Plane slides off roadway at CVG airport, no injuries

(WKRC) - A plane at the Covington/Cincinnati airport (CVG) reportedly slid off of the roadway on Jan. 13 due to snow. Mindy Kershner, CVG Spokesperson, says that a plane was taxiing between locations within the airport boundaries when it slid off the pavement.

The Delta plane arrived at CVG from Las Vegas, Nevada around 5:30 a.m. and was in the process of taxiing to Concourse B when it slid off the pavement. The plane was not on the runway.

There were 126 passengers on board. Twenty three of the passengers were connecting to other flights so they were routed to their connecting flights. No injuries were reported.


Government Shutdown has Made U.S. Cyber Infrastructure More Vulnerable

(Newsweek) Dozens of government websites have seen their security certificates expire since the government shuttered on December 21, with no one at work to renew them, Netcraft reports.

Netcraft estimates that over 80 government websites, including the Department of Justice, the U.S. Court of Appeals and NASA, have been impacted by the shutdown.

The security certificates, known as TLS certificates, operate as a part of Information Technology infrastructure by sending encrypted data between a website and a browser. The certificate protects information and prevents hackers from reading or otherwise gathering information shared between a device and a website, including personal data such as addresses or bank account numbers.

Read more: https://www.newsweek.com/government-shutdown-has-made-us-cyber-infrastructure-more-vulnerable-1289297

Up to 84,000 Americans hospitalized with flu in past three months

(Reuters) - An estimated 69,000 to 84,000 Americans were hospitalized due to the flu in the last three months, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) said on Friday.

Between Oct. 1, 2018 and Jan. 5, 2019, about 6 million to 7 million people were reported to have contracted the flu, according to data collected by the health agency.

Health regulators have been trying to combat flu outbreaks in the United States and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved the first new flu medication in nearly two decades last year.


Kentucky Senate leader seeks to limit needle exchange programs

(WDRB) -- The majority floor leader of the Kentucky Senate has filed a bill that would limit needle exchange programs such as the one operated by Metro Louisville's Department of Health and Wellness.

"I would love to get rid of the needle exchange altogether," Thayer said. "But I don't think I could get that passed."

State lawmakers gave communities the option of starting needle exchange programs in 2015 as part of an anti-heroin bill. Thayer, a Republican from Georgetown, said he filed his bill because the programs have gone further than the law intended.


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Needles in Starbucks Bathrooms Are a Problem.
Here's Company's Solution
Check it out: http://newser.com/s269750

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Page 1 of 4
U.S. medic declared Ebola-free, leaves Nebraska quarantine

(Reuters) A U.S. healthcare worker who was being monitored for the Ebola virus after treating patients in the Democratic Republic of Congo was released from a Nebraska hospital on Saturday after doctors said they had seen no signs of the deadly disease. The individual, whose name was not released for privacy reasons, did not develop Ebola symptoms during 21 days of monitoring at Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha, Nebraska, the center said in a statement.

Read more: https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-ebola-usa/u-s-medic-declared-ebola-free-leaves-nebraska-quarantine-idUSKCN1P700B

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Ebola Readiness – A False Sense of Security?

(Global Defense) For many of us who worked in health care during the 2014-2016 Ebola outbreak, memories of those months are filled with frantic efforts to bring ourselves and staff up to par on personal protective equipment (PPE) guidelines, confirm there were patient movement algorithms, and ensure that if someone with Ebola walked through our doors, we would rapidly identify and isolate them. To say that it was a stressful time would be an understatement. The question is: are we better off than we were in 2014?


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Bullitt County first responders critical of new policy after cancer patient’s death

On-going shortage of Paramedics may have contributed

(WDRB) -- A 54-year-old Bullitt County man was hemorrhaging when his wife called 911 on Tuesday. Ray Hodge was throwing up blood, fighting the lung cancer that had consumed his body for the last three years. But from the time Shonda Hodge hung up with a Bullitt County dispatcher Tuesday afternoon, it took 27 minutes for a paramedic to reach her husband, 911 records show. Of the three first responders that showed up at the Hodge's home, not one was a paramedic. Bullitt County's basic EMTs answered the call.

"There are some interventions that needed to be done immediately," one of the whistleblowers said. "So in this case, this patient may have been needing fluid resuscitation. This patient may have needed an advanced airway such as intubation, and that was withheld. We weren't able to do that."

So why wasn't a paramedic sent to Ray Hodge's home? It all stems from a change made just one day before.


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Countries stealing each other’s physicians

EU may need rules to stop doctors emigrating

(Reuters) - The European Union should consider regulating to stop member states from poaching each other’s doctors and other professionals, German Health Minister Jens Spahn said. Spahn, a conservative heavyweight among Chancellor Angela Merkel’s Christian Democrats who recently lost a contest to become the party’s leader, described a knock-on effect of countries attracting doctors from neighboring countries, as is the case with Switzerland taking in German physicians.

Read more: https://www.reuters.com/article/us-eu-migration-germany/eu-may-need-rules-to-stop-doctors-emigrating-german-minister-idUSKCN1P70GO

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Opioid epidemic puts county coroner over budget

(CBS) The opioid epidemic has claimed so many lives in a suburban Chicago county, the coroner says his office is running out of money.

Opioid-related deaths have nearly tripled in Kane County in recent years, surging to more than 70 in 2018. Coroner Rob Russell told CBS Chicago that some days he's had so many bodies, he's had to transport some to nearby DuPage County for storage.

The newly-elected county sheriff said fighting opioid addiction is a priority. “Two months ago I walked into the jail and realized we didn't even have Narcan,” Kane County Sheriff Ron Hain said.

Hain said he has since stocked the jail with Narcan, a life-saving drug that reverses the effects of an opioid overdose. But without an effective treatment program, he said most of the people addicted to opioids return to using when they get out.


[Note: While this is an Illinois story, Kentucky coroners and public safety often express these same concerns.]

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Page 2 of 4
Painkiller prescriptions for pets may be contributing to opioid epidemic

(CBS) Americans may be taking painkillers prescribed for Fido and Fluffy. That's according to new research that warns the rise in prescription opioids for pets could be playing a role in America's drug epidemic.

The first-of-its-kind study, published in JAMA Network Open, finds that the increase in opioid prescriptions for people over the past decade parallels a rise in similar prescriptions for pets, and that some of those pet meds may be getting into the wrong hands.

Researchers analyzed information on all opioid pills and patches dispensed or prescribed for dogs, cats, and other small animals at the University of Pennsylvania's School of Veterinary Medicine (Penn Vet) from January 2007 through December 2017.

During that time, while the number of visits rose by only 13 percent annually, the number of opioid prescriptions rose by 41 percent.

"As we are seeing the opioid epidemic press on, we are identifying other avenues of possible human consumption and misuse," said study senior author Jeanmarie Perrone, MD, a professor of emergency medicine and the director of medical toxicology at Penn Medicine. "Even where the increase in prescribed veterinary opioids is well intended by the veterinarian, it can mean an increased chance of leftover pills being misused later by household members, sold or diverted, or endangering young children through unintentional exposure."


--- Related ---

Prescription Opioids May Raise Pneumonia Risk
https://news360.com/article/484548608

One dead, 12 hospitalized in mass overdose in California

(NBC) A man died Saturday and 12 people were hospitalized in what authorities in Northern California described as a mass casualty overdose on the powerful narcotic fentanyl. Four of the victims were in critical condition, said Mike O'Brien, a police captain in Chico, California. Two police officers who responded became ill and were treated and released from a hospital, O'Brien said.

Chico Fire Department Chief Steven Standridge said the officers were "potentially exposed" to the drug, a synthetic opioid often imported on the black market from China and Mexico to be used as a filler in heroin and other street narcotics.

It's not clear what drug the fentanyl might have been paired with, O'Brien said, but his officers have only come across it when it was combined with heroin.


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Fatal Drug ODs Soaring Among Middle-Aged Women

(HealthDay News) -- The rate at which middle-aged American women die from overdoses involving opioids and other drugs nearly quadrupled between 1999 and 2017, new government data shows. The steepest increase was actually seen among older women -- those aged 55 to 64 -- noted a team led by Karin Mack, of the CDC's National Center for Injury Prevention and Control.

In fact, the average age of death from overdose crept up by about three years over the course of the study period. In 1999, the average age of a fatal OD in middle-aged women was 43.5 years, but by 2017 it had risen to 46.3 years, Mack's team reported.


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Bare-handed surgeries as Zimbabwe's health system collapses

(AP) — A doctors' strike in Zimbabwe has crippled a health system that was already in intensive care from neglect. Doctors describe grim conditions: Bare-handed surgeries. Plastic bread bags used to collect patients' urine. Broken-down machines. Zimbabwe's health sector, once considered one of the best in Africa, is on its knees. At home, everyday Zimbabweans seeking health care have had to bring their own drugs, syringes, bandages and, at times, water.

Government hospitals were paralyzed by the five-week doctors' strike that "begrudgingly" sputtered to an end on Thursday with no resolution for their demands. The end brings no improvement in conditions.


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**Compass acting a little funky?**

Shifting north magnetic pole forces unprecedented navigation fix

(Reuters) Rapid shifts in the Earth's north magnetic pole are forcing researchers to make an unprecedented early update to a model that helps navigation by ships, planes and submarines in the Arctic, scientists said.

Compass needles point towards the north magnetic pole, a point which has crept unpredictably from the coast of northern Canada a century ago to the middle of the Arctic Ocean, moving towards Russia.

"It's moving at about 50 km (30 miles) a year. It didn't move much between 1900 and 1980 but it's really accelerated in the past 40 years," Ciaran Beggan, of the British Geological Survey in Edinburgh, told Reuters on Friday. A five-year update of a World Magnetic Model was due in 2020 but the U.S. military requested an unprecedented early review.

Learn more: https://www.reuters.com/article/us-science-north/shifting-north-magnetic-pole-forces-unprecedented-navigation-fix-idUSKCN1P51UE

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**When medicine makes you sick**

*How tainted drugs can elude FDA inspections*

(USA Today) The Food and Drug Administration is supposed to inspect all factories, foreign and domestic, that produce drugs for the U.S. market. But a Kaiser Health News review of thousands of FDA documents — inspection records, recalls, warning letters and lawsuits — reveals how drugs that are poorly manufactured or contaminated can still reach consumers. The story focuses on one Michigan family and one little boy, Anderson Moreno, who allegedly suffered "serious and dangerous life-threatening injuries," according to a lawsuit his family has filed.

Story link: https://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/2019/01/12/why-fda-doesnt-always-catch-tainted-medicines/2538786002/

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**British Marines Set Up Specialist Novichok Unit in Response to Salisbury Attack**

The Royal Marines have set up a unit specializing in chemical warfare skills to better prepare for incidents similar to what the UK experienced during the Novichok attack on Salisbury. Zulu Company from 45 Commando, based in Arbroath, Scotland, will be the first marines to respond to a chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear (CBRN) incident at home or abroad.

Learn more from *The Telegraph*: https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2019/01/10/marines-set-specialist-novichok-unit-response-salisbury-attack/

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**Healthcare Providers Should Be Ready for Nerve Agent Attacks**

(GLOBAL DEFENSE & REUTERS Health) On the scene, emergency personnel must first recognize an exposure to sarin, cyclosarin, soman, tabun and VX. Nerve agents, which are in a similar chemical class to some insecticides, affect neurotransmitters and can severely harm the functioning of the central nervous system. This means nerve agent exposures can look similar to opioid or cyanide poisoning. Health care providers can recognize the signature symptoms of nerve agent exposure by remembering the "SLUDGE" mnemonic: salivation, lacrimation (teary eyes), urination, diarrhea, gastrointestinal cramps and emesis (vomiting).

Emergency responders should know how to recognize nerve agents, how to treat the victims and how to alert officials as well as being familiar with the dedicated medical supplies and laboratory resources set up across the country for such an event, the authors write in the Annals of Internal Medicine.

Although the chance of a chemical attack is rare, emergency services personnel and hospital emergency departments should have a preparedness plan to recognize attacks.


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----- IT Quickies for those still on Win 7 -----  

Patch Tuesday updates for Win7 knock out networking
https://news360.com/article/484207318

Anti-malware app causing Windows 7 freezes
https://news360.com/article/484267030

The KHREF Emergency Preparedness Update is assembled several times a week. When events make it necessary, the Update may be sent out several times a day to keep our hospital and the healthcare community advised on preparedness news and information. Most of this information is compiled from open sources, and where possible reference links will be provided. There is an archive of Emergency Preparedness Updates available here, if you would like to added or deleted, or have something you would like to contribute to a future edition of the Emergency Preparedness Update, please contact rbartlett@kyha.com (include your current email address). The preparedness program for the Kentucky Hospital Association (KHA) and KHREF are supported by US DHHS ASPR HPP funds through a contract with Kentucky Public Health.