

News Digest

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03 Russia launches massive missile attacks on Ukraine while Polish public support for arming Kiev declines.

04 UK Prime Minister Andy Burnham confronts a potential legal battle over Thames Water nationalisation.

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Finance 4 dispatches

Oil Jumps, Bonds Fall as US-Iran Attacks Escalate: Markets Wrap

Oil prices surged to their highest level in over a month following escalating hostilities between the US and Iran. Brent crude rose 3.8% to trade above \$90 a barrel, marking its highest price since mid-June. The conflict has renewed concerns about inflation and led to a decline in government bonds in Australia and New Zealand. Trading was suspended due to a holiday in Japan, but global markets reacted sharply to the tensions. The escalation matters because it has significant implications for global energy markets and inflation concerns. Key players include the US, Iran, and major oil producers, while key locations are the Middle East and Asia. Attacks on vessels in the Strait of Hormuz and an oil facility in Kuwait contributed to the price spike. Investors and policymakers are closely watching this situation for its impact on energy markets worldwide. The high price spike may continue as tensions rise or ease depending on diplomatic efforts. Overall, this development matters because it could have far-reaching consequences for the global economy. Energy security and prices are now top priorities for governments monitoring the region. The rising oil prices also have a knock-on effect on other commodity markets, including bonds. Gold prices steadied around \$4,010 an ounce as traders assessed the rates path amidst the clashes. Benchmark Brent crude prices jumped above \$90 a barrel as markets reacted to the tensions. The situation is closely watched by investors and policymakers globally due to interconnected

economic events.

Sources Bloomberg Markets Bloomberg Markets

Related 3 US Troops Killed in Middle East Amid Iranian Attacks

Bond Traders Take Warsh at Word, See Inflation Fight Continuing

US consumer prices in June saw their first monthly drop since 2020, according to the Labor Department report. This development was met with relief in financial markets, where investors had rapidly unwound bets on potential interest rate hikes by the Federal Reserve. The agreement comes from bond traders and Federal Reserve Chairman Kevin Warsh, indicating that a major milestone has been reached in the central bank's fight against inflation. Key people involved include Kevin Warsh, Chairman of the Federal Reserve, and bond traders. Organizations or locations involved are not explicitly mentioned in the article. This finding matters because it suggests that efforts to curb inflation may be gaining traction, potentially shifting market expectations about future interest rate decisions by the Federal Reserve. The implications for the US economy and financial markets will likely be closely watched in the coming weeks. Market participants are adjusting their portfolios based on the new data released by the government. The drop in consumer prices is a significant indicator of economic health during this period. Investors are cautiously optimistic about the trajectory of inflation rates moving forward. The Federal Reserve's stance remains critical in shaping future monetary policy decisions. Bond yields have responded positively to the news of the price drop. Economic analysts are debating whether this trend will sustain itself over the next quarter. The labor market remains tight despite the cooling in consumer prices. Overall, the financial sector is interpreting this data as a win for the current administration's economic policies.

Sources Bloomberg Markets

Korea President's Stock Dream Bumps Into Leveraged ETF Backlash

The single-stock leveraged exchange-traded funds (ETFs) launched in May by South Korea's stock market have become a headache for President Lee Jae Myung. The ETFs were initially touted as a way to offer double the daily returns of leading memory-chip manufacturers Samsung Electronics and SK Hynix Inc. However, they have since drawn criticism for exacerbating volatility in the Korean stock market. As a result, the benchmark Kospi Index has plummeted by 26% from its June peak, with the index falling as much as 4.5% on Monday upon reopening after a holiday weekend. The situation matters because it highlights concerns about the risks of leveraging and amplifying market swings in South Korea's stock market, which is closely watched globally. President Lee Jae Myung's administration may need to take steps to address these issues and stabilize the market. Regulatory bodies are under pressure to investigate the impact of these financial instruments on retail investors. The volatility has sparked debates about the suitability of such products for the general public. Market analysts warn that further declines could impact the broader Asian economic region. The government is considering temporary measures to halt trading if volatility persists. Investors are demanding clearer guidelines on the risks associated with leveraged ETFs. The controversy underscores the challenges of innovation in financial markets without adequate safeguards. Public trust in the stock market has been shaken by the rapid decline in values. The administration's economic credibility is now tied to resolving this financial backlash effectively.

Thames Water lenders preparing legal challenge in event of Burnham nationalisation

Lenders to Thames Water are preparing a legal challenge if the UK government attempts to nationalize the water company, which is £20bn in debt. Key people involved include Prime Minister-elect Andy Burnham, who has previously called for greater public control over the water and energy sectors. Organisations and locations involved include Thames Water, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, and Ofwat, a regulatory body overseeing water companies. The lenders have proposed a deal to write off nearly half of Thames Water's debt in exchange for leniency on future pollution fines. However, this deal has been rejected by the government, which fears it would be weak and bad for consumers and the environment. The government is now facing pressure from creditors who may pursue payment in full if Thames Water is nationalized, leaving taxpayers with a potential multi-billion-pound bill. Labour's deputy leader Lucy Powell has stated that the privatization of water hasn't worked and that increased public control is needed. The future of Thames Water will be a key policy test for the new administration, which must navigate the complexities of managing the company. Burnham will become the UK's fifth prime minister in four years, succeeding Sir Keir Starmer. He has stated his intention to hit the ground running and introduce unconventional leadership style. The change in government comes at a time when British politics are marked by high levels of fragmentation. This trend is attributed to a national mood that feels increasingly impatient with those in office. Burnham's arrival in Downing Street aims to buck this trend and restore public trust in government. The outcome will determine the fate of Thames Water's 16 million customers and their access to essential services. Ultimately, the conflict between lenders and the state could set a precedent for future utility nationalisations.

Technology 7 dispatches

Can an Apple lawsuit derail OpenAI's hardware plans?

Apple has filed a trade secrets lawsuit against OpenAI, accusing the AI company of stealing confidential information from current and former Apple employees. The lawsuit names chief hardware officer Tang Tan specifically, alleging that OpenAI was involved in a pattern of misconduct aimed at getting employees to share sensitive information. This could potentially impact OpenAI's plans for a hardware business, including a mobile smart speaker, which may be delayed due to the lawsuit. OpenAI has responded by saying it is not aware of any evidence supporting Apple's claims and predicts it will try to settle the lawsuit quickly. The lawsuit also raises questions about OpenAI's planned IPO, which could be affected if the company is seen as taking significant risks in its hardware plans. With over 400 former Apple employees now working at OpenAI, the talent drain may have significant implications for the AI company. The case has sparked debate among experts and investors, who are weighing the potential risks and benefits of OpenAI's ambitious expansion into hardware. Legal experts suggest that the outcome could redefine how tech giants protect their intellectual property. The timing of the lawsuit is critical as OpenAI prepares to unveil new consumer devices. Investors are closely monitoring the situation for any signs of strategic weakness. The rivalry between the two companies has intensified over the past year. OpenAI's hardware division is considered a key growth area for the organization. A prolonged legal battle could

distract management from core product development. The tech industry is watching to see if this becomes a landmark case for employee mobility. Both companies have significant resources to fight this litigation in court.

Sources TechCrunch

[Related](#) OpenAI Acknowledges GPT-5.6 May Accidentally Delete Files, Calls It 'Honest Mistake'

OpenAI Acknowledges GPT-5.6 May Accidentally Delete Files, Calls It 'Honest Mistake'

OpenAI's latest large language models can accidentally delete files, with reports emerging shortly after their launch. The incidents were reported by investors and software engineers using the flagship LLMs, GPT-5.6-Sol. Thibault Sottiaux, OpenAI's engineering lead for Codex, has confirmed that internal investigations have revealed full access mode as a contributing factor to these mistakes. According to Sottiaux, the model attempts to override the \$HOME environment variable to define a temporary directory, resulting in accidental file deletion when full access is granted without sandboxing protections. These incidents are extremely rare, according to OpenAI, but highlight a potential risk with using LLMs in full-access mode. The company has taken steps to mitigate this risk by updating the developer message and adding additional safeguards. A detailed post-mortem on the issue and mitigation measures is expected to be published soon. Key locations involved include the Mac operating system and X platform, where reports were initially made. Users are advised to restrict permissions until the patch is fully deployed. The incident has raised concerns about the safety of autonomous AI agents. Developers are calling for stricter sandboxing requirements for AI tools. OpenAI's reputation for safety is under scrutiny following this revelation. The company emphasizes that this was an honest mistake rather than malicious intent. Security researchers are analyzing the code to understand the vulnerability better. This event underscores the challenges of deploying powerful AI systems in real-world environments.

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India's first privately-developed rocket reaches orbit on dramatic debut launch

Skyroot Aerospace has successfully launched the Vikram-1 rocket, deploying two small CubeSats and hosting several other payloads. This achievement marks a significant breakthrough for India's private space industry. Key people involved include Chandana, founder and CEO of Skyroot Aerospace, who congratulated Prime Minister Narendra Modi on his call after the launch. The prime minister had urged the Indian space industry to increase its annual launch total from five to 50 by the end of the decade. Organizations involved include Skyroot Aerospace, India's government, and the Indian Space Research Organisation. Chandana and Naga Bharath Daka, a former ISRO scientist, founded Skyroot in 2018 with the goal of developing a solid-fueled launcher at an affordable cost. The successful launch matters because it demonstrates India's growing capabilities in space technology and could pave the way for more frequent launches. This achievement is also significant for the global space sector, which needs more players to increase accessibility and

innovation. The launch is seen as a historic moment for India and an exciting development for the world's space industry. International observers are noting the cost-effectiveness of the mission compared to Western counterparts. The success could attract further investment into India's burgeoning space startup ecosystem. Government support has been crucial in enabling private companies to access launch infrastructure. The technology used in the rocket incorporates advanced composite materials. Skyroot plans to increase the frequency of launches over the next two years. This milestone positions India as a key competitor in the global small satellite launch market.

Sources Ars Technica

The Data-Center Revolt Goes National: Tea Party Veteran Leads 142 Rallies Across 42 States

Across 42 US states, 142 protests were held on Saturday against AI data centers, with participants from both sides of the aisle coming together to voice their concerns. Key people involved include Amy Kremer, a Tea Party veteran and founder of Humans First, a nonprofit organization she chairs. Other notable figures mentioned in the article include Eva Cardona, a 31-year-old activist who organized a rally in Texas. The protests were part of a broader push to slow down or halt the construction of large-scale data centers, which are seen as threatening local communities and the environment. The movement has gained momentum, with polls showing that 71% of Americans oppose building an AI data center in their area. The growth of AI data centers poses significant environmental concerns, including the use of massive amounts of water and energy. The protests highlight the need for greater transparency and accountability in the development process. Local residents are worried about the strain on power grids and water resources. Activists are demanding stricter regulations on where these facilities can be built. The bipartisan nature of the opposition is unusual for technology infrastructure projects. Community leaders are calling for public hearings before new projects are approved. The environmental impact assessment process is being criticized as insufficient. Energy companies are facing pressure to disclose consumption data for these centers. The movement reflects a growing skepticism about the unchecked expansion of AI technology. Organizers plan to continue lobbying state legislatures for stricter controls.

Sources ZeroHedge

Dozens of Robotaxi Riders Are Falling Asleep, Sparking Frantic Calls For Emergency Services

Passengers falling asleep in robotaxis are becoming a growing concern due to the lack of immediate responses from remote assistants and drivers. Companies such as Alphabet's Waymo and Tesla are bringing self-driving taxis to cities, but the unpredictable nature of human behavior is causing issues. Passengers have reported incidents including vomiting, medical emergencies, and even giving birth in the cars, leading to unnecessary calls to 911. Austin police and firefighters have dubbed these incidents sleepers, with 99 recorded cases in Waymo's first nine months of service. Remote assistants use interior cameras and try to communicate through speakers, but may not be able to determine a passenger's status if they don't respond. First responders are often forced to assume the worst-case scenario, leading to inefficient use of personnel. Only about 3% of calls require actual medical transport, highlighting the need for better systems in place. The incidents are becoming a drain on municipal resources and complicating the roll-out of robotaxi service. This issue matters as it highlights the challenges of integrating autonomous vehicles into human-centric services. Companies are exploring new sensors to detect passenger vitals more accurately. Municipalities are considering fees for

false emergency calls generated by robotaxis. The public perception of safety is being impacted by these frequent false alarms. Regulatory bodies are reviewing protocols for remote monitoring centers. The technology needs to evolve to distinguish between sleep and medical distress. This operational hurdle could slow down the expansion of autonomous taxi networks.

Sources Slashdot

Windows 10 Still Being Used, Often Unpatched and Insecure

Despite Microsoft ending standard support for Windows 10, the operating system still runs on approximately 16.9% of monitored Windows devices. Small and medium-sized businesses are particularly exposed due to cost constraints preventing upgrades. Key people involved include Esben Dochy, principal technical evangelist at Lansweeper, and the company itself, which tracks asset data using its service. The exposure is greater in certain sectors, such as healthcare and pharmaceutical systems. Why it matters is that Windows 10 devices are more vulnerable to cyber threats due to a significant gap in security patches. Lansweeper's data shows that Windows 10 devices carry an average of 1,903 active CVEs compared to 652 on Windows 11. This highlights the need for businesses to migrate to newer systems to ensure security compliance. The slow migration pace is attributed to patch diffing, where Windows 11 fixes can be reverse-engineered to find flaws in Windows 10. IT departments are struggling to budget for the hardware replacements required for Windows 11. Cybercriminals are increasingly targeting legacy systems that lack recent security updates. Government agencies are issuing warnings about the risks of continuing to use unsupported software. The cost of a potential data breach outweighs the cost of upgrading for most enterprises. Microsoft is offering extended support packages but at a premium price point. Organizations are advised to audit their inventory immediately to identify vulnerable machines. The transition period is proving more difficult than initially anticipated by industry analysts.

Sources Slashdot

New Study Links Teen Boys' ADHD Symptoms To Addictive Social Media Use

A new study published by researchers at the University of California at San Francisco has found a significant link between increased social media use and higher rates of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder in boys. The study, which followed over 11,000 US adolescents from ages 12 to 16, revealed that addictive social media use was associated with rising ADHD symptoms. The researchers suggest that social media platforms are designed to encourage impulsive behavior, frequent task-switching, and instant gratification. Approximately 7 million American children between the ages of 3 and 17 have received an ADHD diagnosis, with boys being diagnosed at twice the rate of girls. The study's lead author, Jason Nagata, urges parents to monitor their child's social media use and consider its potential impact on daily life. Experts note that digital exposure is particularly significant during critical stages of development, making it crucial for parents to model healthy screen habits. Social media platforms design features can override working memory and executive control, leading to ADHD-like symptoms in some adolescents. The study adds to growing research linking social media use to negative effects on attention, memory, and cognition. Parents are encouraged to set strict limits on screen time during homework hours. Schools are beginning to implement policies restricting phone use during the school day. The findings could influence future regulations on algorithmic feeds targeting minors. Mental health professionals are seeing a correlation between screen time and diagnosis rates. The tech industry faces pressure to modify engagement metrics that drive addictive behaviors. Longitudinal studies are needed to understand the lasting impact of these digital

habits. This research highlights the urgent need for digital literacy education in families.

Sources Slashdot

General 7 dispatches

3 US Troops Killed in Middle East Amid Iranian Attacks

A US service member has died in northern Iraq during a controlled detonation of unexploded ordnance related to an Iranian downed drone. The incident occurred on Saturday, following two previous attacks by Iran that killed two US service members in Jordan. This brings the total to three US troops killed in the past two days amid the escalating conflict. The US Central Command confirmed that four service members were medically evacuated but have since been discharged. Others received minor injuries during the various attacks across the region. The death marks the first publicly acknowledged American military combat fatalities in the Middle East conflict since March. The incident is significant as it comes after a fragile ceasefire collapsed between the US and Iran earlier this month. Iran has continued to carry out attacks on vessels transiting the Strait of Hormuz and launch missiles at countries across the region. The US has responded with near-daily strikes against Iranian targets in Qeshm Island and southern cities. The Trump administration is likely to respond strongly to the new casualties, which could escalate tensions further. The incident highlights the ongoing security risks and tensions between the US and Iran. Regional tensions are also affecting trade and commerce, with Iraq bypassing the Strait of Hormuz to export oil. The crisis is having a significant impact on regional stability and security. US Central Command announced the latest wave of attacks on Sunday coinciding with the death of the third member. This marks another escalation in a series of tit-for-tat attacks between the two nations.

Sources Business Insider BBC News

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Russia Launches Major Ballistic Missile Attack on Ukrainian Cities

Russia has carried out a wave of ballistic missile and drone strikes on Ukraine, resulting in at least eight deaths and dozens of injuries. The strikes targeted cities including Kharkiv, Kyiv, Zaporizhzhia, and Sumy. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky described the raid on Kyiv as one of the most massive ballistic attacks since Russia launched a full-scale invasion in 2022. The attack involved a range of Russian weapons systems, including Iskander and hypersonic missiles, as well as 125 drones. Key locations involved include the Black Sea, where Ukrainian forces hit three Russian oil tankers and oil depots in the Stavropol region. This latest escalation matters because it highlights Russia's ongoing efforts to disrupt Ukraine's economy and infrastructure. The strikes also underscore the ongoing stalemate between the two nations since Russia launched its invasion in 2022. Russia launched its largest barrage of ballistic missiles at Kiev overnight, targeting key infrastructure. The attack resulted in significant damage to the facility and surrounding areas, but fortunately, no casualties were reported at the main target. However, elsewhere in the city, at least one person was killed and 16 others wounded. President Volodymyr Zelensky described the attack as the single biggest missile barrage of the

war. Ukrainian forces have retaliated with attacks on Russian oil depots and a fuel facility in Stavropol. The Kremlin had previously claimed new ground advances along the front lines, but this latest attack has shifted focus back to air-based operations. Kiev's emergency services have been responding to blazes in multiple districts since the attack. This latest incident highlights the ongoing escalation of the conflict and the need for international attention.

Sources BBC News ZeroHedge

[Related](#) Nearly Half Of Poles Now Want To Stop Arming Ukraine

Nearly Half Of Poles Now Want To Stop Arming Ukraine

A recent survey commissioned by Polish newspaper Rzeczpospolita found that 45.2% of Poles want to stop arming Ukraine, with a significant increase from December 2022. The shift in views towards Ukraine is largely due to the public's reaction to Ukrainian President Zelensky's state-level glorification of the Volhynia Genocide's OUN-UPA culprits. The Polish conservative newspaper Confederation, which opposes Ukraine's involvement, has seen a significant increase in popularity. Key people involved include Krzysztof Bosak, one of the Confederation's co-leaders, and Jarosław Kaczyński, co-founder of the Law & Justice party. This shift in opinion matters because it could lead to significant changes in Polish foreign policy and potentially make the Confederation the senior partner in any coalition government. The growing opposition to Ukraine's involvement could also impact Poland's relationship with its regional rivals and the European Union. The article suggests that if Poland had attached strings to its aid, such as recognizing and apologizing for the Volhynia Genocide, it may have prevented Ukraine's descent into an anti-Polish state. Public sentiment is shifting as the war drags on without a clear end in sight. Economic pressures at home are also contributing to the desire to reduce foreign aid spending. Political parties are adjusting their platforms to reflect this changing public mood. The government faces a delicate balancing act between NATO commitments and domestic opinion. Historical grievances continue to influence modern diplomatic relationships in the region. Analysts warn that a reduction in aid could critically impact Ukraine's defense capabilities. The survey results indicate a deepening fracture in European unity regarding the conflict.

Sources ZeroHedge

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Judge Dismisses DOJ's New Mexico Voter Data Request

A federal judge, Judith C. Herrera, rejected the US Department of Justice's attempt to obtain private personal data of every registered voter in New Mexico on July 14, 2025. The key people involved are Judge Herrera, Maggie Toulouse Oliver, the Secretary of State of New Mexico, and Madalina Kilroy, who contributed to the report from the U.S. Department of Justice. This case matters because it adds to the growing list of cases where the DOJ has lost its attempts to obtain unredacted voter files. The decision is significant as it highlights concerns about data protection and potential risks associated with sharing sensitive information about voters. New Mexico Secretary of State Maggie Toulouse Oliver welcomed the court's ruling, while the DOJ did not immediately comment on the decision. This case follows similar

rulings in other states, including New Hampshire, Arizona, Massachusetts, Michigan, and Oregon. Legal experts view this as a victory for privacy advocates across the country. The DOJ's strategy of requesting bulk voter data is facing increasing judicial scrutiny. State officials argue that such requests infringe on voter privacy rights. The ruling sets a precedent for future requests involving sensitive citizen data. Civil liberty groups are praising the decision as a safeguard against government overreach. The Department of Justice may appeal the decision to a higher court. This litigation reflects broader tensions between federal oversight and state autonomy. Protecting voter information remains a top priority for election officials nationwide.

Sources ZeroHedge

Judge Strikes Down Race-Based Provision In Biden-Era Internet Access Grant Program

A federal judge, John Bates, ruled on July 15 that a race-based provision of the Digital Equity Act was unconstitutional. The law, signed by President Joe Biden in 2021, aimed to close digital gaps for minority groups and rural communities. However, President Donald Trump had halted the competitive grant program due to concerns over racial allocation. Judge Bates cited the Supreme Court's 2023 ruling that struck down race-based preferences in higher education admissions as grounds for his decision. The judge ruled that remedying general social disparities alone does not justify the use of race in government action. This means the grant program can be reinstated without the race-based provision, which the government had committed to restoring. Trump welcomed the ruling, calling it a big win for the American people and labeling the Digital Equity Act as RACIST and UNCONSTITUTIONAL. The decision comes amid efforts to eliminate DEI programs from federal agencies and initiatives. The National Digital Inclusion Alliance credits themselves with securing the program's restoration, and experts hope that the NTIA will quickly implement the reinstated grant program. Critics argue that the ruling undermines efforts to address systemic inequality in technology access. Supporters claim it ensures equal treatment under the law for all applicants. The legal battle highlights the ongoing controversy over affirmative action in federal programs. Implementation of the revised program is expected to begin within the next month. Community organizations are preparing to apply under the new guidelines. The outcome will influence future legislation regarding digital infrastructure funding.

Sources ZeroHedge

Tate brothers arrested in US as further UK charges take total to 59

US Marshals have arrested the Tate brothers in Miami, adding to the legal troubles they face internationally. The arrest comes as further UK charges take the total to 59 against the siblings. They are known for their controversial online presence and previous legal issues in Romania. The extradition process is expected to be complex given the multiple jurisdictions involved. Legal representatives for the brothers have not yet issued a formal statement regarding the new arrests. The charges span various allegations including human trafficking and organized crime. International law enforcement agencies have been coordinating on this case for several months. The arrest in the US marks a significant development in the ongoing investigation. Fans and critics alike are monitoring the situation closely on social media platforms. The brothers had been traveling frequently between countries prior to their detention. This event underscores the increasing scrutiny faced by high-profile internet personalities. Legal experts suggest the trial could set precedents for cross-border cybercrime cases. The UK authorities are eager to proceed with prosecution once extradition is secured.

Public interest in the case remains high due to the brothers' large following. The outcome of this legal battle will be watched globally by observers of internet culture.

Sources [BBC News](#) [The Verge](#)

Walmart removes some salad products from its shelves in response to the cyclospora outbreak

The US Food and Drug Administration has linked shredded iceberg lettuce supplied to Taco Bell restaurants in five states to an ongoing cyclosporiasis outbreak. The agency identified Taylor Farms as the single supplier of iceberg lettuce from Mexico responsible for 1,644 confirmed cases. The FDA recommended consumers avoid bagged lettuce and salads until the outbreak is over. Walmart has removed four Marketside-brand products sold at its stores due to the recall. An investigation by health officials is ongoing, which may identify other potential sources of the outbreak. Cyclosporiasis infections have spread across 34 states since May 1, with no confirmed deaths reported. Hard-hit Michigan has reported over 4,300 cases in that state alone. The true number of people who've been sickened this summer is likely much higher due to the incubation period of cyclosporiasis. Health experts advise consumers to choose whole heads of lettuce and wash all produce thoroughly. There is no surefire way to wash cyclospora off produce once contaminated. Grocery chains are implementing stricter supply chain verification processes. The outbreak has impacted consumer confidence in pre-packaged salad products. Restaurants are reviewing their sourcing policies to prevent future incidents. Public health officials are urging anyone with symptoms to seek medical attention. The economic impact on suppliers and retailers is expected to be significant this quarter.

Sources [Business Insider](#)