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Lilis Energy moves to Houston, grows in Permian



Inside C2

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‘Nobody thought we could do it’: rescue of Thai boys accomplished

CHIANG RAI, Thailand (Reuters) - Rescuers freed the last four of 12 Thai boys and their soccer coach from deep inside a flooded cave on Tuesday, a successful end to a perilous mission that gripped the world for more than two weeks.

The “Wild Boars” soccer team, aged between 11 and 16, and their 25-year-old coach became trapped on June 23 while exploring the cave complex in the northern province of Chiang Rai when a rainy season downpour flooded the tunnels.

“We are not sure if this is a miracle, a science, or what. All the thirteen Wild Boars are now out of the cave,” the Navy SEAL unit, which led the rescue, said on its Facebook page, adding all were safe.

British divers found the 13, hungry and huddled in darkness on a muddy bank in a partly flooded chamber several kilometers inside the Tham Luang cave complex, on Monday last week. After pondering for days how to get the 13 out, a rescue operation was launched on Sunday when four of the boys were brought out, tethered to rescue divers.

Another four were rescued on Monday and the last four boys and the coach were brought out on Tuesday, prompting rounds of spontaneous applause as ambulances and helicopters passed. Celebrations were tinged with sadness over the loss of a former Thai navy diver who died on Friday while on a re-supply mission inside the cave.

“I want to tell the coach thank you so much for helping the boys survive this long,” said one Chiang Rai woman wearing a traditional dress, tears brimming in her eyes.

“I remember all of their faces, especially the youngest one. He’s the smallest one and he doesn’t have as much experience as the others... I felt like he was one of my own children and I wanted him to come home.”

Rescuers brought out the last five on stretchers, one by one over the course of Tuesday, and they were taken by helicopter to hospital.

Chief of the rescue mission Narongsak Osottanakorn addressed reporters at the end of the 17-day mission, arriving at a media center to a round of applause.

Rescued schoolboys are moved from a Royal Thai Police helicopter to an awaiting ambulance at a military airport in Chiang Rai, July 9, 2018. REUTERS/Athit Perawongmetha

He confirmed that a medic and all navy SEAL divers involved in the rescue mission had also left the cave safely.

“Nobody thought we could do it. It was a world first,” he said.

“It was Mission Possible for Team Thailand.”

“POWER OF LOVE”

“The heroes this time are people all over the world,” he added, referring to the multinational team that assisted in the operation.

“This mission was successful because we had power. The power of love. Everybody sent it to the 13.”

Officials said details of the rescue operation would be revealed on Wednesday.

The eight boys brought out on Sunday and Monday were in good health overall and some asked for chocolate bread for breakfast, officials said earlier.

Two of the boys had suspected lung infections but the four boys from the first group rescued were all walking around in hospital. Volunteers from as far away as Australia and the United States helped with the effort to rescue the boys. U.S. military personnel also helped.

U.S. President Donald Trump hailed the rescue.

“On behalf of the United States, congratulations to the Thai Navy SEALs and all on the successful rescue of the 12 boys and their coach from the treacherous cave in Thailand,” Trump said



Rescued schoolboys are moved from a Royal Thai Police helicopter to an awaiting ambulance at a military airport in Chiang Rai



Journalists celebrate after a news conference near Tham Luang cave complex in the northern province of Chiang Rai

on Twitter.

“Such a beautiful moment - all freed, great job!”

Authorities did not reveal the identity of the boys as they were brought out. Parents of the four boys rescued on Sunday were allowed to see them through a glass window at the hospital, public health officials said on Tuesday, but they will be quarantined for the time being.

The boys were still being quarantined from their parents because of the risk of infection and would

likely be kept in hospital for a week for tests, officials said earlier.

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Lilis Energy moves to Houston, grows in Permian

By Jordan Blum

Three years ago, a tiny Denver company called Lilis Energy was, like many small oil and gas producers, teetering on the edge of bankruptcy as crude prices plunged. That's when Ron Ormand, a financier and oil industry veteran, joined the board of directors. Lilis avoided bankruptcy, moved to San Antonio and sold its holdings in Colorado's DJ Basin oil field, shifting its focus to the Permian Basin and buying up acreage at low prices as the energy bust scared off most investors. Today, after moving its headquarters to Houston in June, Lilis is considered by analysts as one of the best-positioned small players in the booming West Texas oil field, able to increase production quickly as crude prices rise and possibly heading for a big payday as it becomes a tempting acquisition target for large oil companies.

"Lilis is really one of the most exciting stories out there," said Mike Kelly, energy analyst at Seaport Global Securities in Houston. "It's a huge opportunity to absolutely rip."

Ormand, now chairman and CEO, is widely credited with getting Lilis to this point, avoiding bankruptcy while navigating a treacherous road of headquarter relocations and several CEO changes. Today, Lilis faces other challenges as it tries to operate in the crowded Permian, where companies are producing more oil than they can pipe out, oilfield workers are in increasingly short supply, and costs are rising. But it's nothing like what Lilis has already beenthrugh.

"It's going to get worse before it gets better," Ormand said of the shortages of men, materials and transport in the Permian, "but we're going to be in good shape. We're on a steep path of growth."
Lilis' experience meshes with the deal-making frenzy going on as the Permian stays on track to produce more oil than any OPEC

nation except Saudi Arabia within five years. Companies are swapping land with rivals to build the best the exploration and production blocks, cutting deals with trucking companies to move the oil, and racing to contract with pipeline developers to ensure they can move their oil and gas as soon as new pipelines come online. Ormand believes Lilis has checked all of these boxes.

After spending much of his career in investment banking focused on the energy sector, Ormand branched out in 2009, when he co-founded the Houston exploration and production company Magnum Hunter Resources, which became one of the fastest growing producers in the earlier days of the shale boom. Ormand watched the money as chief financial officer while co-founder and CEO Gary Evans, a brash wildcatter, found the oil and made the deals.

Ormand left the company in 2013 for private equity, only to see Magnum Hunter move to Dallas and later file for bankruptcy during the bust. In 2016, the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission hit Magnum Hunter and Ormand with penalties for a lack of financial controls dating back to 2011.

Ormand paid \$25,000 in a settlement without admitting guilt, saying he just wanted to put it behind him. The company paid \$250,000.

When the opportunity to join Lilis came in 2015, Ormand saw a new chance to leave his mark in the industry. He took over as chairman in the beginning of 2016 to help lead the move from Denver to Texas and the Permian.

Lilis bought a financially distressed Permian operator, Brushy Energy, and moved into its San Antonio headquarters. The acquisition put Lilis in the Delaware Basin, the less developed western lobe of the Permian that extends into New Mexico. Lilis has since increased its Del-



aware acreage by more than five times to about 20,000 acres, ahead of the land rush that has enveloped the shale play recently. When Ormand became chairman, Lilis had just five employees. Today, it has 30. "Oil prices were falling dramatically, and the opportunity was to enter into the basin at a low-cost time," Ormand recalled. "Typically, that's the best time to get in, although it certainly takes some courage." But this success hasn't come without drama. Controversy rocked Lilis last summer when its then-CEO, Abraham "Avi" Mirman, resigned after the SEC filed suit against him, alleging securities fraud for his participation in a penny stock scheme unrelated to Lilis. Mirman was accused of working to manipulate the shares of a small silver mining company in Toronto for profit — before he joined Lilis, according to the SEC.

Lilis promoted its president, James Linville to the CEO role, but he was out after about eight months. Ormand was already involved in the daily operations as executive chairman, so it made practical and financial sense to consolidate the CEO and chairman positions under him this spring, he said.

RELATED
Oil is back in Houston's driver's seat EV Energy emerges from bankruptcy as Harvest Oil & Gas Lilis Energy moves to Houston, grows in Permian In the two years since focusing on the Permian, Lilis has ramped up its production from about 500 to 7,000 barrels a day, and Ormand says the company is just getting started. In the meantime, Lilis tentatively plans to ship its oil on the EPIC Crude Oil Pipeline stretching from the Permian to refining and port hubs in Corpu



主播高威陣

(播名:高白) 畢業於浙江傳媒學院新聞系播音與主持專業, 中國國家級普通話測評員、中國國家級主任播音員。
1986年至2009年任浙江衛視首席新聞主播, 2010年至2015年任浙江衛視駐美國首席記者兼新華社駐休士頓記者(2016年卸任)。



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Editor's Choice



Acting Chiang Rai province governor Narongsak Osatanakorn talks to journalists after a news conference near Tham Luang cave complex in the northern province of Chiang Rai



Journalists celebrate after a news conference near Tham Luang cave complex in the northern province of Chiang Rai



Chiang Rai province acting Gov. Narongsak Osatanakorn greets journalists during his news conference near Tham Luang cave complex in the northern province of Chiang Rai



Volunteers react after hearing all boys were rescued from the Tham Luang cave in the northern province of Chiang Rai



Onlookers watch as an ambulance carrying rescued schoolboy from Tham Luang cave complex leaves a military airport in Chiang Rai



Onlookers watch as an ambulance carrying rescued schoolboy from Tham Luang cave complex leaves a military airport in Chiang Rai



Onlookers wave as an ambulance carrying rescued schoolboys leaves a military airport in Chiang Rai



A helicopter carrying rescued schoolboys approaches to land at a military airport in Chiang Rai



Worried About Your Facebook Data? Many Facebook Users Aren't Worried

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

Last weekend, the New York Times revealed that data analytics firm Cambridge Analytica misused data from as many as 50 million Facebook profiles to aid messaging tied to the Trump campaign in the 2016 presidential election.

The Federal Trade Commission has since opened an investigation into Facebook, but the entire incident has left social media users concerned about their own privacy online and how their information is being used.

The Cambridge Analytica case has revealed the extent to which Facebook collects and sells user data. What does this mean for the average social media user?

At this point, if you've already given Facebook information, then the horse is out of the barn and you're not going to get it back in. One of the problems with the design of the programming interface these Facebook apps use is that sometimes your own settings don't protect you. By default, when someone installs a Facebook app, it can access not only your data but all your friends' data.

It also means you've given data away not only to Facebook but probably to even more subtle sources. If you wanted to be able to share your photos from iPhone, for example, so that you can post those photos directly to Facebook, that means that iPhone got access to data about you, including things like employment history. Hopefully the Cambridge Analytica story can help people realize the extent to which their information is being used, and that they need to limit what is known about them online moving forward.

What are some practical steps that users can take to protect themselves?

There's a spectrum of what people can do to protect themselves. You can take it to the extreme and delete your Facebook profile and all other social media. There are a lot of people saying that's what people should do in response, but I don't think that's entirely practical. Facebook and some other platforms like Twitter are actually essential for the things we do, and at some point it's really the main way that people access vital information.

Instead, the first thing you can do is de-authorize those apps you don't need. If you participated in a personality survey like the one that Cambridge Analytica used, you probably want to turn that off and revoke access. Facebook has a settings interface that allows you to lock down information being shared and restrict apps installed by your friends that can see your own information. That's a concrete thing you can do to at least

limit the data collection going forward. Another thing to be aware of is that if you're still in Facebook and you didn't explicitly log out of the site, then anytime you visit a website that has a Facebook 'like' button, your browser is actually communicating with Facebook to let it know that you and your specific profile, not just an anonymous person, is visiting that website. So, these privacy protections that you've set within the Facebook interface only protect you within Facebook, but it doesn't mean they're not still collecting data about you as you go elsewhere on the web.

It's important for people to realize that just trying to improve privacy in one place on the internet is generally not going to protect you from things like profile-based targeting. Should these precautions be taken on all social media platforms, not just Facebook?

Absolutely. Everybody is focusing on Facebook right now because it's been in the news, but the way every social media platform makes money is by selling your data. It's important to be aware that most apps you use have some type of tracking software built in. Some of it can be controlled by restricting the data you make available to social network platforms, but only to the extent that the platforms have privacy settings limiting how they can share that data.

The general recommendation, though, is this: when you decide to install and use an app, think twice about whether you need the app. And, if you do use the app, think twice about the information that you provide to it. You should assume that any information you provide may be shared with other parties. Think of your online privacy like you think of any other hygiene - if you don't brush your teeth, they'll fall out. If you don't take practices to protect your privacy, your data is going to get out there. (Courtesy https://phys.org/news/)

Related

Facebook Meets Congress: Zuckerberg Goes To Capitol Hill



Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg leaves the office of Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., after meeting with her on Capitol Hill on Monday. (Photo/Getty Images)

Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg will face Congress in two separate hearings this week, as his company grapples with intense scrutiny over privacy and security on the social media site. It will be Zuckerberg's first appearance on Capitol Hill.

On Tuesday afternoon, more than 40 senators crowded into a hearing room, where members of the Senate judiciary and commerce committees will have four minutes each to question Zuckerberg. A similar scene will play out Wednesday, when he is set to appear before members of House Energy and Commerce Committee.

Both hearings are expected to be lengthy spectacles following in the long tradition of widely televised congressional inquisitions into corporate scandals - like the 1994 testimony of tobacco CEOs, the probe into steroids in baseball in 2005 and the interrogation of banking executives after the 2008 economic crash.

Five Points To Know About The Facebook Hearings

1. Congress wants answers on what Facebook really knew about Cambridge Analytica.

The high-profile hearing was announced in response to widespread public outcry over the news that the private information of some 87 million users was shared with a political data firm, Cambridge Analytica, in violation of Facebook's policies. The information was gathered through an app created in 2013 that invited people to take a personality quiz, while also collecting some data from friends of the quiz takers.

TECHNOLOGY

The data breach took a political turn because Cambridge Analytica, a British firm, has ties to former White House adviser Steve Bannon and Republican megadonor Robert Mercer. The firm played a role in the 2016 presidential election, first working with Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, and then with the Trump operation. A source close to the Trump operation says psychological profiling was not part of that effort. Cambridge Analytica released a statement on its website on Monday denying the company provided any "polling, data analytics and digital marketing for the Trump campaign."

Democrats in particular want to know whether the firm exploited users' private information to influence the outcome of the presidential election.

Facebook now says it had stopped these kind of data grabs back in 2014, but news reports suggest Cambridge Analytica did not destroy the data as it had certified to Facebook.

POLITICS

Some lawmakers, including Virginia Sen. Mark Warner, the top Democrat on the Select Committee on Intelligence, raised questions about Cambridge Analytica in the past and say they are frustrated that Facebook dismissed their concerns.

Now lawmakers want answers directly from Zuckerberg about what he knew and did not know about how firms like Cambridge were using and accessing user data.

2. Congress wants to make a public show of grilling Zuckerberg ...

The hearings on Tuesday and Wednesday are expected to be a massive spectacle with TV cameras lining the staid chamber. The room will be jam-packed with lawmakers angling for their sliver of airtime.

The hearings are a chance for each lawmaker to show voters that they care about the public outrage surrounding the Cambridge Analytica scandal, even if Congress fails to pass any laws in response to the outcry.

THE TWO-WAY

Congress has grown increasingly worried about the role of social media sites in politics since it was revealed that Russia used platforms like Facebook and Twitter to interfere in the 2016 presidential election. Lawmakers have repeatedly questioned Facebook, Twitter and Google on issues like online security, online extremism and privacy, but Zuckerberg himself has not yet appeared for questioning. That has lots of lawmakers fuming.



Congressional hearings with Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg will be held Tuesday and Wednesday this week.

THE TWO-WAY

Zuckerberg got a first taste of the congressional hearing circus on Monday when he met privately with individual senators ahead of the hearing. While he faced questioning inside the offices, a sprawling crowd of reporters, tourists and onlookers gathered in the office building halls.

3. ... and they want to know about far more than just Cambridge Analytica

Lawmakers are also concerned about how Facebook regulates its massive online ad platform and what the company is doing to keep bad actors out of users' daily feeds.

Louisiana Republican Sen. John Kennedy, who is on the Judiciary Committee, said Sunday that the first question Zuckerberg should answer is: "Does he really know who is running ads on his platform?"

"Facebook's lawyers say they have 500,000 unique advertisers a month," Kennedy said in an interview on CBS' Face The Nation. "I don't think they know who is running ads and issue campaigns. We need to talk about how we're going to find out."

POLITICS

Long-Divided Federal Election Commission Unites On Digital Ad Transparency When it comes to digital advertising, Facebook and Google completely dominate the field, sometimes even being criticized as a duopoly on digital ad sales. This has prompted calls for an antitrust investigation of the industry.

Cable and telecom companies, for example, have historically pointed to the vast reach of Facebook and Google to present them as direct competitors, though competitors who don't face the same amount of regulatory oversight. In recent days, some broadband companies have been publicly calling for Congress to regulate privacy and the Silicon Valley giants.



Facebook CEO faces grilling from Congress like no tech boss ever before.

4. Zuckerberg may not have the kind of answers they're looking for Most lawmakers say they want clear and specific answers from Zuckerberg about what the company knew, when they knew it and what they're going to do to prevent privacy violations in the future.

THE TWO-WAY

In prepared remarks, Zuckerberg indicates he is grappling with the bigger identity of Facebook. For years, he has presented the social network as a neutral platform. Zuckerberg argues the company is not a media arbiter, but a tech firm firmly rooted in a law that shields Internet companies from legal responsibility for what people say and do online.

But now, Zuckerberg is expected to tell lawmakers that Facebook made a "big mistake" in taking such a narrow view of its responsibility.

"It's not enough to just connect people, we have to make sure those connections are positive," he says in prepared testimony. "We have a responsibility to not just build tools, but to make sure those tools are used for good."

NATIONAL SECURITY

5. Some lawmakers say it's time to regulate how social media companies handle personal data. Facebook agrees - sort of

There isn't much Congress can do right now to change the way Facebook - or other social media companies - handle user data or who can buy ads on their platforms. Facebook is a private company and is not subject to existing rules about political advertising or user data - at least not in the United States. (Courtesy https://www.npr.org)

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China Wants Sanctions On North Korea To Be Reduced

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



North Korean leader Kim Jong Un shakes hands with Chinese President Xi Jinping in Beijing, as he paid an unofficial visit to China, in this undated photo released by North Korea's Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) in Pyongyang March 28, 2018. (Photo/Reuters)

BEIJING (Reuters) - China suggested last month that sanctions relief be considered for North Korea if the country abides by United Nations resolutions, as US President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un pledged to work for denuclearisation.

China signed up for increasingly tough UN sanctions against its isolated neighbour following Pyongyang's repeated nuclear and missile tests, but has always said sanctions should be accompanied by talks for a political resolution.

China is North Korea's most important economic and diplomatic backer, despite its anger at Pyongyang's sabre rattling. Speaking in Beijing following Trump and Kim's signing of a joint statement at the end of their historic summit in Singapore, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang reiterated that China has always strictly abided by all UN resolutions on North Korea.

"The UN Security Council resolutions that have been passed say that if North Korea respects and acts in accordance with the resolutions, then sanction measures can be adjusted, including to pause or remove the relevant sanctions," Geng told a daily news briefing.

Beijing has key strategic interests when it comes to North Korea, and has long feared that a collapse of its isolated neighbour could push waves of refugees into northeastern China, or that nuclear war on the Korean peninsula could contaminate swathes of the country.

North Korea also serves as a valuable buffer state between China and US forces in South Korea.

Trump Disagrees TRUMP WANTS CHINA TO PAY FOR FAILING TO STOP NORTH KOREA

Last month Trump blasted China and even asked President Xi Jinping face-to-face to take a tougher stance on North Korea's missile and nuclear defense program. But try as he might on Twitter or in person, President Donald Trump hasn't persuaded China to keep Kim Jong Un's regime from testing missile after missile during his first six months in office.

Now, the Trump administration is reportedly considering a fresh round of

sanctions against small Chinese financial firms and shell companies that conduct business with North Korea, two senior U.S. officials told Reuters. And it's possible the new line of sanctions could be another step toward even stiffer financial penalties.

"The president is losing patience with China," one official told Reuters. The official also said that there may be an even "more aggressive approach to sanctioning Chinese entities ... in the not-too-distant future."

The fresh and potential sanctions could target "low-hanging fruit," or smaller institutions rather than any of China's bigger banks, but the breadth of and when the sanctions are put in place will be contingent on talks between the U.S. and China Wednesday, administration sources told Reuters.



One official said more than 10 Chinese firms could be targeted, much more than Trump reportedly shared with Xi when he hosted him at the president's Mar-a-Lago club in Florida back in April.

More than 5,000 Chinese companies regularly work with the North Korea every year, and China accounts for almost 85 percent of North Korea's trade, Newsweek reported Thursday. In particular, the city of Dandong, located in the northeastern province of Liaoning, aides in the sale of machinery that the North can use to make its bombs and missiles as well as a financing arm for the North's weapons program.

Late last month, the U.S. Treasury Department announced sanctions against two Chinese citizens and a shipping company, with the two individuals each conducting business with the North Korean government, according to Foreign Policy.

However, Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin clarified then that the sanctions were intended to hinder anyone doing business with the North rather than spe-

cifically against the Chinese.

"The United States is sending an emphatic message across the globe that we will not hesitate to take action against persons, companies and financial institutions who enable this regime," Mnuchin's statement read.

The latest potential measures could also be posturing prior to next week's meetings, given Trump's tweet following his meeting with Xi at the Group of 20 summit in Hamburg, Germany over the weekend.

"Leaving Hamburg for Washington, D.C. and the WH. Just left China's President Xi where we had an excellent meeting on trade & North Korea," Trump stated Saturday.

Related

Pompeo says China sanctions on North Korea will stay in place



Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said that China "acknowledged that the sanctions regime that is in place today, will remain in place until such time as that denuclearization is in fact complete." | Win McNamee/Getty Images

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo last Thursday reaffirmed China's commitment to continue to sanction on North Korea until the reclusive country denuclearizes — just two days after Beijing hinted at sanction relief.

Pompeo said during a press conference following his discussions with Chinese

Foreign Minister Wang Yi that China "acknowledged that the sanctions regime that is in place today, will remain in place until such time as that denuclearization is in fact complete."

"There has been unanimity in that set of objections and I'm heartened by that following the Singapore summit," he said. Pompeo on Thursday also met with Korean Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wah and Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Kono, in addition to Wang. Pompeo met with Chinese President Xi Jinping on Thursday as well.

Tracking sanctions against North Korea. U.N. Security Council, United States, Japan. Includes a table of sanctions from 1950 to 2018.

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