NORTH DAKOTA STATE AND LOCAL INTELLIGENCE CENTER

CI/KR Ticker

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NORTH DAKOTA AND REGIONAL

For the most up to date information on the North Dakota efforts to fight the coronavirus, visit www.ndresponse.gov

(U) Essentia Health to Offer Curbside Vital Appointments
(U) FARGO, N.D.–Essentia Health has started offering curbside vital appointments for obstetric patients. The idea for performing curbside vitals came after healthcare providers were unable to properly assess fetal heart rate and blood pressures for OB patients during virtual visits.
Source: (U) https://www.kvrr.com/2020/04/23/essentia-health-to-offer-curbside-vital-appointments/

(U) Some MN businesses can reopen Monday, distance learning continues for rest of school year
(U) SAINT PAUL, Minn. – Gov. Tim Walz announces some businesses can reopen Monday and schools will continue distance learning for the rest of the school year. Industrial and manufacturing businesses like wholesale trade, warehouses can welcome back workers. Office-based businesses that aren't customer-faced will also be open for business.
Source: (U) https://www.kvrr.com/2020/04/23/some-mn-businesses-can-reopen-monday-distance-learning-continues-for-rest-of-school-year/

(U) NDSCS Moves Spring Commencement to August
(U) WAHPETON, N.D. — North Dakota State College of Science reschedules its spring commencement ceremony to Friday, August 21. NDSCS will follow guidelines for resuming gatherings and public events as they plan for commencement and the start of fall classes on August 24.
Source: (U) https://www.kvrr.com/2020/04/23/ndscs-moves-spring-commencement-to-august/

(U) HealthPartners Furloughs 2,600 Employees
(U) BLOOMINGTON, Minn. (AP)–Another prominent health care provider is furloughing 2,600 employees as the coronavirus cuts into revenue. HealthPartners, the second-largest nonprofit group in the state, operates seven hospitals, dozens of clinics and a health insurance business.
Source: (U) https://www.kvrr.com/2020/04/24/healthpartners-furloughs-2600-employees/

(U) American Red Cross helps People Affected by Fargo Apartment Fire
(U) FARGO, N.D.–The American Red Cross is helping 12 people affected by an apartment fire Thursday night. The fire occurred in the 2800 block of 7th Street North in Fargo. Multiple people were forced to jump from balconies to escape the smoke that filled two of the three stories.
Source: (U) https://www.kvrr.com/2020/04/24/american-red-cross-helps-people-affected-by-fargo-apartment-fire/

(U) Gate City Bank Donates Hand Sanitizer to Police Departments
(U) FARGO-MOORHEAD – With hand sanitizer in short supply, Gate City Bank is making sure those on the front lines have access to it. Fargo, West Fargo and Moorhead police departments all received a donation of hand sanitizer from Gate City Bank.
Source: (U) https://www.kvrr.com/2020/04/21/gate-city-bank-donates-hand-sanitizer-to-police-departments/

(U) North Dakota makes Improvements for Air Pollution
(U) NORTH DAKOTA – Every year, the American Lung Association puts out its "State of the Air" report that tracks Americans' exposure to unhealthy levels of ozone and particle pollution. After three consecutive years of receiving failing grades for particle pollution, the state was able to turn the F's into C's and D's.
Source: (U) https://www.kvrr.com/2020/04/21/north-dakota-makes-improvements-for-air-pollution/

(U) ND Colleges Receive Second Half of Cares Act Funding
(U) NORTH DAKOTA–The U.S. Department of Education has awarded the second half of funding from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act to colleges and universities in North Dakota. The funding was awarded to higher education institutions to fund IT programs which support remote learning.
Source: (U) https://www.kvrr.com/2020/04/22/nd-colleges-receive-second-half-of-cares-act-funding/

(U) Grants provide funds for CPR devices at Minot, other cities
(U) The Helmsley Charitable Trust has distributed $4.7 million in funding across five states to pay for LUCAS mechanical CPR devices at hospitals caring for coronavirus patients.
Source: (U) https://www.minotdailynews.com/news/local-news/2020/04/grants-provide-funds-for-cpr-devices-at-minot-other-cities/

(U) Trinity Health urges face masks
(U) Trinity Health is asking all individuals to wear a cloth face covering whenever they enter a Trinity Health facility. The request is in accordance with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines which advise people to wear a cloth face covering in public settings where social distancing measures are hard to maintain. The guidance is based on evidence which shows that many people with COVID-19 have no symptoms but can still transmit the virus to others.
Source: (U) https://www.minotdailynews.com/news/local-news/2020/04/trinity-health-urges-face-masks/

(U) NextERA Energy Resources donates $25,000 to Great Plains Food Bank
(U) FARGO – NextERA Energy Resources, through the NextEra Energy Foundation, has made a $25,000 donation to the Great Plains Food Bank. The donation will provide needed food assistance for children, seniors and families across North Dakota and western Minnesota.
Source: (U) https://www.minotdailynews.com/news/local-news/2020/04/nextera-energy-resources-donates-25000-to-great-plains-food-bank/

(U) First District Health Unit sees fewer positive COVID-19 tests, encourages more testing
(U) Positive tests for COVID-19 in the seven-county First District Health Unit region have fallen off, but health officials are encouraging the public to remain vigilant in their precautions and get tested if symptoms develop.
Source: (U) https://www.minotdailynews.com/news/local-news/2020/04/first-district-health-unit-sees-fewer-positive-covid-19-tests-encourages-more-testing/

(U) Emphasis on protection for people in long-term care facilities
(U) The state will be taking stronger steps to contain and slow the spread of the new coronavirus in nursing homes and long-term care facilities, Gov. Doug Burgum announced during his daily press conference on Tuesday. Thirteen out of 218 facilities in North Dakota have had either a staff member or a resident test positive for the virus.
Source: (U) https://www.minotdailynews.com/news/local-news/2020/04/emphasis-on-protection-for-people-in-long-term-care-facilities/

(U) SkySkopes fights COVID-19 with drone technology
(U) GRAND FORKS – Using drones to disinfect playgrounds, deliver medical supplies and even take people's temperatures remotely are some of the ways that unmanned aircraft systems companies are proposing to help fight COVID-19.
Source: (U) https://www.minotdailynews.com/news/local-news/2020/04/hi-tech-virus-fight/

(U) Minot City Council approves grant to advance rail project
(U) The Minot City Council on Monday approved a budget amendment on first reading to use $400,000 from sales tax collected for economic development as matching funds for an engineering study on rail expansion at the agricultural park.
Source: (U) https://www.minotdailynews.com/news/local-news/2020/04/minot-city-council-approves-grant-to-advance-rail-project/

(U) Facebook group keeps tribal nations dancing
(U) Peyton White Buffalo and Danica Alberts danced their way to first and third place, respectively, in dance specials featured on the Quarantine Dance Specials 2020 Facebook page. Peyton is a student at New Town Middle School and Danica is a student at New Town High School.
Source: (U) https://www.minotdailynews.com/news/local-news/2020/04/facebook-group-keeps-tribal-nations-dancing/

NATIONAL

(U) Cyberattacks Target Healthcare Orgs on Coronavirus Frontlines
(U) Cybercriminals aren't sparing medical professionals, hospitals and healthcare orgs on the frontlines of the coronavirus pandemic when it comes to cyberattacks, ransomware attacks and malware. Recent malware campaigns reveal that cybercriminals aren't sparing healthcare firms, medical suppliers and hospitals on the frontlines of the coronavirus pandemic.
Source: (U) https://threatpost.com/cyberattacks-healthcare-orgs-coronavirus-frontlines/154768/

(U) US offers $5 million reward for information on North Korean hackers
(U) US says North Korean hackers pose a significant threat to the integrity and stability of the international financial system. The US government is willing to pay up to $5 million for information on North Korea's hackers and their ongoing hacking operations.
Source: (U) https://www.epa.gov/coronavirus/coronavirus-and-drinking-water-and-wastewater

(U) PoetRAT Trojan targets energy sector using Coronavirus lures
(U) Wind turbine operators are the focus of a new data-stealing campaign. On Thursday, Cisco Talos researchers Warren Mercer, Paul Rascagneres and Vitor Ventura published an analysis of a new campaign that deploys PoetRAT, a previously-undiscovered Remote Access Trojan (RAT) striking both the Azerbaijan government and utility companies. According to the team, the malware attacks supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) systems, commonly used to manage energy networks and manufacturing systems.
Source: (U) https://www.zdnet.com/article/poetrat-trojan-targets-energy-sector-using-coronavirus-lures/

INTERNATIONAL

(U) Prague Airport says thwarted several cyber attacks; hospitals also targeted
(U) PRAGUE (Reuters) - Prague Airport and a regional Czech hospital said on Saturday they had thwarted cyber attacks on their IT networks, reinforcing warnings by the national cyber security watchdog of likely attempts to harm the country's infrastructure.
Source: (U) https://uk.reuters.com/article/us-czech-cyber/prague-airport-says-thwarted-several-cyber-attacks-in-recent-days-idUKKBN2200GW

(U) Many Problems with Cyber Security of Schipihol's Border Control: Court of Audit
(U) Schiphol is very vulnerable to cyber attacks, the Court of Audit concluded after investigating the cyber security of the border control systems the Koninklijke Marechaussee uses at the airport. Two of the three systems are not properly protected against cyber attacks, NOS reports.
Source: (U) https://nltimes.nl/2020/04/20/many-problems-cyber-security-schipihols-border-control-court-audit

(U) Home-made bomb delivered to Hong Kong police chief's office in envelope, though no injuries or evacuation required
(U) Hong Kong's police chief received an improvised explosive device at his headquarters on Monday, though no one was injured and evacuation was deemed unnecessary.At an afternoon press briefing, police said the attack represented an "open challenge" and warned against home-grown terrorism, saying the device was similar to ones used by overseas terror groups.
Source: (U) https://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/law-and-crime/article/3080704/home-made-bomb-delivered-hong-kong-police-chiefs

(U) Guangdong's coronavirus success shows an outbreak can be controlled, study finds
(U) New analysis of coronavirus genomes from Guangdong has revealed that mass testing and intervention measures such as travel restrictions were effective at containing the Covid-19 outbreak in

China's most populous province. Researchers from the University of Oxford and the Guangdong Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) analysed the genomic sequences of 53 patients from Guangdong.
Source: (U) https://www.scmp.com/news/china/science/article/3081397/test-trace-isolate-guangdongs-coronavirus-success-shows-outbreak

(U) A look at the ATM/PoS malware landscape from 2017-2019
(U) From remote administration and jackpotting, to malware sold on the Darknet, attacks against ATMs have a long and storied history. And, much like other areas of cybercrime, attackers only refine and grow their skillset for infecting ATM systems from year-to-year. So what does the ATM landscape look like as of 2020? Let's take a look.
Source: (U) https://securelist.com/atm-pos-malware-landscape-2017-2019/96750/

(U) State-backed phishing targets Govt employees with fast food lures
(U) More than a dozen state-backed hacking groups are actively targeting U.S. Government employees and healthcare organizations in phishing campaigns that use lures designed to take advantage of the fears surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic.
Source: (U) https://www.bleepingcomputer.com/news/security/state-backed-phishing-targets-govt-employees-with-fast-food-lures/

(U) Overlay Malware leverages Chrome Browser, targets Banks and Heads to Spain
(U) Researchers are warning of a remote overlay malware attack that leverages a fake Chrome browser plugin to target the accounts of banking customers in Spain. Grandoreiro is a type of remote overlay banking trojan, designed to help attackers overtake devices and display a full-screen overlay image when victim accesses their online banking account.
Source: (U) https://threatpost.com/overlay-malware-exploits-chrome-browser-targets-banks-and-heads-to-spain/154713/

(U) Vietnamese Threat Actors APT32 targeting Wuhan Government and Chinese Ministry of Emergency Management in Latest example of COVID-19 related Espoinage
(U) From at least January to April 2020, suspected Vietnamese actors APT32 carried out intrusion campaigns against Chinese targets that Mandiant Threat Intelligence believes was designed to collect intelligence on the COVID-19 crisis. Spear phishing messages were sent by the actor to China's Ministry of Emergency Management as well as the government of Wuhan province, where COVID-19 was first identified.
Source: (U) https://www.fireeye.com/blog/threat-research/2020/04/apt32-targeting-chinese-government-in-covid-19-related-espionage.html

(U) Coronavirus: Police bust massive face mask scam
(U) Facing shortages due to the COVID-19 outbreak, German health authorities attempted to buy masks in bulk online. They were soon ensnared in an elaborate international scam — paying millions for masks that didn't exist. Police across Europe foiled an intricate fake face mask plot that nearly cost German authorities €15 million ($16.4 million), Europol announced on Tuesday.
Source: (U) https://www.dw.com/en/coronavirus-police-bust-massive-face-mask-scam/a-53123078

(U) Dogs are Joining the Fight Against COVID-19 by Learning to Sniff out the Virus

(U) A medical charity in England that has successfully trained dogs to detect malaria is now attempting to train man's best friend to identify the smell of COVID-19. The charity, called Medical Detection Dogs, is partnering with the Tropical Medicine and Hygiene School in London along with Durham University to begin trialing dogs for the job.

Source: (U) https://www.goodnewsnetwork.org/dogs-joining-fight-against-covid-by-sniffing-out-virus/

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