



BRYAN DENTON FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

A female bonobo and her baby at a reserve in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Ape trafficking has left some species near extinction.

By JEFFREY GETTELMAN

MBANDAKA, Democratic Republic of Congo — The sting began, as so many things do these days, on social media.

Daniel Stiles, a professed ape trafficking detective in Kenya, had been scouring Instagram, Facebook and WhatsApp for weeks, looking for pictures of gorillas, chimps or orangutans. He was hoping to chip away at an illicit global trade that has captured or killed tens of thousands of apes and pushed some endangered species to the brink of extinction.

"The way they do business," he said of ape traffickers, "makes the Mafia look like amateurs."

'Everyone Wants a Baby': The Dark Market for Apes

Secret Pipeline, Selling Primates as Pets Or Attractions, Leaves a Trail of Abuse

After hundreds of searches, Mr. Stiles found an Instagram account offering dozens of rare animals for sale, including baby chimpanzees and orangutans dressed in children's clothes. He sent an email to an address on the account —

"looking for young otans" (the industry standard slang for orangutans) — and several days later received a reply.

"2 babies, 7.5k each. Special introductory price."

The trafficker identified himself

only as Tom and said he was based in Southeast Asia. Mr. Stiles knew what Tom was hoping for: to sell the infant orangutans to a private collector or unscrupulous zoo, where they are often beaten or drugged into submission and used for entertainment like mindlessly banging on drums or boxing one another. Such ape shows are a growing business in Southeast Asia, despite international regulations that prohibit trafficking in endangered apes.

Several weeks later, after a few more rounds of text messages with Tom to firm up the details, Mr. Stiles decided to fly to

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Child Friendly? Startling Videos Slip Past Filters

By SAPNA MAHESHWARI

It was a typical night in Staci Burns's house outside Fort Wayne, Ind. She was cooking dinner while her 3-year-old son, Isaac, watched videos on the YouTube Kids app on an iPad. Suddenly he cried out, "Mommy, the monster scares me!"

When Ms. Burns walked over, Isaac was watching a video featuring crude renderings of the characters from "PAW Patrol," a Nickelodeon show that is popular among preschoolers, screaming in a car. The vehicle hurtled into a light pole and burst into flames.

The 10-minute clip, "PAW Patrol Babies Pretend to Die Suicide by Annabelle Hypnotized," was a nightmarish imitation of an animated series in which a boy and a pack of rescue dogs protect their community from troubles like runaway kittens and rock slides.

Parents and children have flocked to Google-owned YouTube Kids since it was introduced in early 2015. The app's more than 11 million weekly viewers are drawn in by its seemingly infinite supply of clips, including those from popular shows by Disney and Nickelodeon, and the knowledge that the app is supposed to contain only child-friendly content.

But the app contains dark corners, too, as videos that are disturbing for children slip past its filters, either by mistake or because

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Trump Backs Off on Guantánamo; Party Follows



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The president threatened to send the suspect in last week's truck attack to Guantánamo Bay, above.

By CHARLIE SAVAGE
and ADAM GOLDMAN

WASHINGTON — For nearly a decade, a vocal faction of Republicans have insisted that America's civilian criminal justice system is the wrong venue for handling terrorism suspects. And for a moment last week, it looked as if President Trump might vindicate their view by transferring the suspect in the New York truck attack to military custody at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba.

Instead, the man, Sayfullo Saipov, was interrogated and charged in the civilian system. Ex-

plaining the outcome, Mr. Trump voiced a truth that Republicans have been loath to acknowledge: Civilian courts have been ruthlessly effective in bringing terrorists to justice, while the military commission system has floundered.

"Would love to send the NYC terrorist to Guantánamo but statistically that process takes much longer than going through the Federal system," Mr. Trump wrote on Twitter. "There is also something appropriate about keeping him in the home of the horrible crime he committed. Should move

fast. DEATH PENALTY!"

With that, the president appeared to put to rest, for now, the question of whether he will soon fulfill his campaign vow to refill the wartime prison at Guantánamo with newly captured "bad dudes." His 10-month-old administration has yet to send any captives there, even as it has brought several foreign terrorism suspects to the United States for civilian prosecution.

Those moves have been met by relative silence from many Republicans who emphatically op-

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Lebanese Leader Steps Down

Prime Minister Saad Hariri left his country reeling with his unexpected announcement, in which he issued a blistering condemnation of Iran. PAGE 4

NATIONAL 18-27

Recognizing the Unborn

The Republican tax plan unveiled last week includes the words "unborn child" and delivers other victories for religious and social conservatives. PAGE 23

SUNDAY BUSINESS

Detroit as Housing Incubator

The 2008 financial crisis and 2013 city bankruptcy gutted its housing market. Now, the city is trying unorthodox ways to entice people to buy homes. PAGE 1

SUNDAY STYLES

A Man Who Would Be Trump

An impersonator like Dave Burleigh has to play the president with good-natured ribbing and respect to make it in the conventions industry. PAGE 1

SUNDAY REVIEW

Nicholas Kristof

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Thousands Hit by Storms Rely on Wobbly Insurance

For Plan That's Broken and Broke, Weighing Major Changes Like Private Insurers

By MARY WILLIAMS WALSH

In August, when Hurricane Harvey was bearing down on Texas, David Clutter was in court, trying one more time to make his insurer pay his flood claim — from Hurricane Sandy, five years before.

Mr. Clutter's insurer is the federal government. As it resists his claims, he has been forced to take out a third mortgage on his house in Long Beach, N.Y., to pay for repairs to make it habitable for his wife and three children. He owes more than the house is worth, and his flood-insurance premiums just went up.

The government-run National Flood Insurance Program is, for now, virtually the only source of flood insurance for more than five million households in the United States. This hurricane season, as tens of thousands of Americans seek compensation for storm-in-

flicted water damage, they face a problem: The flood insurance program is broke and broken.

The program, administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, has been in the red since Hurricane Katrina flooded New Orleans in 2005. It still has more than a thousand disputed claims left over from Sandy. And in October, it exhausted its \$30 billion borrowing capacity and had to get a bailout just to keep paying current claims.

Congress must decide by Dec. 8 whether to keep the program going. An unusual coalition of insurers, environmentalists and fiscal conservatives has joined the Trump administration in calling for fundamental changes in the program, including direct competition from private insurers. The fiscal conservatives note that the

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Saudi Arabia Arrests 11 Princes, Including Prominent Billionaire

By DAVID D. KIRKPATRICK

LONDON — Saudi Arabia announced the arrest on Saturday night of the prominent billionaire investor Prince Alwaleed bin Talal, plus at least 10 other princes, four ministers and tens of former ministers.

The announcement of the arrests was made over Al Arabiya, the Saudi-owned satellite network whose broadcasts are officially approved. Prince Alwaleed's arrest is sure to send shock waves both through the kingdom and the world's major financial centers.

He controls the investment firm Kingdom Holding and is one of the world's richest men, with major stakes in News Corp, Citigroup, Twitter and many other well-

known companies. The prince also controls satellite television networks watched across the Arab world.

The sweeping campaign of arrests appears to be the latest move to consolidate the power of Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, the favorite son and top adviser of King Salman.

At 32, the crown prince is already the dominant voice in Saudi military, foreign, economic and social policies, stirring murmurs of discontent in the royal family that he has amassed too much personal power, and at a remarkably young age.

The king had decreed the cre-

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Poised to Control West Coast, Democrats Envision 'Blue Wall'

By ALEXANDER BURNS and KIRK JOHNSON

SAMMAMISH, Wash. — It is the stuff of liberal fantasies: a vast, defiant territory, sweeping along the country's Pacific coastline, governed by Democrats and resisting President Trump at every turn.

A single election in a wealthy Seattle suburb on Tuesday could make that scenario a reality, handing the party full control of government in Washington State — and extinguishing Republicans' last fragile claim on power on the West Coast. The region has been a rare Democratic stronghold on an electoral map now dominated by vast swaths of red, and Republicans' only toehold on power there has been a one-seat majority in the Washington State Senate.

The prospect of such far-reaching autonomy for Democrats, who already hold the governors' offices and both houses of the legislatures in Oregon and California, has infused extraordinary energy into what might have been a low-key special election. The race is on track to draw more than \$9 million in campaign spending, a record-breaking sum for Washington State.

National environmental and abortion rights groups have

mobilized, business associations and oil companies have poured in money, and a former vice president, Joseph R. Biden Jr., has intervened on the Democratic side.

Sharon Nelson, the Democratic leader in the Washington State Senate, conveyed the party's grand aspirations in an almost Trump-like phrase: "A blue wall," Ms. Nelson enthused, "from the

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Building a Feast

A special guide to planning and preparing your Thanksgiving meal, as well as spicing up the leftovers. Section F.

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