

Episode 57DHWA June 2 2025 Operation Spiderweb Ukraine destruction of Russian aircraft

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1 University of Wisconsin UW biochemists engineered a poplar tree that produces a high demand industrial chemical It was a surprise discovery only made possible by sustained investment in research Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501c3 nonprofit organization The College of Agriculture and Life Sciences CALS Connection at UW Madison Email Newsletter May 15 2025 UW Madison biochemistry professor Brian Fox helped to develop a genetic alteration in poplar trees so they can produce an industrial chemical commonly used as a preservative and in synthetic fibers Research at the University of Wisconsin Madison drives innovation saves lives creates jobs supports small businesses and fuels the industries that keep America competitive and secure What is the benefit for taxpayers for funding your work? One would be an easier more efficient way to produce this especially useful chemical Another is that we take this as a base of knowledge and find more new tricks to teach plants There are drugs antioxidants cosmetics food preservatives all kinds of things closely related to the molecules we are making And we are also training our children to have the skills to continue this work for more benefit How are you training future scientists? We have the Biotechnology Training Program an NIH funded program which was created by an act of Congress about 35 years ago We train PhD level scientists to have experience in both biological and physical sciences Microbiologists who can talk to chemical engineers and engineers who can work with cancer biologists to build devices to help cancer patients We have trained over 300 students through this program They have become successful as leaders in industry as entrepreneurs who start companies as workers for the federal government and national labs or as successful academics They are the talented people who keep this American success going creating intellectual property across the entire technical and scientific and industrial spectrum

2 University of Wisconsin Madison Research Funding Alerts **Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501c3 nonprofit organization** Funding Alerts UW Madison Email for June 1 2025 2A Priority Research Programme and Equipment on Emerging Infectious Diseases PEPR MIE call for projects Agence Nationale de Recherche sur le Sida National Agency for AIDS Research Emerging Infectious Diseases Institut National de la Santé et de la Recherche Médicale INSERM French Institute of Health and Medical Research June 30 2025 Confirmed see record This track will aim to strengthen prevention preparedness and response capacities in the face of future health crises focusing on the priority emerging infectious diseases identified in the 2024 call respiratory viruses viral hemorrhagic fevers and arboviruses The expected projects should adopt an interdisciplinary approach and contribute to advancing research in the service of public health 2B APAGE JGH Foundation Clinician Scientist Training Fellowship Asian Pacific Association of Gastroenterology APAGE June 30 2025 Confirmed \$40000 This Fellowship sponsored by the Asian Pacific Association of Gastroenterology APAGE and supported by the JGH Foundation is to assist a medical graduate who wishes to obtain training as a Clinician Scientist in the broad field of gastroenterology and hepatology 2C new Post COVID Conditions Potential Diagnosis Testing Management and Ongoing Research Pfizer Inc July 10 2025 Confirmed \$150000 Through this RFP it is our intent to support educational programs on post COVID conditions also known as Long COVID or PASC These programs should aim to equip primary care providers and infectious disease specialists with the necessary knowledge and skills to identify diagnose and manage COVID

3 The National Science Foundation NSF grant cuts fall heaviest on scientists from underrepresented groups Projects to broaden participation were cut disproportionately and were often led by Black scientists women and those with disabilities **Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501c3 nonprofit organization** UW Madison College of Agricultural & Life Sciences Email Newsletter May 16 2025 Chicago State University students Xavier McGowan and Medinat Odoffin participate in a Chemistry lab activity These students at Chicago State University are part of a program to broaden participation in science that the National Science Foundation has terminated William Woods Chicago State A version of this story appeared in Science Vol 388 Issue 6749 More than half of the 1500 research grants that the National Science Foundation NSF has terminated in the past month under orders from President The Trump administration aimed to bring groups historically underrepresented in science into the mainstream Ending those grants reversed decades of efforts focused on what the agency calls the missing millions women racial and ethnic minorities veterans and low income and rural students

4 The MAHA Report of RFK Junior full of errors and Trump holds few briefings from staff **Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501c3 nonprofit organization** Substack Letters from an American Heather Cox Richardson June 2 2025 The report of the Make America Healthy Again Commission released on May 23 2025 is full of errors including misrepresentation of experiments and nonexistent studies After news broke of the errors in the report the White House press secretary called the problems formatting issues But AI experts said that it appears the authors of the report relied heavily on AI The executive director of

the American Public Health Association said This is not an evidence based report and for all practical purposes it should be junked at this point It cannot be used for any policymaking It cannot even be used for any serious discussion because you cannot believe what is in it Trump also appears to be having trouble with the demands of governance

5 The MAHA Hallucinations of RFK Junior Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501c3 nonprofit organization The Bulwark June 2 2025 As political alliances break down embarrassing leaks to the press start to speed up So as Elon Musk exits the government badmouthing Republican budget efforts on his way out the door it is little surprise the New York Times is suddenly getting the gory details

6 Covid summer and confusion and measles Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501c3 nonprofit organization Your Local Epidemiologist Email Newsletter June 2 2025 This week in health Covid 19 A summer wave brewing amid a ton of confusion A lot is happening in the Covid 19 world Here are 4 updates for you 1 Transmission and a summer wave Covid 19 levels in the U S remain low But if history is any guide that may not last We have seen waves every summer and cases are rising in parts of the Western Pacific Southeast Asia and Eastern Mediterranean Waves are started by a number of complex factors including new variants Last week the W H O added a new strain NB point 1 point 8 point 1 to its variant monitoring watchlist This variant is another descendant of Omicron So far it has a growth advantage of approximately 65% compared to the Omicron 500% advantage which means it would cause a wave but not a tsunami This may be the one that helps jump start a summer wave But while this variant has been detected in the U S it is still at low levels Time will tell 2 The Covid vaccine formula for this fall Last week the FDA vaccine advisory committee VRBPAC recommended not updating the Covid 19 vaccine strain for this fall That means the same formula from last year will be used again This aligns with the WHO recommendation though the virus is still mutating experts concluded the changes are not big enough to warrant a new formula yet This is the first time we are not updating the vaccine for fall 3 Eligibility for Covid 19 vaccines is a confusing mess from the political ping pong match At first the political appointee to FDA said one thing in an opinion piece on NEJM then RFK Junior said another on X then the CDC overrode or negotiated it is unclear what the policy should be by publishing the vaccine schedule As of now 65+ are eligible Under 65 with certain health conditions are eligible Although this is very unclear right now and largely depends on how FDA changes the licenses BUT and this is important Recommendations are self attestation at pharmacies This means pharmacists are not permitted to ask for proof of underlying conditions Everyone else including kids and pregnant women may get the vaccine if they and their clinician agree it is appropriate called shared clinical decision making This was a really important change that the CDC overrode RFK Junior on While there is a legitimate debate around annual boosters there is clear evidence on the importance of a primary vaccine series for kids and for immunity passed to babies from pregnant mothers Note Insurance may not cover your vaccine under this category Unfortunately some payers have a long history of not covering shared clinical decision making so I would expect variability in coverage Later this month the official meeting of external expert advisors ACIP should clarify things when they meet as scheduled But this is

not guaranteed. RFK Junior could cancel or delay their ability to do this at any moment. Out of all of this my biggest concern remains. The damage is already done. A wave of confusion due to unilateral political decision making instead of established evidence based processes resulting in whiplash headlines likely hurts trust sows immense confusion and in turn reduces vaccine uptake. 4 Some good news. FDA approved the Moderna next gen Covid 19 vaccine with three improvements. Sharper immune response. Instead of the whole spike protein this vaccine only includes the pieces of the spike protein that change quickly and are the key targets for antibodies the RBD and NTD. This workaround gets rid of the conserved parts so that the immune system has to pay attention to the parts of spike that change. In clinical trials the updated vaccine gave better antibody responses and had higher effectiveness than Spikevax particularly in older adults. Smaller dose more supply. The dose needed is much lower 10 vs 50 micrograms so we can vaccinate more people with the same amount of vaccine liquid in a vial. Note The side effect profile for those who react badly to this vaccine e.g. a fever for a few days does not change. Easier storage. It can be stored in standard refrigerators not ultracold freezers making it far more accessible in clinics and pharmacies. It is unclear when this vaccine will become available because the CDC still needs to approve it. Quick measles update. As of Friday there are 1132 confirmed measles cases in the U.S. compared to 1856 in Mexico and 2791 in Canada. West Texas remains the main hotspot though growth has slowed. Small but growing outbreaks have also been reported in Montana North Dakota and Colorado all currently under 50 cases. Check with local health departments for exposure info. Last week CDC updated its travel warning cautioning that travelers can catch measles in many travel settings including travel hubs such as airports and train stations public transportation like airplanes and trains tourist attractions and large crowded events. If you are fully vaccinated you are well protected.

Headlines [The New York Times June 2 2025](#) 7 California Democrats Party Activists in California Are not Sold on a Harris Run for Governor [The New York Times](#) Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501c3 nonprofit organization Kamala Harris did not appear in person at a California state Democratic convention leaving delegates to wonder how seriously she is considering running and whether it would be wise. Poland Elects Karol Nawrocki as President [The New York Times](#) Poland Who Is the Nationalist Karol Nawrocki the Next President of Poland? [The New York Times](#) 8 [Poland The Poland Presidential Election Result Highlights Trump Europe Divide](#) [The New York Times](#) Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501c3 nonprofit organization Tugged between two poles of Western power The Washington of President Trump and Brussels as a champion of liberal democracy Poland tilted toward the Trumpian model on Monday when a nationalist historian eked out a narrow win in a presidential election. Karol Nawrocki an ally of the Poland populist former governing party Law and Justice defeated the liberal mayor of Warsaw Rafal Trzaskowski in the runoff held on Sunday after a polarized campaign. Trzaskowski had been supported by the centrist and Brussels steeped prime minister Tusk of Poland. Nawrocki by the Trump administration. The result announced Monday will have little immediate impact on the domestic or foreign policies of Poland which the president does not control. The country will continue supporting Ukraine militarily a policy both sides agree on. Nor will the change result in a move to leave the European

Union Trump Budget Cuts Fact Check Trump and G O P False Claims on the Medicaid Cuts and Deficit Hikes of the Bill The New York Times Trump Budget Cuts Trump Tariffs 9 Alaska Senator Lisa Murkowski Is not Using Nice Words About Life Under Trump The New York Times Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501c3 nonprofit organization Senator Lisa Murkowski has been frank about the dilemma faced by Republicans like her who are dismayed about President The Trump policies and pronouncements but worried that speaking out could bring death threats or worse Trump Budget Cuts Opinion Cultural Decline in the U S Is a Threat to Democracy The New York Times Trump Budget Cuts Opinion Save Us Senators From a Very Expensive Mistake The New York Times Trump Budget Cuts Opinion Why Politics Feels So Cruel Right Now The New York Times Trump Budget Cuts Rising Mortgage Rates and Recession Fears Stall a Fragile Housing Market The New York Times Trump Tariffs 10 A Fiery Brief Fueled by Conservatives Helped Put The Trump Tariffs in Peril The New York Times Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501c3 nonprofit organization A powerful sign that President The Trump tariff driven trade war is at risk came in a friend of the court brief filed in April by a coalition that included many prominent conservative and libertarian lawyers scholars and former officials The brief was also a signal of a deepening rift between Trump and the conservative legal movement one that burst into public view last week with the Trump attacks on the Federalist Society whose leaders helped pick the judges and justices he nominated in his first term Among the people who signed the brief in the tariffs case was Richard Epstein who teaches at New York University and is an influential libertarian legal scholar You have to understand that the conservative movement is now as an intellectual movement consistently anti Trump on most issues he said Trump Tariffs Trump Live Updates President Shows No Sign of Retreat on Tariffs The New York Times Ukraine War In Russia Airfield Attacks Ukraine Aims for Strategic and Symbolic Blow The New York Times Ukraine War Ukraine and Russia Met for 2nd Round of Talks as Attacks Escalate The New York Times Ukraine War What to Know About the Russia Ukraine Cease Fire Talks The New York Times United Kingdom U K Faces Most Serious Military Threat Since Cold War Starmer Says The New York Times

Headlines The New York Times June 1 2025 Air pollution from wood burning What to Know About Canadian Wildfires in Manitoba and Saskatchewan The New York Times Germany and Air Pollution from wood burning Hamburg Hospital Fire Kills 3 and Injures More Than 50 The New York Times Medicine and Science Breast Cancer Patients Get Early Warning of Faltering Drugs With Blood Test The New York Times Medicine and Science Exercise Extends Life for People With Cancer Study Shows The New York Times Medicine and Science He Was Bleeding Internally Then Doctors Found the Real Danger The New York Times Medicine and Science Tick Bites Are No Joke Here is How to Prevent Them and Protect Yourself Reviews by Wire cutter Michigan Democrats 11 I Did not Get It Done A Reflective Tim Walz Wants to Make Good The New York Times Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501c3 nonprofit organization Nearly seven months since his ticket lost the 2024 presidential election Tim Walz is trying all at once to make amends for everything he thinks went wrong He is going to Republican areas where Democrats lost ground He is sitting for countless interviews after the campaign of former Vice President

Kamala Harris limited his media exposure. And as his party engages in collective finger pointing he is among the few Democrats admitting that they themselves made mistakes. I know my job and I did not get it done. Walz the governor of Minnesota said last week on a podcast hosted by former Senator Jon Tester the Montana Democrat. The Tim Walz atonement and explanation tour had its biggest audiences to date on Saturday when he delivered speeches to Democratic Party conventions in South Carolina and California. Poland. What to Know About the Poland Presidential Runoff Election and The Trump Involvement. The New York Times. Technology and Resources. North Carolina Town Has Some of the Purest Quartz That Powers the Tech of the World. The New York Times. [Trump Budget Cuts 12 The Trump Proposed Budget Would Cut the Ecosystems Mission Area and Much of Its Work](#). The New York Times. Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501c3 nonprofit organization. The Trump proposed budget for 2026 slashes about 90 percent of the funding for one of the American cornerstone biological and ecological research programs. Known as the Ecosystems Mission Area the program is part of the U.S. Geological Survey and studies nearly every aspect of the ecology and biology of natural and human altered landscapes and waters around the country. The 2026 proposed budget allocates \$29 million for the project a cut from its current funding level of \$293 million. The budget proposal also reduces funds for other programs in the U.S. Geological Survey as well as other federal science agencies. The budget still needs to be approved by Congress and scientists are seizing the opportunity to save the E.M.A. In early May more than 70 scientific societies and universities signed a letter to Interior Secretary Doug Burgum urging him not to eliminate the program. Trump Tariffs. Opinion. TACO Is the Secret to The Trump Resilience. The New York Times. Trump Tariffs. Opinion. How William F. Buckley Junior Wrote The Trump Playbook. The New York Times. Trump Tariffs and Europe. The U.S. Right Loathes the E.U. How Are They Going to Negotiate Trade. The New York Times. Ukraine War. Train Derails in Western Russia After Bridge Collapse Killing at Least 7. The New York Times. Ukraine War. Ukraine Drone Strike Targets Russian Air Bases in Large Scale Attack. The New York Times. Ukraine War. Ukraine Says Russian Strike on Military Base Killed 12 Soldiers. The New York Times.

Headlines. The Guardian. June 2 2025. [Air pollution from wood burning](#). Thousands evacuated in three Canadian provinces as wildfires continue. Wildfires. The Guardian. [Climate Change 13 How the little known dark roof lobby may be making US cities hotter](#). Climate crisis. The Guardian. Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501c3 nonprofit organization. It began with a pitch from a lobbyist. The Tennessee representative Rusty Grills says the lobbyist proposed a simple idea repeal the requirement of Tennessee for reflective roofs on many commercial buildings. In late March Grills and his fellow lawmakers voted to eliminate the rule scrapping a measure meant to save energy lower temperatures and protect Tennesseans from extreme heat. Grills a Republican told Floodlight that he introduced the bill to give consumers more choice. It was another win for a well organized lobbying campaign led by manufacturers of dark roofing materials. Industry representatives called the rollback in Tennessee a needed correction as more of the state moved into a hotter climate zone expanding the reach of the Tennessee cool roof rule. Critics called it dangerous and deceptive. The new law will lead to higher energy costs and greater heat related illnesses and deaths state representative Harold Love and the Rev. Jon Robinson said in a statement. It

will critics warned make Nashville Memphis and other cities hotter – particularly in underserved Black and Latino communities where many struggle to pay their utility bills Similar lobbying has played out in Denver and Baltimore and at the national level [Medicine and Science](#) [14 A war on children](#) [As US changes Covid vaccine rules parents of trial volunteers push back](#) [Trump administration](#) [The Guardian](#) [Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501c3 nonprofit organization](#) As the Trump administration contemplates new clinical trials for Covid boosters and moves to restrict Covid vaccines for children and others parents whose children participated in the clinical trials expressed anger and dismay It is really devastating to see this evidence base officially ignored and discarded said Sophia Bessias a parent in North Carolina whose two and four year old kids were part of the Pfizer pediatric vaccine trial It is infuriating My kids contributed literal blood and tears to help demonstrate the safety of these vaccines Poland Orbán and Le Pen cheer the Karol Nawrocki election as Polish president [The Guardian](#) [Trump Budget Cuts](#) [Key US weather monitoring offices understaffed as hurricane season starts](#) [Trump administration](#) [The Guardian](#) [Trump Budget Cuts](#) [Parks libraries museums here is why Trump is attacking the best loved institutions in America](#) [Margaret Sullivan](#) [The Guardian](#) [Trump Budget Cuts](#) [The Trump tax bill helps the rich hurts the poor and adds trillions to the deficit](#) [Katrina vanden Heuvel](#) [The Guardian](#) [Ukraine War](#) [15 Operation Spiderweb a visual guide to the Ukraine destruction of Russian aircraft](#) [The Guardian](#) [Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501c3 nonprofit organization](#) A Ukrainian drone attack has destroyed billions of dollars worth of Russian aircraft stationed at bases across the country including at locations as far away as Siberia in what Kyiv claims is its longest range assault of the war The spectacular operation known as Spiderweb was prepared in secret over 18 months The Ukraine agents moved short range drones and explosives inside Russia before they were launched remotely for a coordinated strike on Sunday that was intended to strike at the Moscow air superiority [Ukraine War](#) [Ukraine proposes next round of talks before end of June as Russia rejects unconditional ceasefire](#) [Russia Ukraine war live](#) [Ukraine War](#) [Ukraine war briefing senior Ukrainian commander resigns after deadly Russian strike](#) [Ukraine](#) [The Guardian](#)

[Headlines](#) [The Guardian](#) [June 1 2025](#) [New Zealand and the United States where former New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern now lives](#) [Trump Budget Cuts](#) [16 Empathy is a kind of strength](#) [former New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern on kind leadership public rage and life in Trump America](#) [The Guardian](#) [Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501c3 nonprofit organization](#) In 2022 a few months before she quit as prime minister of New Zealand Jacinda Ardern was standing at the sink in the toilets in Auckland airport washing her hands when a woman came up to her and leaned in She was so close that Ardern could feel the heat from her skin I just wanted to say thank you the woman said Thanks for ruining the country She turned and left leaving Ardern standing there as if I were a high schooler who had just been razed The incident was deeply shocking Ardern had been re elected in a historic landslide two years before She enjoyed conversation and debate she liked being the kind of leader who was not sealed off from the rest of the population But this says Ardern felt like something new It was the tenor of the voice of the woman the way she had stood so close the way her seething nonspecific rage felt not only

unpredictable but incongruous to the situation. What was happening? The incident came at a pivotal moment. Ardern sensed that the tide was turning against her and she was grappling with whether to go. Something had been loosened worldwide, she says, with rage everywhere, public servants being followed and attacked as if they were somehow distinct from being human. We all recognize this rage, but Ardern was at the center of it, representing progressive politics, tough Covid measures, empathy, emotion, anti-racism, femaleness, a symbol of a different time, more rational, kinder, when rules still meant something. When there were many female leaders: Angela Merkel, Theresa May, Sanna Marin, Mia Mottley, Mette Frederiksen, Tsai Ing-wen. For all these reasons, Ardern is now missed by progressives at home and abroad.

Trump Budget Cuts: Going to increase prices on everybody, US energy department workers sound alarm over cuts, Trump administration. The Guardian: Trump Budget Cuts. In a real sense, US democracy has died, how Trump is emulating Orbán of Hungary. Trump. The Guardian: Trump Budget Cuts. Drugs, marital advice, and that black eye: key takeaways from the Trump Oval Office send off for Elon Musk. Trump. The Guardian: **Trump Budget Cuts and Hungary** 17. **He is the strongman who inspired Trump. But is Viktor Orbán losing his grip on power?** The Guardian. **Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501c3 nonprofit organization.**

Since Trump began his second term in January, the adoration has seemingly turned to emulation at a frenzied pace. Trump, like Orbán before him, has seized on state powers to pursue rivals, embraced dark rhetoric to demonize political opponents, and purge wokeness from institutions in what analysts described as the Orbánisation of America. For rights groups, journalists, and activists in Hungary, who have long pushed back against the steady erosion of rights by arguably the most successful populist leader in the modern world, the parallels are eerie. Over the past 15 years, they have challenged a playbook that has now gone global, turning them into a singular source on how Americans – and others around the world – can fight back in the face of democratic backsliding.

Trump Budget Cuts: Loan plan in Republican bill could worsen doctor shortage, experts warn, US healthcare. The Guardian: Ukraine War: Russia says blasts led to deadly train crashes in regions bordering Ukraine, Russia. The Guardian: Trump Tariffs: Trump claimed tariffs are easy. He is learning the hard way that is not the case. The Guardian: Trump Tariffs: Trump does not know how to deal with China. His cowardice only makes a war with Taiwan more likely. Simon Tisdall. The Guardian: **Trump Tariffs and Georgia** 18. **Want to see where The Trump tariffs are leading US business? Look at Georgia.** The Guardian. **Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501c3 nonprofit organization.**

If you want a bellwether to measure the broad impact of Trump tariffs on the economy, look south to Georgia. The political swing state has a 900 billion dollar economy somewhere between the GDPs of Taiwan and Switzerland. The hospitality industry is facing an existential crisis. Wine merchants wonder aloud if they will survive the year. But others like those in industrial manufacturing will carefully argue that well-positioned businesses will profit. Some say they are insulated from international competition by the nature of their industry. Others like the movie industry are simply confused by the proposals that have been raised and are looking for entirely different answers. So far, it is a mixed bag. In a state Trump won by two points, and with yet another pivotal US Senate race in a year, Republican margins are thinner than those of the retailers with their business on the line.