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NEWS

BBC FINDS LEBANESE SEASIDE CITY DESERTED AFTER ISRAELI ATTACKS

[1] The BBC has witnessed Israeli airstrikes around the city of Tyre, in southern Lebanon.

Correspondent Orla Guerin visited the usually crowded holiday destination, and said it is now "basically deserted", apart from people fleeing intense Israeli airstrikes in nearby towns.

Israel is carrying out "extensive" strikes in Lebanon after Hezbollah fires missile at Tel Aviv.

At least 23 people have been killed in the attacks, Lebanon's health ministry said. ■

RUSSIA PLANNING TO TARGET NUCLEAR PLANTS, ZELENSKY SAYS

[2] EPA

Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky has told the United Nations that Russia is planning deeper attacks on his country's nuclear power plants, warning of possible "nuclear disaster".

He said he had received intelligence showing Moscow was using satellites provided by other countries to gather information about Ukraine's nuclear infrastructure.

"Radiation does not respect state borders and many nations could feel a devastating effect," he warned the UN General Assembly on Wednesday.

Russia has repeatedly targeted energy facilities across Ukraine since the start of its full-scale invasion in February 2022.

"Any critical incident in the energy system could lead to a nuclear disaster - a day like that must never come," Zelensky said.

"Moscow needs to understand this, and this depends in part on your determination to put pressure on the aggressor.

"These are nuclear power plants. They must be safe."

The UN nuclear watchdog warned last month that safety at the Zaporizhzhia power plant in Russian-occupied Ukraine was deteriorating.

It followed a strike near the site's perimeter, close to essential water sprinkler ponds and about 100m from the only remaining high-voltage line.

The plant was seized by Russian forces early in the war and has come under repeated attacks, which both sides have blamed the other for.

Zelensky said in his speech on Wednesday that Russia had destroyed all of Ukraine's thermal power plants and a large part of its hydroelectric capacity as a way to "torment" Ukrainians ahead of winter.

"Energy must stop being used as a weapon," he said.

A major power plant near Kyiv was completely destroyed by Russian strikes in April, and.

While in the United States, Zelensky says he plans to meet President Joe Biden and Vice-President Kamala Harris, the Democratic presidential nominee.

An official on Donald Trump's campaign said the Republican nominee would not meet the Ukrainian leader - despite statements from officials in Kyiv last week saying Zelensky was planning to see the former president.

Trump described Zelensky as the "greatest salesman on Earth" following his speech and claimed the US would be "stuck in that war" unless he was elected in November.

Also in his UN speech, Zelensky criticised China and Brazil for pushing for talks with Russia, questioning their motivations.

He made a renewed appeal for countries to back his proposals for a full and just peace, reiterating his position that Russian forces needed to withdraw from Ukraine's interna-

tionally-recognised borders to bring an end to the war.

Ukraine would not accept a return to a "brutal, colonial past", he added. ■

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META UNVEILS \$299 QUEST 3S VR HEADSET, ORION AR GLASSES PROTOTYPE

[3] Mark Zuckerberg, chief executive officer of Meta Platforms Inc., during the Acquired LIVE event at the Chase Center in San Francisco, California, US, on Tuesday, Sept. 10, 2024.

David Paul Morris | Bloomberg | Getty Images

announced the Quest 3S, the latest virtual reality headset to come out of the company's Reality Labs division and a cheaper offering than its predecessor.

The device will go on sale on Oct. 15, and it'll retail starting at \$299, down from the \$499 starting price for 2023's Quest 3. The device can be used to watch movies, as well as run VR fitness apps and gaming, Meta said Wednesday at its Connect event in Menlo Park, California. The company positioned the headset as a multitasking computer, putting it in competition with Apple's \$3,499 Vision Pro headset that launched in February.

In addition to the Quest 3S, Meta on Wednesday also showcased its latest prototype of augmented-reality smart glasses and announced a flurry of new features for its Meta AI chatbot.

Meta's previous Quest devices are the best-selling VR headsets, with thanks to heavy marketing and a lower price than many competitors, but those efforts have yet to spark a cultural phenomenon or a mainstream software ecosystem around VR. Including its acquisition of Oculus in 2014, Meta has poured more than \$65 billion in expenses into its hardware efforts.

Meta CEO has defended the company's spending as a strategic initiative to prevent from controlling future hardware platforms.

Although there was hope among VR developers that Apple's entry into the market would spur a wave of new apps and users, Apple hasn't revealed sales for its headset and reports suggest that sales have been in, under 1 million units, partially due to its high price.

What it does

A Meta representative said the "S" in Quest 3S stands for "start" — as in getting started with VR.

Many of the new Meta features that the company discussed for the \$299 Quest 3S have counterparts on Apple's Vision Pro, including a mode that allows for the device to be used on an airplane and another that simulates a large movie theater inside the headset.

Meta highlighted improved "passthrough," the term used to describe when a VR headset uses cameras and sensors on the outside of the device to display live real-time video inside the headset. That function is intended to make users feel like they are looking through a display and allows them to interact with the real world while keeping the headset on. For the Quest 3S, Meta added a dedicated button to turn on passthrough.

The company has emphasized the ability of the Quest 3S to multitask and run apps, positioning it as a computing device, instead of a game console.

"All the things you can do with a general purpose computer, Quest is the full package," Zuckerberg said.

In demos provided Tuesday, Meta showcased the device running as many as four apps at one time on floating screens inside the headset, including a YouTube video, a browser, Amazon Music and Meta's app store. Meta says the headset can handle six windows. But the demo experience was not smooth. The Amazon Music app crashed, window controls would disappear and Meta's controllers would fall asleep after a few minutes if the user wasn't pressing buttons.

Besides the Quest 3S, Meta also announced a price cut for last year's Quest 3, bringing the price of the 512GB version down from \$649 to \$499. The Quest 3 has more advanced lenses and a superior screen with a higher resolution than the Quest 3S.

Additionally, Meta said it will discontinue the Quest Pro, its \$999 headset launched in 2022 that never gained much momentum, and the older Quest 2 headset.

Eventually, glasses

Meta Orion AR glasses prototype

Meta

Zuckerberg's justification for spending so much on VR and AR is his belief that the technology will eventually end up in lightweight, transparent glasses that overlay computer graphics and information onto the

real world.

Investing in VR software and hardware are early steps toward those glasses, which could take as much as a decade to develop, Zuckerberg previously said.

Zuckerberg showed off an early concept of what those glasses could look like on Wednesday. The thick, black-framed prototype, called Orion, won't be sold to consumers, but Meta says they will be used internally as the company continues working toward the consumer glasses it hopes to one day sell.

"This is where we are going," Zuckerberg said.

Meta hopes the next version of Orion will be available to consumers as the company's first full AR glasses, Zuckerberg said without giving a timetable for when that may be.

Orion is Meta's first "fully-functioning" prototype AR glasses, Zuckerberg said, and the device is tethered wirelessly to a small "puck." The prototype uses a wristband component to pick up on users' neural signals and let them control the Orion glasses using their brains. That technology stems from the company's 2019.

Orion enables users to play games, multitask with multiple windows and videoconference with people around the world represented by a realistic avatar, Zuckerberg said.

Meta's Orion prototype comes a week after. Those thick-framed glasses will only be made available to developers, who must commit to paying \$99 a month for one full year if they want to build AR apps for the device.

This isn't the first time Meta publicly revealed a prototype of a future device or research projects to signal to investors and employees where VR and AR technology is headed. The Orion glasses are an improvement on Project Nazare, prototype smart glasses that Zuckerberg, when the company changed its name from Facebook.

Ray-Ban Meta smart glasses are powered by a Qualcomm chip. Qualcomm, Samsung and Google are working on smart glasses, according to Qualcomm CEO Cristiano Amon.

Nurphoto | Nurphoto | Getty Images

Meta does sell a pair of glasses with a built-in camera in partnership with EssilorLuxottica called Ray-Ban Meta, which started at \$299 and were announced in 2023. While these glasses don't have any displays, they do have tiny speakers that allow the device to play music or interact with Meta AI, the company's

voice assistant.

As part of Wednesday's event, Meta announced new Meta AI features for its Ray-Ban smart glasses.

For example, the Ray-Ban Meta glasses will be able to detect when a user is looking at a sign in Spanish and, if asked, can translate in the user's ear, a new improvement, Meta said. The camera can scan QR codes, and it can also extract information like book titles out of photos it takes.

Another new capability for the glasses is the ability to remember facts like where the user parked.

Li-Chen Miller, the vice president of product in charge of Ray-Ban Meta glasses, told CNBC that when she travels, she uses the glasses to take photos of her hotel room door, and later, she asks Meta AI to recall the number.

Those features will become available "later this year," the company said.

The Ray-Ban Meta smart glasses have sold more than 730,000 units in their first three quarters, according to market researcher IDC. In July, Zuckerberg told investors that they were "a bigger hit sooner than expected."

Last week, EssilorLuxottica and Meta announced that they had extended their partnership to develop more smart glasses.

AI that speaks

Zuckerberg also introduced improvements to its Meta AI chatbot that will allow people to interact with it using their voice in addition to written prompts.

With voice, users will be able to have oral conversations with Meta AI, which is accessed through Meta's apps. Users will be able to perform actions using their voice, such as telling Meta AI to take a photo by talking to their smartphone.

For Meta AI's new feature, the company is using computer-generated voices from celebrities including Awkwafina, Judi Dench, John Cena, Keegan-Michael Key and Kristen Bell.

The new Siri-like Meta AI voice feature will be available over the next month for U.S., Canadian, Australian and New Zealand users of WhatsApp, Instagram, Facebook and Messenger.

The Meta AI announcement comes a day after rival OpenAI, the maker of ChatGPT, announced for people who pay for its pre-

mium service.

Meta's new chatbot features are based on the company's AI model, Llama. Meta on Wednesday announced a newer version of Llama, called Llama 3.2. This updated model can understand both images and text, an upgrade from its predecessors which generated responses to people's written prompts.

WATCH: ■

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SURGING AI DEMAND COULD CAUSE THE WORLD'S NEXT CHIP SHORTAGE, RESEARCH SAYS

[4] Georgije vic | E+ | Getty Images

A surge in demand for artificial intelligence-focused semiconductors and AI-enabled smartphones and laptops could lead to the next global chip shortage, according to a report released Wednesday by consultancy Bain & Co.

The last major semiconductor shortage happened during the Covid-19 pandemic amid supply chain disruption and a rise in demand for consumer electronics as people were forced to stay and work at home.

Technology giants have been snapping up graphics processing units, or GPUs, mainly from. These GPUs which are housed in data centers are critical for the training of huge AI models which underpin applications like OpenAI's ChatGPT.

Meanwhile, companies like are designing chips that go into smartphones and personal computers and allow those devices to rather than via an internet connection in the cloud. These are often referred to as AI-enabled devices and companies from Samsung to have released such products.

Bain said demand for GPUs and AI consumer electronics could be the cause of a chip shortage.

"Surging demand for graphics processing units (GPUs) has caused shortages in specific elements of the semiconductor value chain," Anne Hoecker, head of the technology practice in the Americas at Bain, told CNBC by email.

"If we combine the growth in demand for GPUs alongside a wave of AI-enabled devices, which could accelerate PC product refresh cycles, there could be more widespread constraints on semiconductor supply."

However, it's how much demand such AI-enabled gadgets will have, given what appears

to be a cautious approach to them from consumers so far.

Bain noted that the semiconductor supply chain is "incredibly complex, and a demand increase of about 20% or more has a high likelihood of upsetting the equilibrium and causing a chip shortage."

"The AI explosion across the confluence of the large end markets could easily surpass that threshold, creating vulnerable choke-points throughout the supply chain," the report added.

The semiconductor supply chain is spread across multiple companies. For example, while Nvidia might design its GPUs, they are made by Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co., or, in Taiwan. TSMC from countries around the world, such as the Netherlands. Furthermore, the most cutting-edge chips.

Geopolitics could also be a factor prompting a chip shortage. Semiconductors are seen by governments around the world as strategic technology. The U.S. has been on a campaign,, of trying to restrict China's access to the most advanced chips. Meanwhile, Washington has sought to shore up its own domestic capacity to produce semiconductors.

"Geopolitical tensions, trade restrictions, and multinational tech companies' decoupling of their supply chains from China continue to pose serious risks to semiconductor supply. Delays in factory construction, materials shortages, and other unpredictable factors could also create pinch points," Bain said. ■

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ISRAELI BULLDOZERS FLATTEN MILE AFTER MILE IN THE WEST BANK

[5] Advertisement

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Videos from Tulkarm and Jenin show bulldozers destroying infrastructure and businesses, as well as soldiers impeding local emergency responders.

Sept. 25, 2024, 5:04 a.m. ET

Jenin

Jenin

Tulkarm

Tulkarm

Source: Reuters

Over two weeks, Palestinians watched as Israeli military bulldozers tore up mile after mile of their streets and alleys, sewage seeping into the dusty ruts left behind.

The people of Tulkarm and Jenin, the two West Bank towns that were the focus of Israel's latest military raids, said they had never before experienced such a scale of destruction.

Residents pointed to one video that shows an Israeli armored bulldozer flattening a decorative roundabout and nearby vegetation.

Video

CreditCredit...QudsN, via Telegram

Visual evidence analyzed by The New York Times supports accounts from residents about the damage from Israel's latest raids. Videos filmed in Tulkarm and Jenin show bulldozers destroying infrastructure and businesses, and soldiers impeding local emergency responders.

"We watched their bulldozers tear up streets, demolish businesses, pharmacies, schools. They even bulldozed the town soccer field, and a tree in the middle of a road," said Kamal Abu al-Rub, the governor of Jenin, a governorate in the northern West Bank. "What was the point of all of this?"

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LEBANON'S GROWING CIVIL- IAN DEATH TOLL INCLUDES CHILDREN AND RESCUE WORKERS

[6] Advertisement

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Lebanese organizations have begun to identify children, humanitarians and journalists among a growing number of civilians killed in Israel's intense bombardment.

An impact crater from an Israeli strike in Jiyeh, Lebanon, on Wednesday.Credit...Mahmoud Zayyat/Agence France-Presse — Getty Images

* Sept. 25, 2024Updated12:35 p.m. ET

From girl scouts to first aid responders, cleaners to electrical engineers, the names and faces of the Lebanese civilians killed by Israeli airstrikes this week have begun to emerge, as the nation reels from the deadliest day in its history since the 15-year civil war, which ended in 1990.

Hundreds of people have been killed since Israel began launching airstrikes in Lebanon on Sunday, in what it describes as a campaign targeting the militant group Hezbollah and its weapons stores.

Many Lebanese are still taking stock of those lost on Monday, when Israeli strikes killed 558 people in a single day, according to Lebanon's health ministry. The toll includes 50 children and 94 women.

Among them was Dina Darwiche, an employee of the United Nations refugee agency, UNHCR. Her body was found along with that of her youngest son after an Israeli missile hit the building where they lived in Lebanon's eastern Bekaa region.

Friends wrote tributes to Ms. Darwiche on social media, many of them posting a selfie of her smiling and posing with the son who was killed with her. Others shared a video of a U.N. campaign she ran in previous years against gender-based violence.

"She had been dedicated to her humanitarian work with UNHCR for as long as I can remember," her friend, Jasmin Diab, posted on the social media platform X. "I am broken. I am absolutely destroyed. I cannot breathe. When will the world let us breathe?!"

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NEWS - INTERNATIONAL

IS ISRAEL ABOUT TO INVADE LEBANON?

[7] A week of intense Israeli air attacks on Lebanon has displaced 90,000, pushing the conflict between Israel and Hezbollah closer to an all-out war — one that some believe has already begun in all but name.

But this conflict could still escalate further, as fears of an Israeli military ground invasion increase, and civilians flee the.

On Wednesday, Israeli officials announced that two regiments of reserve forces had been called up to the Northern Command, the branch of Israel's military engaged in fighting Hezbollah.

While the news signalled that Israel may be planning to escalate the conflict further, analysts who spoke to Al Jazeera are sceptical that a ground invasion is imminent, although they noted that the situation remained volatile and Israel seemed to lack a clear strategy.

Two regiments "is not a lot, not for an invasion of Lebanon", Ori Goldberg, an Israeli political analyst, told Al Jazeera. He added that, in Gaza, Israel deployed a much greater number — and that was for an enclave that is far smaller than Lebanon and against a force in Hamas that is less powerful militarily than Hezbollah.

"Right now, my assessment would be that it's still for show, but it might change within 24 hours," he said, noting that Israel seemed to lack a clear goal or strategy, making an assessment of their next moves more difficult. "We're still on the brink, but I don't think a decision has been made to launch an invasion."

Momentum for war

The now almost yearlong war on Gaza has already put a great strain on the Israeli economy, military and society. Tens of thousands of Israeli reservists have been called up at various times by the military, taking them away from their jobs and their families. Israeli society is divided on the strategy being pursued by the government, with many calling for a focus on the release of the captives held in Gaza, rather than the defeat of Hamas.

And yet, with some 10,000 Israelis displaced from their homes in the north of the country since late last year as a result of Hezbollah rocket fire, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has pledged that the “threat” from Lebanon will be removed, by force, and that those forced to leave the north will return.

“For a year now, [the government has] been telling them that the only thing that will give [Israelis] the necessary security is a war,” said Goldberg. “So, a war has been in the cards pretty much forever. But Netanyahu is afraid to start a war because he’s afraid that if he launches a ground invasion, the Israeli public, [which] doesn’t trust him, will think of it as Netanyahu’s war.”

But, with events moving fast on the ground – particularly following Israel’s “pager attack” on Hezbollah and the subsequent killing of one of the group’s leaders and several other commanders in an air attack – all-out war appears closer than at any point in the last year.

“The possibility of an Israeli invasion in Lebanon is gaining momentum within the Israeli political and military establishment,” Imad Salamey, a professor of political science at the Lebanese American University in Beirut, told Al Jazeera. “Should the Israeli government opt for this strategy, it is likely that the invasion could commence within 72 hours, as Israel may believe that Hezbollah’s control and command structure has been sufficiently weakened, leaving the party vulnerable to a swift strike before it has the chance to regroup.”

An invasion, Salamey added, would almost inevitably lead to a protracted war, with a devastating effect on Lebanon’s civilian population.

“Hezbollah, although weakened, would likely respond with guerrilla tactics and retaliatory strikes aimed at Israeli military targets, potentially extending the conflict and making any occupation of southern Lebanon costly for Israel,” he said. “The group’s resilience and deep roots in the region suggest that any invasion would not lead to a quick or easy victory, instead resulting in protracted warfare with long-term consequences for both sides.”

During Israel’s last war with Lebanon in 2006 – which killed more than 1,200 Lebanese, mostly civilians, and 158 Israelis, mostly soldiers – Hezbollah fighters displayed a competence with asymmetric tactics that, and analysts note they have only grown stronger since then, with an expanded arsenal and tunnel network. They also are able to resupply across the border

with Syria, an advantage that Hamas in Gaza has not had.

Unclear goals, enormous cost

The long-term strategy behind Israel’s recent escalation is unclear, with some analysts noting that it may be an effort to distract from its own internal political crisis and redeem the military’s reputation domestically after a drawn-out war in Gaza that has failed to achieve Israel’s goals, even as it has killed more than 40,000 Palestinians.

Still, a ground war would have little political benefit for Israel, analysts warn, and it would come at an enormous cost to the civilians caught in the middle.

On the ground in Lebanon, they noted, Hezbollah retains a tactical advantage.

“If there is an Israeli ground invasion of Lebanon, paradoxically, Hezbollah could feel that it is back in its ‘comfort zone’ because they are used to fighting Israeli invasions, they know every single village in south Lebanon,” Karim Emile Bitar, a professor of international relations at St Joseph’s University in Beirut, told Al Jazeera. “They still have an abundance of fighters ready to try to repel this Israeli invasion.”

The enormous human cost of Israel’s air raids – the highest death toll since the Lebanese civil war (1975-90) – has given Israel “an edge in the psychological war”, added Bitar. But that could change with a ground invasion, in which Israel would likely have significant casualties of its own.

“So far, they have managed to accomplish several of their objectives, obviously at the cost of a human tragedy for the Lebanese civilians,” he said. “If they decide to wage a ground invasion, it would be a completely different ball game, and they might witness significant losses because even if Hezbollah has been weakened, Hezbollah still has the capacity to inflict harm on Israel.”

Gloating Hezbollah

Whether Israeli officials are actually laying the ground for an invasion or merely escalating their threats of one – while continuing to carry out relentless air raids on Lebanon – their objective appears to be to force Hezbollah into either capitulating to Israeli demands or responding in a way that offers Israel a pretext for further attacks.

So far, neither scenario has materialised.

“They are really trying to do something quick, in the hopes that they might be able to bring so much pressure to bear on Hezbollah that they will have no choice but to try to negotiate a quick end to this thing,” Yousef Munayyer, head of the Palestine/Israel Pro-

gram and senior fellow at the Arab Center Washington DC, told Al Jazeera. “

Munayyer said that Israel was following the same playbook it used in Gaza, attacking civilian infrastructure and people’s homes, “hoping that if they can do so much of that, so quick, that it will essentially allow them to get out of the situation without a ground invasion, without a long ... battle, and save them much of the costs of a war like that”.

“The Israelis were hoping with the assassinations, with the pager explosions and so on, that they’d be able to change the dynamic by doing something so significant, so unprecedented, that it would force Hezbollah to recalculate the idea of trying to make this a long drawn-out war,” he added. “But so far that doesn’t seem to have happened.”

Hezbollah has responded to Israel’s attacks by firing a barrage of missiles at Israeli air bases and attacking a naval base with drones. On Wednesday, its missile attack that, for the first time, reached as far as Tel Aviv.

But so far, the group seems to have aimed for military targets alone – exercising a restraint that seems to have taken Israel by surprise.

“What they both want, Netanyahu and the military, is for Hezbollah to do something that would sort of force Israel’s hand. But Hezbollah is not doing that, Iran is not doing that,” said Goldberg. “Israel went in full force to try and goad Hezbollah into doing something. But Hezbollah has yet to bite.” ■

ISRAELI ARMY BOSS TELLS TROOPS TO PREPARE FOR POSSIBLE LEBANON PUSH

[8] Israeli army boss tells troops to prepare for possible Lebanon push

Israeli general Herzl Halevi told soldiers in northern Israel on Wednesday that the air attacks on Lebanon would continue in order to destroy Hezbollah’s infrastructure and to prepare the way for a possible ground offensive.

Published On 25 Sep 2024 ■

PERSONAL

SUICIDE AND THE HEALTH-CARE WORKFORCE

[9] Credit:Joe Amon/CT Public

September is National Suicide Prevention month, and September 17th of each year is National Physician Suicide Awareness Day. While this day is named to specifically call awareness to physician suicide, it allows us all to use this month to recognize the health concerns of our entire licensed healthcare workforce. And there are many.

In the United States of America, according to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention and data presented at the 2018 American Psychiatric Association national meeting, more than 300-400 doctors die by suicide each year. One a day. And while the risk of dying by suicide is higher for physicians compared to the general population, a study in JAMA in September 2023 showed that it is higher for nurses – specifically registered nurses – as well. This awareness day is a call to action to healthcare leaders and policy makers to continue to create environments that support optimal physical and mental wellness for all healthcare personnel.

Douglas Olson

Physicians are 40% more likely than workers in other fields to report suicidal ideation – 7.1% versus 4.3% according to a 2021 study by Dr. Tait Shanafelt and colleagues. Our nation’s caregivers do not enter the profession to have it end prematurely by suicide. As we move further away from the COVID pandemic, licensed healthcare personnel are still facing the same issues they were prior: One meta-analysis from researchers at Harvard estimated the depression rate among doctors in training at 29% compared to 8% of non-physicians. These feelings can lead to burnout and, when left untreated, can cause more cases of depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and substance misuse. The American Medical Association and the Federation of State Physician Health Programs have highlighted this for years.

Beyond the basic and tragic loss of life, over 1 million patients a year are impacted by losing a physician due to suicide.

Licensed healthcare professionals with mental illness face particular stigma. Medical licensing and credentialing bodies as well as hospitals, clinics and insurance companies traditionally have required applicants to disclose any history of psychiatric treatment or impairment. The mental health questions typically focus on whether the applicant merely has a history of a psychiatric diagnosis or has ever received treatment for mental illness. There is no similar requirement for reporting physical health diagnoses or treatment.

The Joint Commission, which accredits hospitals, has emphasized since 2020 that it

doesn’t require hospitals to ask about an applicant’s mental health history beyond conditions that currently impair the clinicians’ ability to perform their job. “We strongly encourage organizations to not ask about past history of mental health conditions or treatment” the Commission has said. Yet for most institutions this has not changed and these questions are still asked. This deters many health workers from seeking treatment they need – that their patients need them to get – to deliver safe, high quality and efficient care. Hospitals, clinics and organizations that have not changed this can – and should. For the lives of our country’s health workers, indeed, they must.

Douglas Olson is Medical Director of, Connecticut’s only Licensed Healthcare Professional Health Program, and a practicing internal medicine and addiction medicine physician.

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ABBOTT TERRACE HEALTH CENTER PERDIÓ SU FINANCIACIÓN. ¿QUÉ PASÓ?

[10] Abbott Terrace Health Center in Waterbury.Credit:Cloe Poisson / CTMirror.org

Athena Health Care Systems ha perdido la financiación federal de Medicare para casi 200 residentes que viven en Abbott Terrace Health Center en Waterbury, lo que ha obligado a la empresa a prepararse para el cierre del asilo de ancianos.

Los Centros de Servicios de Medicare y Medicaid y a Athena que debido a que “la instalación no cumple con los requisitos básicos de salud y seguridad de Medicare”, la financiación se detendría a partir del 10 de septiembre para cualquier paciente nuevo y dentro de los 30 días para todos los pacientes.

La medida sin precedentes de los funcionarios federales cerrará en efecto la instalación de 205 camas porque la mayoría de sus residentes son beneficiarios de Medicaid o Medicare y no pagadores privados. Se produce en medio de crecientes problemas financieros y preocupaciones de los legisladores sobre la atención a los pacientes en las instalaciones de Athena.

Esto es lo que debe saber.

**¿Por qué Abbott Terrace Health Center perdió la financiación?*

Los funcionarios del Departamento de Salud Pública realizaron varias visitas a Abbott Terrace los primeros seis meses de este año, durante las cuales se plantearon preocupaciones sobre la propia instalación y la

atención a los pacientes. Las inspecciones mostraron escasez de personal, en particular de enfermeras, grandes agujeros en los pisos de baldosas y al menos un incidente en el que un empleado le dijo a un residente con problemas de incontinencia que “podían olerlos en el pasillo”.

El sitio web federal de Medicare para Abbott Terrace, con inspecciones de salud “muy por debajo del promedio” y medidas de calidad “por debajo del promedio”.

**¿Cómo respondió Athena a esas preocupaciones?*

Una portavoz de la empresa dijo que el Departamento de Salud Pública, o DPH, había ordenado actualizaciones en el edificio, en particular en el piso, y Athena invirtió \$200,000 dólares en renovar los pisos.

La empresa también había “destinado dólares adicionales” para más mejoras, dijo la portavoz, Savannah Ragali. No especificó una cantidad.

“Nuestro equipo hizo todo lo posible en las últimas semanas para abordar las preocupaciones de la planta física identificadas por el DPH”, dijo Ragali. “Hemos invertido importantes recursos financieros en devolver nuestra instalación al cumplimiento mediante la mejora de pisos, puertas y otras infraestructuras identificadas de la instalación. Creíamos que los problemas identificados se habían resuelto con éxito”.

**¿Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, o CMS, le otorgó una suspensión a Abbott Terrace?*

Tras los informes de que CMS había otorgado una suspensión a Abbott Terrace, Ragali dijo que el hogar de ancianos “no ha sido notificado de ningún cambio en su estado” y continúa preparándose para cerrar.

Cuando se les preguntó si se había otorgado una suspensión, los funcionarios estatales remitieron al Connecticut Mirror a CMS.

Un portavoz de CMS se negó a confirmarlo o negarlo, afirmando: “Para proteger la integridad de nuestro proceso de encuesta, no podemos proporcionar información adicional en este momento”.

**¿Qué significará el cierre para los residentes y el personal de Abbott Terrace?*

Los residentes han comenzado a recibir avisos de alta antes del cierre, dijo Mairead Painter, la defensora del Pueblo de Atención a Largo Plazo del Estado.

Ragali dijo que Abbott Terrace está buscando ubicaciones para que sus residentes se muden y posibles transferencias a otros sitios de Athena para sus casi 300 empleados.

“Los residentes que han decidido voluntariamente darse de alta del centro están siendo dados de alta en virtud de sus derechos”, dijo Ragali. “Según la investigación de nuestro personal en Abbott Terrace, hay 110 camas para enfermería especializadas en un radio de 15 millas de Abbott Terrace, y ninguna cama disponible en una unidad segura para demencia”.

Painter dijo que su personal en la Oficina del Defensor del Pueblo para Cuidados a Largo Plazo también está trabajando con los residentes de Abbott Terrace para garantizar que se protejan sus derechos y se tengan en cuenta sus preferencias.

La Comisionada del Departamento de Salud Pública, Manisha Juthani, y la Comisionada del Departamento de Servicios Sociales, Andrea Barton Reeves, dijeron que el anuncio no significa que los residentes de Abbott hayan perdido su cobertura. Los residentes seguirán estando cubiertos cuando se trasladen a un centro que participe en los programas Medicare y Medicaid.

As manager of audience engagement, Gabby works to grow CT Mirror’s reach and visibility. She is responsible for our website, newsletters, CT Mirror Explains product, and social media channels. Her role also involves working with our editors on the production of stories and analyzing audience data and trends. Gabby previously worked as a reporter on Patch.com’s Connecticut team, as an associate editor at The Woonsocket Call in Rhode Island and as an editing intern at the Houston Chronicle through the Dow Jones News Fund. She is a Connecticut native and holds a bachelor’s degree in journalism from UConn. ■

AS CT SCHOOL SHOOTING THREATS RISE, OFFICIALS FOCUS ON PREVENTION, SUPER

[11] *This story has been updated.*

Connecticut is contending with a growing trend of viral school shooting threats, with more than 30 assessed by the state’s central intelligence authority since the beginning of the school year.

The uptick is part of a broader spike in such threats nationwide, after four people were killed in a on Sept. 4. Since then, schools across Connecticut have suspended classes as threats have come in via phone calls and social media. On Friday alone, schools were closed in Bristol, Torrington and Bridgeport.

Students in Norwalk, Bridgeport and New Haven have also arrived in school to see

an additional police presence on their campuses following threats this month, while children in West Haven, New Britain and North Haven experienced lockdowns.

But officials say that while school closures and early dismissals may be frightening, the high numbers of reported threats can actually be read as a sign that efforts to instill a “see something, say something” mentality have paid off in a state that witnessed the deadliest shooting at an elementary school in U.S. history, at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown.

“We’ve got a lot of people willing to tell us, and that’s important for prevention,” said Tim Silva, a manager at the Connecticut Intelligence Center, which assesses such threats.

Gov. Ned Lamont told reporters on Friday that most of the threats are just reposts.

“They think they’re being funny. They’re not. We have to respond to each and every one of them,” he said.

Officials say that in addition to encouraging people to continue to report concerning posts or comments, there should be consequences for those who make the threats. This includes arresting students who post threats online, to discourage others from reposting such messages, disrupting learning and putting communities on edge. Over the past month, children from Ansonia to Bridgeport have been arrested in connection with the threats.

“We hope people understand that there is a consequence to what they do,” Silva said. “They want to get out of a test, whatever it may be. This discourages them from doing it.”

Most of the state’s school districts that contended with threats managed to communicate effectively with their communities, according to Kate Dias, president of the Connecticut Education Association, the largest teachers union in the state. But in Bridgeport, angry and frightened parents and teachers spoke out at a Board of Education meeting on Monday night about what they say was a botched response.

For Jacqueline Colantonio, an ESL teacher, that meant finding out late in the day on Wednesday, Sept. 18, that a threat had been made in the morning that affected her school.

“The whole staff was in the cafeteria, where there’s a wall of windows and doors open to a courtyard that’s open to the public. We were sitting ducks and we knew nothing,” she said.

According to officials in the Bridgeport school district, that threat was non-credible. It was assessed and deemed to be a hoax, and parents received a notification from the school after that determination had been made. But teaching staff didn’t receive the same notification until hours later.

The superintendent emailed staff and apologized for that lag, writing that the school’s automated system had been corrected. “We are committed to continuous improvement to ensure that all staff members are notified simultaneously about critical matters,” Superintendent Carmela Levy-David wrote.

But Colantonio said that the lag in communication changed her perception of safety at the school.

“I’ve been teaching for 27 years, and I’ve never had a concern about coming to school — until now,” Colantonio said.

Bridgeport schools were cancelled on Friday after an additional threat led to an arrest. When students returned to school on Monday there was an increased police presence.

Sen. Herron Gaston, co-chair of the legislature’s Public Safety and Security Committee and a Democrat who represents Bridgeport, said schools must balance security concerns with the negative impact of over-surveillance.

“Black students are four times as likely as students of other races to be enrolled in high surveillance schools and communities. Students who are a part of these access-limited communities can find themselves paying a safety tax which impacts their academic outcomes,” Gaston said.

More support is needed to support students’ mental health, he said.

“We need to focus on providing services to our young people to address the root causes that lead to violent behavior,” Gaston said. “We need to invest in social programs that can reduce feelings of isolation, hopelessness and anger, which I believe research shows are common drivers of this violence.”

Tim Kearney, the chief behavioral health officer for Community Health Center, Inc, which has a presence in more than 150 Connecticut schools, says that students are afraid and they’re reaching out for support.

“There are more coming and the ones coming are more distressed,” Kearney said. “Every time they hear something, they wonder, ‘Is it gonna happen here? Is the next one gonna be me?’”

To combat that fear, Kearney encourages children and their parents to have open conversations.

“Try to talk about it together. Make a plan. Say, ‘We’re gonna do these things. We hope they never happen, but we need a plan to be safe.’”

Correction: A previous version of this story misspelled the last name of Jacqueline Colantonio, an ESL teacher in Bridgeport. ■

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SCIENCE

DERANGETROPY IN PROBABILITY DISTRIBUTIONS AND INFORMATION DYNAMICS

[12] > Abstract:We introduce derangetropy, a novel functional measure designed to characterize the dynamics of information within probability distributions. Unlike scalar measures such as Shannon entropy, derangetropy offers a functional representation that captures the dispersion of information across the entire support of a distribution. By incorporating self-referential and periodic properties, it provides deeper insights into information dynamics governed by differential equations and equilibrium states. Through combinatorial justifications and empirical analysis, we demonstrate the utility of derangetropy in depicting distribution behavior and evolution, providing a new tool for analyzing complex and hierarchical systems in information theory.

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