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SPORTS, 1C



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FBI still investigating spear phishing attack

Fraudulent email cost Naples \$700,000 a year ago

Brittany Carloni
Naples Daily News
USA TODAY NETWORK - FLORIDA

A spear phishing attack that cost the city of Naples about \$700,000 more than a year ago remains under investigation, according to the city.

The FBI is handling the ongoing investigation into the city's criminal complaint, Naples City Manager Charles Chapman said in an email to the Daily News. The city's internal

investigation is closed, Chapman said.

According to a heavily redacted city report on the spear phishing attack, a city employee in the finance department received an email on June 24, 2019, from someone impersonating Wright Construction Group, which was performing utility work on the city's Eighth Street South project.

Payment was routed to a fraudulent bank account on July 11, 2019, according to the city

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13 positive tests after Fla. sheriffs conference

Devan Patel
Fort Myers News-Press
USA TODAY NETWORK - FLORIDA

More than two weeks after some of the state's top elected officials and sheriffs attended a conference in Bonita Springs, at least 13 attendees have now tested positive for COVID-19.

Six sheriffs and Department of Corrections Secretary Mark Inch were among the Florida Sheriff's Association conference attendees to report a positive test, though it is still unclear where they contracted the virus.

Some of the conference's attendees also participated in a campaign event with President Donald Trump later that week in Tampa. However, none of the Florida sheriffs who tested positive were identified as being at that event.

On Friday, two more sheriffs who attended the conference were reported to have had positive tests.

Columbia County Sheriff Mark Hunter tested positive but has returned to work, spokesman Murray Smith said, adding that four deputies who did not attend the conference also have tested positive.

St. Lucie County Sheriff Ken Mascara confirmed Friday that he tested

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From left, Christina Theosevis, wellness manager at NCH; Cheryl Casbourne, office coordinator at NCH; and Diane Scharfenberg, pathology coordinator at NCH, interact with horse Patty on Wednesday during an equine therapy session offered free to local health care workers at Naples Therapeutic Riding Center. ALEX DRIEHAUS/NAPLES DAILY NEWS

HORSES HELP MEDICAL WORKERS EASE STRESS

Naples Therapeutic Riding Center responds to pandemic

Andrea Stetson
Special to Naples Daily News/
USA TODAY NETWORK - FLORIDA

Horses in Naples are helping health care workers heal their stress. For the first time Naples Therapeutic Riding Center is offering mental health and wellness therapy free to local front line medical professionals who have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

For decades the riding center has been known for its work with people with special needs. In August they extended the program.

"With the isolation anxiety, it helps reduce stress," said Missy Saracino Lamont, executive director of Naples Therapeutic Riding Center. "With the pandemic continuing to have cases rise we understand they are still under a lot of stress and working very hard. Our horses are kind and affectionate and friendly, and their

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President entertains question of Harris' eligibility for office. 7A

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Erika Zalecky, pathology coordinator at Golisano Children's Hospital, walks Red around the arena during an equine therapy session, offered free to local health care workers, at Naples Therapeutic Riding Center on Wednesday. PHOTOS BY ALEX DRIEHAUS/NAPLES DAILY NEWS

Horses

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calming nature helps to reduce stress.”
On Wednesday evening 10 health care workers participated in the first session of the pilot program.

“I think it has done a lot to help de-stress,” said Erika Zalecky, a certified child life specialist at Golisano’s Children’s Hospital. “We are all working day in and day out in this situation that no one has ever been in before. It is stressful.”

“This is very helpful. Most of the time we don’t do a lot for ourselves,” added Carmen Perez, a licensed practical nurse at Aston Gardens, an assisted living facility.

That’s exactly what workers at the riding center want to accomplish.

“I want the horses to help with stress relief,” said Leah Haven, lead instructor.

“It is to allow these health care workers time to decompress. Hopefully tomorrow when they wake up, they will feel better. I tell them to let the horses absorb their emotions and take their stress and allow them to feel better.”

For the first session Haven had the participants pet and brush the horses, lead them around the arena and talk to the large gentle creatures.

Lourdes Araujo, a mental health therapist, was also there to help. “I want them to be able to destress,” she said. “They are frontline. They have been dealing with all this COVID. I want them to get in touch with their emotions, and horses help with that. If they have had a hard day it is a safe place and gives them tools they can take with them to destress.”

Christina Theosevis, a wellness manager at NCH, said this is just what she needs.



Dr. Batool Zehra, a resident at NCH, pets Bella during an equine therapy session Wednesday.

“I recently lost my mother,” she said. “I have always loved horses so I thought it would be a good opportunity. I have been so busy helping my father so I have not had time to grieve. I have not had time for taking care of me so this is time to take care of me. This is relaxing with the animals.”

“I believe animals are healing to me. I am so busy being the caretaker, so here I

can relieve the stress. It’s very relaxing and calming. Animals always make you feel better. I love it. I am going to try to come every Wednesday,” Theosevis said.

Participants also enjoyed the exercise and being outdoors.

“I have been following the guidelines and not going out, so this is a great way to be outdoors and still social distance,”

Zalecky said.

Cheryl Casvouine, an office coordinator at NCH, said bonding with a horse for even a short period is helpful.

“We worked today and work is always stressful, so this is great to bond with a horse,” she said. “Just to be outdoors. We don’t get outdoors a lot when we work. When you sit at a desk all day this is great exercise”

The health care workers were also thankful for the free program and all the community support.

“The community has really offered so many things for us,” Casvouine added. “It has meant so much. It’s the gratitude and the appreciation that makes us so happy.”

Mariana Cifuentes, a nurse at NCH, brushed a horse name Red.

“Animals are so receptive. They bring a sense of tranquility,” she said. “I appreciate this. The community has been very kind.”

Currently the program is expected to run through the end of August.

“We are slow in August and I have wanted to give back to the community and who better than the people who have given so much to us,” Lamont, the riding center director, said. “If we can we will continue it. It depends on how many programs we can start back up. If it is very popular and there is a need, we will make it work.”

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