curricula and setting degree requirements; determining academic standards and establishing grading systems ...'" wrote Stafford. "Thus, the statutory scheme seems to envisage that chancellors play a primary role with respect to the curricula, in consultation with faculty, and that would seem to include program array, program suspensions, etc." The next day UW-Superior administration announced it would suspend 24 majors and minors, as well as one graduate program. "It's very interesting that the day before they're asking for confirmation of their authority to overrule faculty governance, but they're still being reminded ... that they have to at least be consulting with faculty and they went ahead and suspended them anyway." Augsburg said UW-Superior leaders also violated System policy because they failed to provide the proper 4-week notice prior to program suspension. Wachter was unavailable for comment Wednesday. A UW-Superior spokeswoman issued a prepared statement, adding that administration met its obligations in suspending programs and has the support of the UW System and the Board of Regents.

Walker: Hacking On State Network Was Attempted, But Not Successful

Gov. Scott Walker says someone tried to access information on the state's online network, but was not successful. Walker told reporters Thursday morning in Milwaukee that "There's no evidence we were hacked. There was an attempt made." Walker didn't specify when the attempt was carried out, but his comments come after NBC News reported Tuesday that Wisconsin was one of seven states in which U.S. intelligence "developed substantial evidence that state websites or voter registration systems were compromised by Russian-backed covert operatives prior to the 2016 election." The report cites anonymous senior intelligence officials and doesn't specify which systems officials believe were compromised in Wisconsin. "Wisconsin is on the list not because the federal government found it, but because our people pointed it out to them," Walker said. "We blocked attempts as we block attempts to any number of state agencies every single day, and so, again, this is another one where people are not fully understanding the story out there. The story is Wisconsin has a vibrant cyber-security system for all our different state agencies. We were the ones who identified those attempts on elections efforts in the state and reported that to

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the federal officials." In addition to Wisconsin, the NBC report claims hackers with Russian ties "compromised" systems in Illinois, Florida, Texas, Arizona, Alaska and California. Walker says there were "probably attempts made on every state in the United States of America. The difference is Wisconsin stopped them from happening." State officials in 2017 said they were notified of an unsuccessful Russian hacking attempt that took place in July 2016, ahead of the November 2016 election. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security notified election officials last year that "Russian actors" who had been linked to attempted election hacking had tried to access information within the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development. The federal agency said Wisconsin was one of 21 states targeted by Russian hackers during the presidential election. State officials have assured residents no voter data or ballots were compromised during the 2016 election. The governor's comments come two days after the Wisconsin Elections Commission released a statement from chief elections official Michael Haas claiming the state's voting systems are secure: "In response to NBC's questions, we double-checked with Homeland Security and our other cyber security partners. They have assured us that they are not aware of any other attempts — successful or unsuccessful — to breach Wisconsin's systems. We have established a strong, positive relationship with Homeland Security, and have seen no reason to doubt their assurances about the integrity of our systems." However, a follow-up NBC report on Wednesday indicated that last September three states, including Wisconsin, had some state websites "scanned" and that "a former senior intelligence official told NBC News that these types of probes can also be serious, either as gateways to other networks or as reconnoitering for future attacks."

WEATHER

- **Tonight:** Mostly cloudy, with a low around 31. Blustery, with a northwest wind 16 to 21 mph decreasing to 10 to 15 mph after midnight. Winds could gust as high as 32 mph.
- **Tuesday:** Sunny, with a high near 47. North wind 10 to 13 mph, with gusts as high as 21 mph.
- **Tuesday Night:** Clear, with a low around 27. North wind 5 to 8 mph.
- **Wednesday:** Sunny, with a high near 48. North wind 5 to 9 mph.
- **Wednesday Night:** Clear, with a low around 26.
- **Thursday:** Sunny, with a high near 51.
- **Thursday Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 32.
- **Friday:** A 40 percent chance of showers after 1pm. Partly sunny, with a high near 59.
- **Friday Night:** Showers likely. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 42. Chance of precipitation is 70%.

SPORTS

Boys Basketball

JANESVILLE CO-OP
1
WAUKESHA NORTH CO-OP
5

MADISON WEST
3
MADISON MEMORIAL
1

WAUNAKEE
0
MADISON EDGEWOOD
1

MIDDLETON
1
SUN PRAIRIE
6

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Milwaukee Madison boys basketball is enjoying a major turnaround under Quemont Greer

The City Conference's postseason awards came out Monday, and it should surprise no one that Washington's Freddie Riley was named the league's coach of the year. Riley led the Purgolders to an undefeated record in the league and their first outright title in a decade. He, however, isn't the only coach in the league enjoying a banner season. Doug Lewis has King on the rise again. Calvin Rayford led Obama Career Tech to the most league wins the program has had in 10 years. Justin Hullum (Riverside) and Pat Bell (Hamilton) had good rookie seasons. And there is the big guy doing the job over on 81st and Florist. When it comes to basketball, Madison's recent history is modest. The Knights haven't had a winning season in at least 15 years. Just once during stretch did they manage a .500 record. It is a lot of negative history that Quemont Greer, his staff and players threw out the window this year. Madison has been home to one of the area's biggest turnarounds, going from one win in 2016-'17 to 12 and counting this year. The Knights (12-8) play host to Port Washington in a WIAA regional at 7 p.m. Tuesday. It's a success story that for Greer reminds us that good things come to those who can wait. And for his team, it is an example of what can happen when you work through the struggles. Success is rarely instantaneous. "We're starting to feel that we can win basketball games," said Greer, who is in his second season. "That's all I've kept trying to preach to them. Winning is hard. Losing is easy. If you keep building and playing with each other and trusting one another, the wins are going to come." So how does a team jump from one win to 12 in a year? For Madison, the spark for change has been a primarily a fresh start. Junior forward Kyran Gaines, an inside-outside threat averaging 24.4 points per game, previously attended Wisconsin Lutheran. Junior guard De'Anthony Johnson went to Washington. Alexander Fields, a senior wing, played on the junior varsity. Point guard Brandon Leach was in middle school. Those four joined returning starters, Terrell Brown and Kingston Brown, both seniors, to make up the core of a team that hit its stride in February. The team is light on seniors and Gaines and Leach are the type of players around which the team will be built next year and beyond.



COMMERCIALS

5 Gum

I've been chewing a lot of gum, and so far there is only one I found to have long-lasting flavor, that lasts all day or all night. To prove how long the flavor lasts, I'm standing in traffic risking it all, and I won't leave until the flavor ends or I can't chew anymore.

The name of the gum is called 5, it comes in a black package. And you can get it in different flavors like spearmint, cooling peppermint, and Cinnamon. Spearmint is called rain, and it's in a green package, peppermint is called cobalt in the blue package, and cinnamon is called flare in the orange package. Actually, the package is black but the number 5's are in the different colors. The statement they make about it is that it will "stimulate your senses" that is true because the flavor is non stop.

Woman bystander: Oh my goodness! He let himself get hit by that car!

Man bystander: Yep, but his gum still sure is looooong lasting!

Woman bystander: eeewww!

Alcohol Safety

How do kids get alcohol? From legal aged friends and even siblings. Talk with your kids and get a free copy of "let's keep talking" at millerbrewing.com Live responsibly...Miller Brewing Company. Milwaukee, Wisconsin.