



## Salvation Army's 'Christmas in July' campaign set for Friday

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## Safety issues beset Silicon Valley defense startup



### Drone crashes, complaints mount as Shield AI courts military contracts

David Jeans REUTERS

NEW YORK –

A year ago, Ryan Tseng, the head of U.S. defense tech startup Shield AI, announced his company had turned a new page. ● After a gory incident that partially severed a U.S. Navy official's fingers during a test of its V-BAT drone, Shield AI had addressed safety concerns with new landing gear and warning stickers near the propeller. "(The) aircraft is, tip to tail, just a radically better airplane," Tseng told Forbes last year. ● Now it's happened again. ● A Romanian Navy official's hand was caught in a V-BAT propeller on May 12 during a Shield AI training exercise on a boat off the Texas coast – severing two of her fingers and fracturing a third, a spokesperson for Romania's Ministry of National Defense told Reuters.

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A South Korean Navy V-BAT unmanned aerial vehicle takes part in a fleet review to mark the 80th anniversary of the navy's founding, in the waters off Busan, South Korea, in 2025. V-BAT maker Shield AI has seen meteoric growth, including V-BAT sales to more than half a dozen foreign militaries, but the startup's drone has struggled with persistent behind-the-scenes failures.

KIM HONG-JI/REUTERS

Shield AI said the May 12 incident was caused by "a violation of established safety procedures, not from a product defect," without disclosing the specific violation.

## Up North Blueberry Farm preps for busy summer picking season

M. Alan Scott

The Petoskey News-Review

Mid-July through Labor Day weekend is "go time" for Up North Blueberry Farm owners Jodi and Bob Wagner.

That's because it is picking season for blueberry farms. There aren't many blueberry farms in Northern Michigan because the soil tends to have lower pH levels, but the Wagner's farm near Gaylord has had the right characteristics since they first planted blueberry bushes there in 2011, opening to the public one year later.

Running a blueberry farm is a busy endeavor but a seasonal one, where late spring to mid-July constitutes the growing season. Blueberries generally are ready to pick within two or three days of August, and the farm remains open for pickers through Labor Day.

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## Bat in Emmet County tests positive for rabies, health department offers tips

Jillian Fellows

The Petoskey News-Review  
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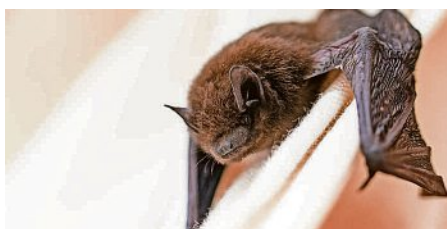
The Health Department of Northwest Michigan reported that a bat collected in Emmet County has tested positive for rabies.

According to health officials, no human cases of rabies is associated with this incident, which occurred last week.

"Typically, less than 1% of wild bats in Michigan carry rabies," said HDNW

Medical Director Josh Meyerson in the release. "While the infection rate is low, bats are the primary source of rabies in the state, making up about 90% of all reported animal rabies cases. If you believe you or a family member may have been exposed to a bat, it's important to have the bat tested whenever possible. Prompt testing can help determine whether preventive treatment is needed."

See **RABIES**, Page 2A



The Health Department of Northwest Michigan reported that a bat collected in Emmet County has tested positive for rabies.

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