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IAH unveils speedier security lanes for fliers



Inside C5

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Wall Street erases gain after U.S. indicts Russians

Eric Tucker,

(Reuters) - Gain on Wall Street evaporated on Friday after a U.S. grand jury indicted several Russians for interfering in with the 2016 presidential election to help then-candidate Donald Trump. U.S. Special Counsel Robert Mueller's office said a U.S. federal grand jury indicted 13 Russian nationals and three Russian entities accused of interfering with U.S. elections and political processes. The S&P 500 had been up over half a percent but lost much of that after the announcement of the indictments. It remained on track for six straight days of gains. "The market was looking for an excuse to roll over and Russia headlines would do it. You've had such a rally for the week, and people have been looking for an excuse to take profits heading into the weekend," said Dennis Dick, a proprietary trader at Bright Trading LLC in Las Vegas. A market correction sparked by inflation concerns earlier in February raised fears that a nine-year bull market had ended, but data on consumer prices and retail sales this week left investors less worried.

Investors on Friday snapped up shares of Johnson & Johnson (JNJ.N), Abbvie (ABBV.N) and Pfizer (PFE.N), all up more than 1.5 percent and supporting the S&P 500 more than any other stocks. "The fundamental story has not changed," said Ben Phillips, Chief Investment Officer of EventShares. "We really have not seen the tax reform start flowing through yet into company earnings. We think it's going to cause a second wave of earnings optimism." Economic data out on Friday painted a rosy picture. Homebuilding increased to more than a one-year high in January, boosted by strong increases in the construction of single- and multi-family housing units. A different report showed import prices jumped last month. CBOE volatility index .VIX, known as Wall Street's fear gauge, edged up to 20.43 but remained way off the 50-point level it hit during the peak of the sell-off. Coca-Cola (KO.N) rose 0.5 percent after the company reported better-than-expected profit and sales as it sold more teas, coffees and vitamin water.



Flynn, a bichon frise and winner of Best In Show at the 142nd Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show, poses with handler Bill McFadden during a visit to the New York Stock Exchange in New York

Among the big decliners was Kraft Heinz (KHC.O), which dropped 3.7 percent after quarterly profit and sales missed analysts' estimates. Advancing issues outnumbered declining ones on the NYSE by a 1.51-to-1 ratio; on Nasdaq, a 1.24-to-1 ratio favored advancers.

Let's work together on defense, France and Germany tell Europe

MUNICH (Reuters) - The defense ministers of Germany and France pledged to redouble their military and foreign policy cooperation efforts on Friday, inviting other European countries to participate if they felt ready to do so. German Defence Minister Ursula von der Leyen talks at the Munich Security Conference in Munich, Germany, February 16, 2018. REUTERS/Michaela Rehle In a speech to the Munich Security Conference, German defense minister Ursula von der Leyen said Europe's countries would not be able to respond nimbly enough to global challenges if they were stymied by the need to decide joint foreign policy approaches unanimously. "Europe has to up its pace in the face of global challenges from terrorism, poverty and climate change," she said. "Those who want to must be able to advance without being blocked by individual countries." Her French counterpart Florence Parly said any such deepened cooperation would be complementary to the NATO alliance, which itself was based on the principle that members contributed differently depending on their capacities. "The reality has always been that some countries are by choice more integrated and more

able to act than others," she said. The push comes as Germany's political class reluctantly concedes it must play a larger security role to match its economic pre-eminence in Europe, amid concerns that the European Union is unable to respond effectively to security concerns beyond its eastern and southern borders. German Defence Minister Ursula von der Leyen talks at the Munich Security Conference in Munich, Germany, February 16, 2018. REUTERS/Michaela Rehle But in their deal for another four years of a "grand coalition" government, Chancellor Angela Merkel's conservatives and the Social Democrats have agreed to boost spending on the armed forces after years of post-Cold War decline. The deal, which must still be ratified by the Social Democrat membership, comes as Germany reluctantly takes on the role of the continent's pre-eminent political power-broker, a role generations of post-war politicians have shied away from. Days after U.S. Secretary of Defense Jim Mattis reiterated President Donald Trump's demand that European countries spend more on their militaries, Von der Leyen pledged to spend



German Defence Minister von der Leyen talks at the Munich Security Conference in Munich

more on its military and the United Nations, but called in return for other countries not to turn away from multilateralism. The pledges come as the EU seeks a new basis on which to cooperate with Britain, traditionally one of the continent's leading security players, after its vote to leave the EU. Earlier on Friday, the leaders of the three countries' security services said close security cooperation in areas like terrorism, illegal migration, proliferation and cyber attacks, must continue after Britain's departure.

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A CDC doctor has warned this year's "disastrous" flu shot may be responsible for the deadly flu epidemic sweeping the country.

"Some of the patients I've administered the flu shot to this year have died," the doctor said, adding "I don't care who you are, this scares the heck out of me."

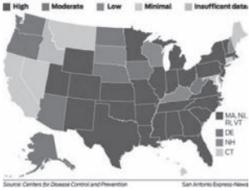
"We have seen people dying across the country of the flu, and one thing nearly all of them have in common is they got the flu shot."

Scientists were worried this year's flu season was going to be rough and their fears have been proven well founded. The flu season is off to a record-breaking start, with the CDC reporting widespread flu activity from coast to coast. Many health officials believe that 2018 will ultimately be the worst flu outbreak that we have experienced since 1918. The CDC doctor's experience of patients dying of the flu after receiving the flu shot is sadly not uncommon. Eight Santa Barbara County residents have died from the flu in the last fortnight. Seven of them had the flu shot.

This deadly pattern is replicating itself across the country. Yet health officials are still telling people to get the flu shot, even though it does not work well this season. Health officials have started admitting that the vaccine is only 10% effective.

Flu-like illness in the United States

This map represents flu-like activity within each state using the proportion of outpatient visits to health care providers. The data are from the week ending Dec. 29.



The verdict is out on flu shots. Many medical experts now agree it is more important to protect yourself and your family from the flu vaccine than the flu itself.

Every year the pharmaceutical industry, medical experts and the mainstream media work hard to convince us to get vaccinated against the flu. 2018 is no different. But, as usual, we're not being told the whole story. Pharmaceutical companies provide mainstream media outlets with a huge percentage of their advertising revenue. Big pharmaceutical companies actually spend far more on advertising than research. We are talking hundreds of billions of dollars.

Flu vaccines contain dangerous ingredients

CDC Doctor: 'Disastrous' Flu Shot Is Causing Deadly Flu Outbreak

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor



The pharmaceutical industry, medical experts and the mainstream media admit to us that flu vaccines contain strains of the flu virus. What they are less likely to reveal though is the long list of other ingredients that come with the vaccine.

It is now a known fact that flu vaccines contain mercury, a heavy metal known to be hazardous for human health. Mercury toxicity can cause depression, memory loss, cardiovascular diseases, respiratory problems, ADD, oral health problems, digestive imbalances and other serious health issues.

The flu vaccines actually do not immunize but sensitize the body against the virus.



Have you ever noticed how vaccinated children get sick almost immediately following a vaccination?

This is because the flu virus is introduced into their bodies. So rather than immunize, the flu shot actually only sensitizes the body against the virus.

And the fact that it causes individuals to get ill following a shot indicates immuno-suppression (i.e. lowering of the immunity).

Makes you more susceptible to pneumonia and other contagious diseases

For someone with an already suppressed immune system, injecting strains of the flu virus can have devastating consequences.

Weakens immunological responses

There have been literally thousands of medical journal articles published that show injecting vaccines can lead to harmful immunological responses and a host of other infections. Moreover, weak immunological responses only decrease a person's ability to

fight the diseases that the vaccine was supposed to protect against in the first place.

Serious neurological disorders

Evidence now suggests that ingredients in flu vaccinations can actually cause serious neurological disorders. In 1976 a significant number of those who received the flu vaccine acquired Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS), a disorder characterized by permanent nerve damage and even paralysis.

Flu vaccines can contain many harmful materials including detergent, mercury, formaldehyde, and strains of live flu virus.

In August 1999, the Committee on Government Reform initiated an investigation into Federal vaccine policy. This investigation focused on possible conflicts of interest on the part of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The investigation concluded that many individuals serving on two key advisory committees had financial ties to the pharmaceutical companies that manufacture vaccines.

Often, these individuals were granted waivers to fully participate in the discussions that led to recommendations on vaccine licensing and adding vaccines to the Childhood Immunization Schedule.

This in itself creates serious doubt as to how effective flu vaccines really are. (Courtesy <http://yournewswire.com>)

Related

Researchers Have Found An Easy Way To Kill The Flu Virus

The flu season in 2018 is one of the worst we've experienced in recent years. In fact, health officials confirmed this past Friday that we're on track to break several records

before the 2018 flu season is through. Representatives from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said that hospitalizations related to the flu have already surpassed earlier records, and doctor visits from people with flu-like symptoms haven't been this high since the H1N1 "swine flu" pandemic back in 2009. 63 children have died from the flu so far this season, quickly approaching last year's total, when the flu killed 110 children. The flu shot is also not terribly effective this year, though health officials are still encouraging people to vaccinate themselves.



The flu is a serious problem each year,

especially for very young children and the elderly. Officials say the 2017-2018 flu season is also particularly dicey because it's slamming the entire country at once, rather than hitting different regions across the United States in waves. Some hospitals have grown overcrowded due to the influx of patients with severe flu symptoms, and all signs suggest things will get worse before they get better. While all this is going on, however, researchers have made what could be a groundbreaking discovery that helps shape the way we fight the flu in the near future.

Recognizing flu symptoms early on and getting to the doctor as quickly as possible are really the only ways to combat the flu. Nothing can stop it once someone has been infected though, which is why researchers put a great deal of time into studying ways to stop the spread of the flu virus.

The bad news is that recent studies have found that the flu is even easier to catch than we previously expected, with some flu viruses capable of lingering in a room for as long as two hours after an infected person has left. The good news is that scientists may have discovered a simple and effective way to kill the flu virus, and the discovery could potentially have a dramatic impact on cutting the spread of the flu in the near future.

Researchers at Columbia University found that a special type of ultraviolet light kills the flu virus. Of course, normal UV light kills germs as well, but it has also been found to

cause cataracts and even cancer in humans. But the researchers found that a different type of UV light called far ultraviolet-C (far-UVC) kills the flu virus just as effectively as



normal UV light, and it poses no known threats to humans.

"Airborne-mediated microbial diseases such as influenza and tuberculosis represent major public health challenges," the researchers wrote in their abstract in a paper published in the journal Scientific Reports. "A direct approach to prevent airborne transmission is inactivation of airborne pathogens, and the airborne antimicrobial potential of UVC ultraviolet light has long been established; however, its widespread use in public settings is limited because conventional UVC light sources are both carcinogenic and cataractogenic. By contrast, we have previously shown that far-UVC light (207-222nm) efficiently inactivates bacteria without harm to exposed mammalian skin."



The abstract continued, "This is because, due to its strong absorbance in biological materials, far-UVC light cannot penetrate even the outer (non living) layers of human skin or eye; however, because bacteria and viruses are of micrometer or smaller dimensions, far-UVC can penetrate and inactivate them. We show for the first time that far-UVC efficiently inactivates airborne aerosolized viruses, with a very low dose of 2 mJ/cm2 of 222-nm light inactivating >95% of aerosolized H1N1 influenza virus. Continuous very low dose-rate far-UVC light in indoor public locations is a promising, safe and inexpensive tool to reduce the spread of airborne-mediated microbial diseases."

Special far-UVC lamps could be set up in public spaces such as hospitals, potentially having a huge impact on the spread of the flu and other airborne contagions. And according to David J. Brenner, the lead author on the paper, such setups would be completely safe for humans.

"Far-UVC light has a very limited range and cannot penetrate through the outer dead-cell layer of human skin or the tear layer in the eye, so it's not a human health hazard," Brenner said in a press release. "But because viruses and bacteria are much smaller than human cells, far-UVC light can reach their DNA and kill them." (Courtesy <http://bgr.com>)



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A Snapshot Of The World



German Defence Minister von der Leyen attends a signing ceremony at the Alliance headquarters in Brussels



Folk artists perform a lion dance ahead of the Chinese Lunar New Year, or Spring festival, at Taierzhuang Ancient Town scenic area in Zaozhuang



U.S. President Donald Trump boards Air Force One as he departs for West Palm Beach, Florida, from Joint Base Andrews



Show attendees look over a Chevrolet Bolt EV electric vehicle at the North American International Auto Show in Detroit



Performers take part in the re-enactment of a Chinese New Year Qing Dynasty ceremony at the Temple of Earth in Ditan Park in Beijing



Villagers perform a dragon dance during a folk customs and culture festival ahead of the Chinese Lunar New Year, or Spring Festival, in a village in Rizhao



A man rides an electric bicycle through a hutong alley decorated with Spring Festival lanterns in an old neighbourhood of Beijing ahead of the Chinese Lunar New Year,



Folk artists perform on stilts ahead of the Chinese Lunar New Year, or Spring festival, at Taierzhuang Ancient Town scenic area in Zaozhuang



Man performs a stunt through a ring of fire during a traditional folklore performance at Chenjiagou village



"A lot of people are eating seafood all the time, and fish are eating plastic all the time, so I think that's a problem," says a marine toxicologist.

We've long known that the fish we eat are exposed to toxic chemicals in the rivers, bays and oceans they inhabit. The substance that's gotten the most attention — because it has shown up at disturbingly high levels in some fish — is mercury.

"The ocean is basically a toilet bowl for all of our chemical pollutants and waste in general," says Chelsea Rochman, a postdoctoral researcher at the University of California, Davis, who authored the study.

For many years, scientists have known that chemicals will move up the food chain as predators absorb the chemicals consumed by their prey.

While it's impossible to know whether any given fish you buy at the sea-

How Plastic In The Ocean Is Contaminating America's Seafood

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

highest levels of mercury, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and other dioxins. (And that's concerning, given that canned tuna was the second most popular fish consumed in the U.S. in 2012, according to the National Fisheries Institute.)

What scientists didn't know was exactly what role plastics played in transferring these chemicals into the food chain. To find out, Rochman and her co-authors fed medaka, a fish species often used in experiments, three different diets.

One group of medaka got regular fish food, one group got a diet that was 10 percent "clean" plastic (with no pollutants) and a third group got a diet with 10 percent plastic that had been soaking in the San Diego Bay for several months.

food counter has consumed this much plastic, Rochman's findings do have implications for human health, she notes. "A lot of people are eating seafood all the time, and fish are eating plastic all the time, so I think that's a problem."

And there's a lot of plastic out there in the open ocean. As Edward Humes, author of Garbology, told Fresh Air's Terry Gross in 2012, the weight of plastic finding its way into the sea each year is estimated to be equivalent to the weight of 40 aircraft carriers.

be of concern.

The Environmental Protection Agency does put out advisories to warn consumers when fish get contaminated with chemicals in local U.S. waters. But a lot of our seafood now comes from foreign waters, which the EPA does not monitor.

As for Rochman, she says her research in marine toxicology has persuaded her to eat seafood no more than twice per week. And she now avoids



swordfish altogether. (Courtesy https://www.npr.org/sections)

Table with 2 columns: Item, Quantity. Includes items like cigarettes, food wrappers, beverage bottles, etc.

Top items found in the "Great Pacific Garbage Patch."

Consider the five massive gyres of trash particles swirling around in the Indian, Atlantic and Pacific oceans alone. Those gyres, Hume told Gross, contain "plastic that has been weathered and broken down by the elements into these little bits, and it's getting into the food chain."

One of those gyres is the infamous Great Pacific Garbage Patch. Fish could encounter the plastic in those gyres, but also much closer to shore, says Rochman.

Even so, the consensus in the public health community still seems to be that the benefits of eating fish — because of their omega-3 fatty acids, among other assets — exceed the potential risks.



Seafood in grocery stores may have been caught in parts of the polluted ocean.

"Plastics — when they end up in the ocean — are a sponge for chemicals already out there," says Rochman. "We found that when the plastic interacts with the juices in the [fish's] stomach, the chemicals come off of plastic and are transferred into the bloodstream or tissue."

The fish on the marine plastic diet were also more likely to have tumors and liver problems.

While it's impossible to know whether any given fish you buy at the sea-

Advertisement for Professor David Suzuki's book "Seafood May Be Gone by 2048".

Advertisement for the 22nd Annual Texas International Lunar Festival, featuring entertainment, food, and prizes.

Advertisement for eSoon Travel, offering various travel packages and services.

Advertisement for 千里行旅遊 (Qianli Travel), featuring travel packages and contact information.

Advertisement for 快捷旅遊 (Quick Travel), offering travel services and packages.

Advertisement for 幸福新邨公寓 (Happy Village Apartments), listing amenities and contact info.

Advertisement for 百樂公寓 (Bellaire Silk), featuring a new apartment building.

Advertisement for 六福旅行社 (USA Gateway), listing travel services and contact info for various cities.

Advertisement for 阿拉斯加幸福極光 (Alaska Aurora) and other travel packages.

Advertisement for 明星假期 (Majestic Vacations), offering vacation packages.

Large advertisement for 美南新聞日報 (Southern Chinese Daily News) with contact information.

Advertisement for 美聯混凝土 (Meilian Concrete) services, including foundation repair and concrete sales.

IAH unveils speedier security lanes for fliers

By Andrea Rumbaugh

The Houston Airport System on Thursday formally unveiled a \$3.9 million automated screening lane system designed to alleviate a major headache of airport travel.

Travelers in Terminal D at Bush Intercontinental Airport are less likely to get stuck behind families or pokey passengers digging for that 3.4-ounce, liquid-containing bottle at the bottom of their carry-on luggage.

"He cautioned me," Diaz said. "He tried to tem-



TSA officials demonstrate an automated screening lane system for departing passengers at the TSA security checkpoint in Terminal D at Bush Intercontinental Airport Thursday, Feb. 15, 2017.

per my enthusiasm for this. He said, 'You know, it's not going to be done tomorrow. But we will get there.' Here's how the new lanes work: Three travelers step up to separate areas of the conveyor belt, where a bin automatically appears in an opening below that belt.

When passengers have completed the screening and removed their items from the bins, that traveler or a TSA officer will place the bin in a return receptacle. A conveyor belt carries it to the front of the line, giving TSA officers more time to focus on security rather than relocating bins.

to work with partners like the Houston Airport System, which paid to install the automated lanes designed and manufactured by Scarabee.

James Scarborough, traveling through Terminal D on Thursday, liked that passengers weren't crowded on top of each other as they loaded up the bins.

"It seemed to work better because it just kept going instead of having people back up the entire line," Urbantke said. Houston has often been a front-runner in adopting new technologies and procedures.

In 2016, Houston airports introduced Mobile Passport Control that allows international travelers to submit declaration forms from their smartphones.

"All of these things are focused on increasing security," Diaz said. "But doing it in a way that is sensitive to the human element: the passenger. And that the passenger has to be treated with respect, has to be treated with dignity. We've got to remember that the security is meant for them."



Luggage and other items is shown on an automated screening lane system for departing passengers at the TSA security checkpoint in Terminal D at Bush Intercontinental Airport Thursday, Feb. 15, 2018, in Houston.

Advertisement for Double Star Academy (育才學校) featuring math and English courses for various grade levels.

Advertisement for Talent Academy (騰龍教育學院) offering bilingual day care, after-school programs, and summer camps.

Advertisement for IQ Tutoring Center (IQ VIET MY) offering tutoring services for students from pre-K to 12th grade.

Advertisement for Fame Well School (瀚歲文藝學校) offering various educational programs including dance, art, and academic courses.

Large advertisement for John Lee Insurance (李元鐘保險) listing various insurance services and contact information.

Advertisement for Lily Dance Academy (王麗純舞蹈學院) offering dance classes for children and adults.

Advertisement for Houston Yellow Pages (HOUSTON 休斯頓黃頁) promoting online business listings.

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